

2025 Call for Applications AACN Faculty Scholars Grant

The **Foundation for Academic Nursing**, the philanthropic arm of the **American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN)**, is pleased to announce the annual call for applications for the AACN Faculty Scholars Grant Program.

Overview

A total of \$50,000 in funding will be distributed to support two \$25,000 faculty scholarship projects through 2026.

The focus of these scholarly activities will reflect current issues in nursing education or practice and support of [AACN's strategic priorities](#).

2025-2026 Academic Year Themes: *Integrating Health Policy into the Nursing Curriculum and Using Artificial Intelligence in Nursing Education*. Details for each thematic area are outlined below:

Integrating Health Policy into the Nursing Curriculum

Preparing nurses to use their expertise and voice to shape public policy is essential to elevating the role of nursing in healthcare and the health of populations. AACN is seeking proposals to measure the impact of didactic and clinical learning experiences on teaching health policy to nursing students at the graduate and/or undergraduate level. Recognizing the importance of developing leaders and advocates, projects should focus on preparing nurses to influence health policy at the local, state, or national level. AACN will fund one \$25,000 grant for policy-centered projects involving nursing curriculum innovation and the measurement of student learning.

Using Artificial Intelligence in Nursing Education

Harnessing the power of emerging technology is a top priority for nurses engaged in education, research, and practice. AACN is seeking proposals examining the utilization and impact of artificial intelligence (AI) in nursing education and learning assessment. The uses of AI in education vary greatly, and the implications for using this to prepare nurses are not well understood. Projects should focus on the application of AI in nursing education, including emerging areas such as personalized learning platforms, chatbots, and automated assessments. AACN will fund one \$25,000 grant for studies measuring key aspects of nursing education, including but not limited to, student outcomes and faculty development.

Faculty Commitment

Faculty receiving funding must provide two progress reports and share data, findings, and additional content with the membership through AACN's website, *Syllabus* newsletter, and social media. Scholars are expected to present an AACN webinar and submit a manuscript for publication to the *Journal of Professional Nursing*.

Application Criteria & Process

Applicants must apply via an [online form](#) and submit no later than **August 8, 2025 at 11:59 pm (ET)**. All faculty of [AACN member schools](#) are eligible to apply. In the event of a team application, the Primary Project Manager must represent a member school. We recommend that you draft your application prior to completing it online, though the application can be saved as you progress. All four elements of the application must be completed: General Information, Project Team Information, Project Information, and Your Commitment Statement.

Please read the directions below before accessing the online application.

Application Contents:

General Information

- Name and contact information for the Primary Project Manager. *In the event of a team application, this person will be the primary correspondent.*
- Primary Project Manager employment information:
 - o Position (FT/PT)
 - o Years in role
 - o Number of direct reports
 - o Title of the person to whom you report
 - o Name of the person to whom you report
 - o Brief biographical sketch (250 words)
- Confirm permission to submit application through appropriate channels

Project Team Information

Complete the following template. This form is the location to share pertinent information for all your teammates.

- o Use the template found [\[here\]](#).
- o Follow document naming convention provided below.

Project Information

- Project Title (*no more than 12 words*)
- Identify the theme you will be addressing. A list of suggested areas is below, though it is not exhaustive.

Integrating Health Policy into the Nursing Curriculum

- Preparing nurses to use their expertise to shape public policy
- Integrating didactic and clinical learning experiences in health policy

- Innovation in assessing competencies in health policy
- Addressing facilitators and barriers to integration of health policy in the nursing curriculum

Using Artificial Intelligence in Nursing Education

- Application of artificial intelligence in nursing education
 - Assessment of nursing competencies using artificial intelligence
 - Development and measurement of personalized learning platforms, chatbots, and automated assessments
 - Innovative clinical experiences incorporating artificial intelligence
- How relevant is this project to nursing knowledge? (150-word limit)
 - How closely does this project align with the themes for this year: *Integrating Health Policy into the Nursing Curriculum* or *Using Artificial Intelligence in Nursing Education*? (150-word limit)
 - What is the perceived impact of this project? (150-word limit)
 - Project Proposal (1,200-word limit)
 - Use the template found [\[here\]](#).
 - Follow the document naming convention provided below.
 - In a Word document, please describe the:
 - Background/Introduction
 - Purpose
 - Methods or Intervention/Procedure
 - Expected Results
 - Limitations
 - Expected Conclusions/Implications for Practice
 - Dean Letter of Support
 - Follow document naming convention provided below.
 - Budget for the Project
 - *Note: Use of this money is at the discretion of the school. Indirect costs are allowed but should not exceed 10% and should be included at the discretion of the applicant(s) and the school.*
 - Use the template found [\[here\]](#).
 - Follow document naming convention provided below.

Commitment Statement

- Recipients will be responsible for six-month interim and final reports, which will be due in March 2026 and October 2026, respectively.
- Reports/findings will be shared with the AACN membership via our website, *Syllabus* newsletter, and social media.
- Scholars will be expected to present at an AACN webinar and submit a manuscript for publication to the *Journal of Professional Nursing*.

Document Naming Convention

This application will require the upload of four items. The following naming conventions are required: “Last Name_ITEM_Date”, example Smith_TEAM_8.6.2025.

- Last Name_PROPOSAL_Date
- Last Name_TEAM_Date
- Last Name_LTR SUPPORT_Date
- Last Name_BUDGET_Date

When uploading your items, please verify that they are in final format, i.e. no track changes are evident.

Timeline

- May 6, 2025 – Application period opens
- August 8, 2025 – Application period closes
- Early November 2025 - Recipient notified, awarded, and announced
- March 2026 - Interim report submission
- October 2026 - Final report submission
- December 2026 - Plan to share and disseminate reports and findings with AACN membership through a webinar and manuscript submission

Review & Selection Process

Applications will be reviewed and selected by an expert committee appointed by the AACN Board of Directors. Reviewers will score applications using the rubric found [\[here\]](#). Applicants will be notified of acceptance by early November 2025.

Dispersal of the Grant

Two projects will be selected and awarded a \$25,000 grant. The Primary Project Manager will receive notification, necessary documentation, and reporting information. Award monies will be distributed to the school of the Primary Project Manager for appropriate dispersal. Please provide the appropriate contact information for this person in your “Timeline & Budget” Template.

Thank you for your interest in this program. When you are prepared to submit your application, please use the button below.

[Apply Now](#)

Contact

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