

The Pat Olson, RN Nursing Scholarship Massachusetts General Hospital

Overview

The *Pat Olson, RN Nursing Scholarship* was established in 2014 to honor Patient Care Associate (PCA) candidates that are pursuing a career in nursing. This scholarship will award \$1000 annually to an individual who is a PCA in oncology, geriatrics, or stroke specialty that is pursuing a nursing career. PCA candidates pursuing nursing careers in these specialties will be given preference. The money for this scholarship is raised supported by the Jeanne Dowling family. Candidates for this scholarship must be pursuing a career in nursing. The Jeanne Dowling family established this scholarship to honor a recipient that cares for patients in oncology, geriatrics or stroke specialty.

Many of our staff express a strong interest in pursuing a career in nursing. MGH recognizes that the challenges of work, home and school for applicants are many, and may create financial hardships that make pursuing a degree seem overwhelming. The *Pat Olson, RN Nursing Scholarship* program was established to address these hurdles and chart new possibilities for MGH PCA employees pursuing a nursing degree.

Scholarship Amount

The scholarship recipients will receive \$1,000* to use to promote their educational goals toward a health professions career.

How many awarded each year?

*When used for tuition, books and fees and not combined with any other scholarship or tuition reimbursement monies, the \$1,000 scholarship will have no tax consequence at all to the employee as it is considered by the IRS to be an education benefit. Please note—the IRS may require receipts as proof that the \$1,000 was directed towards tuition, books and fees.

When used for tuition, books and fees and combined with other scholarships and/or tuition reimbursement where the total amount of the education benefit exceeds \$5,250 per calendar year per employee the employee is responsible for all taxes associated with any payment amount over \$5,250.

When used for anything other than tuition, books and fees the employee is responsible for all taxes associated with the \$1,000 scholarship. In this case, the scholarship would be taxed as income.

Application Deadline

Please use the Scholarship common application to submit and be considered for the Fall Scholarship Award. Scholarship winners will be announced **mid summer**.

Applicant Criteria

- The scholarship application process welcomes applicants that are MGH employees.

- Qualified applicants are pursuing a career in nursing. Only those attending an accredited bachelor's degree program, master's degree program, or doctoral degree program are eligible.
- The scholarship is **open to applicants employed by MGH either in a full- or part-time** (a minimum of 20 standard hours per week) capacity. Applicants must be employed at a minimum of 20 standard hours per week both at the time of the application and at the time of scholarship is distributed.
- Applicants must have completed a minimum of one year of service in their present position and must be in good standing (i.e. no corrective action such as written or final written warning within the last (6) months).
- Scholarship recipients may be asked to commit to employment at the hospital for one year following graduation.

Applicant Process and Checklist

- ☐ Completed scholarship application
- ☐ Letter of endorsement from applicant's director or manager
- ☐ Two letters of reference- Letters of reference should be from clinical faculty, former supervisors, clinical colleagues, etc. References should not provided by Selection Committee Members.
- ☐ A narrative that articulates educational goals and intended use of funding
- ☐ Proof of acceptance into a degree program