

## Building Academic Geriatric Nursing Capacity A Call for Applications for Predoctoral Scholars

### The John A. Hartford Foundation Predoctoral Scholarship Award • Call for Applications

#### Call for Applications

The American Academy of Nursing, with support from the John A. Hartford Foundation<sup>1</sup> of New York City, is seeking applicants for Predoctoral Scholarships in gerontological nursing. The Scholars Program offers grant support up to \$50,000 per annum for two years to successful Predoctoral candidates who will commence or continue education beginning July 1st 2006 or no later than September 1st 2006. The Mayday Fund provides an additional \$5,000 award to selected candidates whose research includes the study of pain in the elderly.

#### Eligibility

All applicants must be registered nurses, hold degree(s) in nursing, and be United States citizens or permanent U.S. residents. This program seeks and supports diversity in its applicants and requires all candidates to demonstrate potential for long-term contributions to the field of geriatric nursing.

Predoctoral applicants must meet all requirements for admission to the School of Nursing in which they plan to study. The School of Nursing must have strong gerontological offerings and preferably have postdoctoral programs available in gerontological nursing.

In addition, applicants must identify a strong mentor/advisor with whom they will work and who has a program of research in gerontological nursing. Applicants will provide a signed letter from the proposed mentor/advisor outlining this agreement. Finally, all selected candidates are expected to enroll full-time.

The program is also committed to advancing well-qualified applicants from under-represented minority groups to improve the nation's ability to provide culturally competent care to its increasingly diverse aging population.

<sup>1</sup>The Foundation's overall goal is to increase the nation's capacity to provide effective and affordable care to its rapidly increasing older population. Specifically, the Foundation seeks to enhance the training of physicians, nurses, social workers and other health professionals who care for older adults, and promote innovations in the integration and delivery of services.

## Program Description

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The Building Academic Geriatric Nursing Capacity (BAGNC) Predoctoral Scholar Award Program focuses on the development of leadership in gerontological nursing through such activities as: focused study; networking among scholars, with mentors and with colleagues in other fields; demonstration of growth in ability to transform self and organizations by moving outside of traditional modes of success; completion and write-up of a significant research project; and by success in achieving funding from other sources. Scholars, in collaboration with their identified mentor/advisor will design and implement an individual professional development plan that will support them in developing new competencies and enhanced effectiveness as an academic leader.

Support. The program includes support (actual tuition and fees plus a stipend up to \$30,000 per year – the total not to exceed \$50,000 per year) for two years of full-time study at the institution chosen by the applicant. The Mayday Fund offers an additional \$5,000.00 to selected candidates who focus on the study of pain in the elderly.

It is important that the school chosen have the resources and capacity to support the Scholar in his or her pursuit of study. The John A. Hartford Foundation has sought to increase geriatric nursing capacity and competence by funding five Centers of Geriatric Nursing Excellence. The five Centers are located at the following Schools or Colleges of Nursing: Oregon Health & Science University, the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, the University of California at San Francisco, the University of Iowa and the University of Pennsylvania. These Centers demonstrate the highest level of commitment to gerontological nursing, and have outstanding leadership and capacity in gerontological research, practice and education. While many nursing schools throughout the country are acceptable places of study, applicants are encouraged to consider these Centers as potential sites for their studies as appropriate.<sup>2</sup>

## Requirements.

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- All selected scholars will assume full time student status at the start of their award.
- Attendance at the Program's Leadership Conference held in conjunction with the Gerontological Society of America's Annual Scientific Meeting is an essential and required activity for both the Fellow and Mentor.
- The selected institution is a significant consideration in the application review and selection process. Therefore, changes in venue during the scholarship would require separate petition, review and approval by the program director.
- If the applicant is a newly entering doctoral student the gerontological research project to be undertaken as the doctoral thesis must be identified by the beginning of the second year of funding and the school must describe potential strategies for securing continued support that will enable the applicant to complete their doctoral program.
- In the case of applicants already enrolled, the thesis or research topic must be identified in the application for the Scholar Program.
- All predoctoral applicants must identify a strong gerontological nurse mentor for their research topic or an advisor if they are newly enrolled.
- Evidence must be provided that the mentor/advisor agrees to work with the applicant as well as to the terms of this program.

<sup>2</sup>Go to [www.geriatricnursing.org/NSGIP](http://www.geriatricnursing.org/NSGIP) for further information on seven additional schools of nursing recognized by the John A. Hartford Foundation.

## Criteria Considered in the Selection of Scholars

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### Applicant

- Potential to contribute to the knowledge base in gerontological nursing in significant ways;
- Leadership potential;
- Evidence of commitment to a career in research and education;
- Nature and extent of involvement of applicant in educational, research and professional activities;

### Proposed Research

- Significance of the proposed research project and area to improving the health and well-being of older adults and their caregivers;
- Quality, feasibility and innovativeness of the proposed research project and of the professional development plan;

### Mentor and Environment

- The qualifications of the faculty mentor/advisor and commitment to and involvement with the applicant's development and activities throughout the two year award program;
- Evidence of school's commitment to the applicant's academic career and professional development.

