

Nursing Students

An Investment in 21st- Century Health Care Leadership

By 2020, the nation's health care system will face an approximately 20 percent deficit in registered nurses. With Baby Boomers retiring, that means the ratio of potential caregivers to the people most likely to need care will decrease by 40% between 2010 and 2030.

There is also a critical national shortage of nursing faculty. Given these shortages and paired with the increasing complexity of the health care environment, we urgently need to prepare a new generation of nursing leadership. The University Virginia has over a century of experience educating some of the nation's most talented clinicians, teachers, policymakers, and administrators.

Scholarship and Fellowship Support

Faced with rising tuition costs and an uncertain economic forecast, students considering a U.Va. nursing degree may pursue other studies if adequate student aid is unavailable. Those who do choose nursing and use loans to pay tuition and expenses face a significant debt burden. This influences their career path and may deter them from working in high-need areas like public health and even direct patient care.

Fellowship funding is a particular need. Limited federal funding is available to graduate nursing students, including those in the Clinical Nurse Leader Master's entry to nursing program. Most students must take out loans to finance their education. This is on top of family commitments and unpaid undergraduate loans. Without private fellowship funding, U.Va. will lose top talent to better-funded peer nursing programs.

Student Research

The U.Va. School of Nursing is dedicated to creating an environment uniquely conducive to student research in nursing. Support is needed to develop the Nursing Undergraduate Research Initiative, a four-year experience that progressively exposes students to nursing



research and encourages their pursuit of evidence-based practice. Nursing students in all degree programs also need support for their participation in research conferences.

International Service Learning

The School of Nursing wishes to broaden international learning opportunities for both U.Va. nursing students and for visiting nursing students from around the globe. Today's nursing students require cross-cultural research and educational experiences in order to succeed as health practitioners in the global economy. Many of those experiences simultaneously deliver health care knowledge and sustainable programs to underserved communities.

Leadership Development

The U.Va. Nursing Classes of 1966 are seeking partners to help them raise \$50,000 to endow a permanent fund supporting outstanding nursing student organizations at U.Va. The fund will help groups like Nursing Students Without Borders and Student Nurses of Virginia develop their innovative ideas for serving communities in need, sharing their health care expertise, and developing their leadership skills.

For more information about supporting any of these efforts please contact Mary Beth Knight at 434-924-2627, email marybeth@virginia.edu or Lori Cwalina at 434-924-0097, email cwalina@virginia.edu.