

Nursing Workforce Diversity (NWD) Program
Medical College of Georgia
School of Nursing

**Nursing Workforce Diversity Laptop Computer Program
2008-2009**

In an effort to continue to develop ways to support our nursing students, the Nursing Workforce Diversity Program is pleased to offer an opportunity to check-out laptop computers for use during the course of matriculation as a junior or senior undergraduate nursing student (based on financial need as defined by the MCG Office of Financial Aid). One of the primary aims of the MCG School of Nursing Workforce Diversity program is to increase the number of all under-represented students to include African-Americans, Asians, Hispanics, American Indians or Hawaiian native, Caucasians and male students who come from educationally or economically disadvantaged backgrounds. We want to augment the educational experience with technology by providing the use of 15 laptop computers for eligible students. [For academic year 2008-2009]

Laptop recipients must maintain a 3.0 GPA during the year in which the computer was received. After selection by the Laptop Loaner Selection Committee, laptop computers will be distributed upon completion of mandatory laptop usage training. Receipt of laptop computers for check-out during enrollment period (junior and/or senior year) will be based on financial need as defined by the MCG Nursing Workforce Diversity Program. Students selected for receipt of computers will receive the computers in conjunction with the School of Nursing Business Office and upon the recommendation of faculty reviewers. [See Application for Laptop Computer Usage].

Applicants must submit a typed statement of need for a laptop computer while he or she progresses through the School of Nursing Program. Complete and submit the Application for Laptop Computer Usage by Thursday, May 15, 2008 at 5:00 PM.

Eligibility Criteria:

Enrolled students who come from under-represented backgrounds or are under-represented in the field of nursing are invited to apply for laptop computer usage. For purposes of the NWD Program, students from under-represented backgrounds include individuals from a disadvantaged educational or economical background as well as those who are male students.

An individual from a disadvantaged background as defined by the funding agency, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), refers to an individual who:

- 1) Comes from an environment that has inhibited them from obtaining the knowledge, skills, and abilities required to enroll in and graduate from a school of nursing
(Educationally Disadvantaged)

The following are examples of “educationally disadvantage” and are not intended to be all-inclusive.

Examples:

- a) Person from high school with low average SAT/ACT scores or below the average State test results
- b) Person from a school district where 50% or less of graduates go to college
- c) Person who has a diagnosed physical or mental impairment that substantially limits participation in educational experiences
- d) Person for whom English is not their primary language and for whom language is still a barrier to their academic performance
- e) Person who is the first generation in their family to attend college
- f) Person from a high school where at least 30% of enrolled students are eligible for free or reduced price lunches

or

- 2) Comes from a family with an annual income below a level based on low-income thresholds established by the U.S. Census Bureau, adjusted annually for changes in the Consumer Price Index (**Economically Disadvantaged**)

HRSA, in accordance with the Census Bureau, defines a “low income family” for programs such as Nursing Workforce Diversity as having an annual income that does not exceed 200 percent of the poverty guidelines. A family is a group of two or more individuals related by birth, marriage, or adoption who live together or an individual who is not living with any relatives. See MCG Office of Financial Aid for low income levels for any given year.

Responsibilities of Laptop Computer Recipients:

- Abide by equipment check-out agreement
- Refrain from and prevent downloading of potentially hazardous software.
- Attend mandatory brief quarterly laptop computer inventory sessions
- Maintain password-protected access to the computer and its operation
- Keep laptop computer safe and secure
- Notify project director immediately of any concern for safety and security of laptop
- Attend Peer tutoring study sessions for Pathophysiology and Pharmacology (when enrolled in the courses) for a minimum of one hour per week for each session
- Participate in tutoring session activities
- Sign peer tutoring study session rosters for each session attended
- Communicate concerns regarding tutoring sessions in writing to the project director or co-director (as appropriate)
- Commit to putting forth full effort to goals of the tutoring sessions

Benefits:

- Laptop computer recipients can devote more time to academic studies
- Laptop computer recipients are supported financially with access to a complex tool for success.
- Laptop computer recipients’ attendance at peer tutoring study sessions is available without monetary cost to participants.
- Laptop computer recipients receive ongoing support from fellow students who can identify with day-to-day challenges of nursing school completion

Risks and Related Protections:

- If students no longer meet ongoing requirements of laptop recipients, it will not jeopardize their status as a student enrolled in the nursing program; however, they will not be eligible for future semesters of laptop usage.
- In the event of blatant and willful downloading of software that is harmful to the computer or to the MCG computer network, laptop must be immediately returned to the project director.
- Failure to attend at least one (minimum) weekly one hour study sessions for Pathophysiology and Pharmacology sessions (**when enrolled in the course**) will disqualify recipient from having access to laptop computer usage during the next semester.
- Peer tutors will not be held personally responsible for class performance (in Pathophysiology and Pharmacology) of students attending study sessions as all students are expected to study, complete assignments and prepare for exams and class participation.