## Monitoring & Evaluation

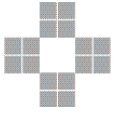
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Scholars are required to submit interim and annual progress reports to the Program Director. Scholar's reports include self assessment of goal achievement, description of problems in program implementation, and an outline of plans for coming period. Mentor's reports include assessment of scholar's progress including activities and strategies employed by mentor to assist scholar in successfully achieving goals as well as managing problems encountered during the reporting period. Progress reports will be the basis for continued funding. The program reserves the right to terminate or adjust funding if the scholar is not demonstrating appropriate progress toward implementing his/her plans.

Scholars are required to participate in the BAGNC evaluation program conducted by The Measurement Group, LLC which is measuring the impact of the JAHF supported geriatric nursing programs.

Applications must be received by January 10, 2006. The Selection Committee will review all completed applications. Applicants will be advised of funding decisions by March 14, 2006. The award program officially begins July 1, 2006 and when requested, no later than September 1, 2006. Applications should be submitted to:

The American Academy of Nursing Coordinating Center  
ATTN: Patricia Archbold, RN, DNSc, FAAN  
1030 15th Street, NW Suite 250  
Washington, DC 20005-1503



# APPLICATION PROCEDURE I

The following items must be included in each application

## Predocctoral Applicants:

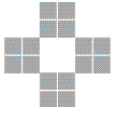
- ❑ **Table of Contents** with corresponding page numbers. All pages will have applicant's last name, first initial and page number on each page in right upper corner of each page.
- ❑ **Applicant Data Sheet**
- ❑ **A letter from the applicant** (maximum 2 pages). Letter describes personal and professional interest in geriatric nursing, including long-term future plans, the proposed institution of study and reason for choosing that institution, reasons for seeking support through this program, relevant experience and training and commitment to this area.
- ❑ **A plan for professional development** during the two-year scholarship (maximum 3 pages). Professional development plan should include a description of goals, e.g., what competencies are required to enhance effectiveness in research, leadership, and anticipated outcomes, e.g., how will the applicant be a more effective leader, researcher and change agent in this area.
- ❑ **A detailed budget for each grant year** including details on funding utilization.

Acceptable costs include only actual tuition and academic fees plus a stipend of up to \$30,000 per year, with a total, yearly budget not to exceed \$50,000. Provide official statement from your institution detailing tuition and fees for your program. See sample budget below.

Applicants must include mentor's travel support to the Annual Leadership Conference (two hotel nights provided), and applicant's hotel and registration for the Gerontological Society of America's Annual Scientific Meeting. See sample budget below.

Applicants must include all anticipated sources of funding. Budgets must be reviewed and approved by an appropriate official at the proposed institution of study prior to application submission. No in-direct costs allowed.

<b>Budget Items</b>	<b>2006 – 2007</b>	<b>2007 - 2008</b>	<b>Total Award</b>
Tuition; per academic year	\$10,500.00	\$10,500.00	
Academic Fees	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	
Mentor Travel to Lead. Conf.	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 1,250.00	
Hotel GSA (est.)	\$ 525.00	\$ 525.00	
GSA Registration (est.)	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	
Scholar Stipend	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$43,375.00</b>	<b>\$43,375.00</b>	<b>\$86,750.00</b>



# APPLICATION PROCEDURE I

(Continued from previous page)

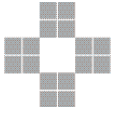
- ❖ **Evidence of acceptance** if available, at the School of Nursing for doctoral study.
- ❖ **A letter of commitment from the institutional faculty mentor(s)/advisor** A letter from each mentor/advisor who will support and advise the applicant in implementing the scholarship program should include the mentor's: 2-page bio-sketch and outline of background and competencies; proposed involvement in the applicant's professional development; and ability to help the applicant form linkages with relevant colleagues and institutions. The Program reserves the right to call the institutional mentor for additional information.
- ❖ **A letter of commitment from the Dean or the appropriate administrator** at the proposed institution of study that documents the school's current capacity in geriatrics, i.e., curriculum, grants, faculty and other initiatives; an outline of institutional resources available to the candidate, e.g., secretarial support, technology; etc.
- ❖ **A current curriculum vitae** that includes education, professional experience, research, publications, special achievements, and professional service activities.
- ❖ **Transcripts** (one official and one copy) from undergraduate and graduate school program/s.
- ❖ **Three professional references** (other than mentor/advisor). These references must speak to the potential of the candidate to complete the program and offer specific evidence of the candidate's potential for academic and professional leadership in the field. Forms for these references will be obtained with the application for Scholarship. Completed forms must be included with the application packet. Forms must be in sealed envelopes with the referee's signature across the seal.

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**Applicants will submit the required materials in one package, organized as detailed on page 6 with a table of contents. Applications must be:**

- complete and accurate at time of submission,
- clear and legible,
- formatted with 1 inch margins on all borders,
- typed in 12 point Arial font,
- double spaced and
- single sided with numbered pages.

Incomplete applications and applications not conforming to the following guidelines will not be reviewed.



# APPLICATION PROCEDURE CHECKLIST

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Please provide one original, paper application as well as the entire application in (1) a PDF file on a Compact Disc and (2) one exact, single-sided, hard copy with all materials listed below; do not staple or otherwise bind and please assemble in same order as stated. **Insert your last name, first initial and page number on each page in right upper corner of each page.**

**Original application;** do not staple or otherwise bind and however, do assemble all items in the following order:

## Predoctoral Applicants

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- Table of Contents
- Applicant Data Sheet
- Letter from Applicant
- Professional Development Plan
- Budget for grant year 1 and grant year 2
- Official statement of tuition and academic fees
- Evidence of acceptance
- Letter of commitment from institution
- Applicant's Curriculum Vitae
- Maximum of three scholarly articles
- One copy and one official, sealed transcript from each undergraduate and graduate school registrar's office
- 3 sealed letters of reference

# APPLICANT DATA SHEET

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Credentials: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Mailing Address (if different than above): \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Telephone Number: (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant E-mail: (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Race/Ethnicity (optional) check all that apply  American Indian  American  Black or African American  Alaskan Native  
 Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander  Asian  White  Other

Citizenship: \_\_\_\_\_ Proof of Permanent U.S. Residency: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(provide number and copy of residency card)*

State(s) in which you hold a license to practice as an RN: \_\_\_\_\_

Present Position (Title): \_\_\_\_\_

Institution Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Institution Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed Institution of Study: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you officially been accepted into the above named institution of study?

Yes If yes, date of acceptance: \_\_\_\_\_  No If no, anticipated date of acceptance: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you identified a program of research for doctoral theses? *(Required for all Predoctoral students except those beginning their first year of study)*

Yes If yes, title of proposed research \_\_\_\_\_  No \_\_\_\_\_

Please identify your mentor/advisor for this fellowship: \_\_\_\_\_

Mentor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mentor's Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

How did you find out about this program?: \_\_\_\_\_

# CONFIDENTIAL REFERENCE REPORT

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## The John A. Hartford Foundation Building Academic Geriatric Nursing Capacity Predoctoral Scholar Program

coordinated by the American Academy of Nursing

Confidential reference report for predoctoral scholar award applicants.

**TO THE APPLICANT:** this section is to be typed and signed by the applicant before giving it to the reference for completion. Please have referees return completed reference forms to you in a sealed envelope, with the referee's signature across the seal. References **must** accompany applications.

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Fax Number (if available): \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby waive my right to examine this reference material.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

**TO THE REFEREE:** The above-named applicant has listed you as a reference for a John A. Hartford Foundation & Atlantic Philanthropies Award. The purpose of this two year scholarship is to prepare a cadre of researchers and educators in gerontological nursing who will provide leadership to the field in building scientific knowledge, attracting others to the field of study, and fill gaps currently existing in Schools of Nursing.

Please provide the following items:

- A completed, signed, confidential reference score sheet (attached).
- A brief statement which includes how long and in what capacity you know the applicant as well as the abilities and characteristics of the applicant: commitment to the field, interest and skill in research, teaching ability, scholarliness, intellectual curiosity, interpersonal skills and ability to maintain relationships over time, relationships with peers in nursing and other fields, If possible, please cite examples.

Return these two items to the applicant in a sealed envelope with your signature across the seal, no later than December 12, 2005.

Referee Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

# CONFIDENTIAL REFERENCE REPORT

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please rate the applicant by circling the number, which most nearly represents your opinion of the applicant in comparison with a representative group of individuals you have known who have approximately the same training and experience. Please note unequal intervals in scales.

PERCENTILES	Unable To Judge	0-10% Poor	25-75% Fair	75-90% Excellent	Top 10% Outstanding
Perseverance	0	1	2	3	4
Motivation	0	1	2	3	4
Initiative	0	1	2	3	4
Ability to meet deadlines	0	1	2	3	4
Maturity	0	1	2	3	4
Interpersonal skills/other healthcare professionals	0	1	2	3	4
Interpersonal skills/peers	0	1	2	3	4
Interpersonal skills/admin	0	1	2	3	4
Research skill	0	1	2	3	4
Potential skill research	0	1	2	3	4
Integrity	0	1	2	3	4
Judgment/critical sense	0	1	2	3	4
Intellectual Ability	0	1	2	3	4
Demonstrated originality	0	1	2	3	4
Leadership capacity	0	1	2	3	4
Demonstrated productivity	0	1	2	3	4
Potential productivity	0	1	2	3	4
Ability to communicate (written)	0	1	2	3	4
Ability to communicate (spoken)	0	1	2	3	4
Overall rating for program	0	1	2	3	4

How long have you known this applicant?

In what capacity have you known this applicant?

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_