

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

Peer Tutor Stipend Program
2007-2008

Purpose

One of the primary aims of the MCG School of Nursing Workforce Diversity program is to increase the number of all underrepresented students to include African-Americans, Asians, Hispanics, American Indians or Hawaiian native, Caucasians and male students who are educationally or economically disadvantaged. We want to impact the retention of such students by supporting them with tutoring and stipend opportunities. The peer tutor program provides support for all undergraduate juniors enrolled in pathophysiology or pathopharmacology courses while financially supporting the leadership and tutoring efforts of undergraduate senior students.

Five senior undergraduate nursing students who are enrolled full-time in the MCG School of Nursing will be selected as peer tutors (tutors). Senior students who meet NWD criteria and have successfully completed pathophysiology or pathopharmacology with a “B” or greater will be invited to apply for peer tutor roles to aid junior students. Peer tutors will receive monthly stipends in the amount of \$250 each for 8 months per academic year semester (Fall and Spring semesters). [See Application for Peer Tutor Stipend Program]

Benefits:

- Peer tutors are supported financially with stipend opportunities
- Peer tutors can devote more time to academic studies rather than to non-clinical employment
- Peer tutors help support all undergraduate juniors enrolled in pathophysiology or pathopharmacology courses
- Peer tutors receive leadership and mentorship training
- Peer tutors are seen as leaders and mentors

Eligibility Criteria:

Students who are underrepresented in the MCG School of Nursing and in the field of nursing are invited to apply for peer tutor positions. For purposes of the NWD Program, underrepresented students include individuals from a disadvantaged background, those who are economically disadvantaged and 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 first generation 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 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 Peer Tutors:

- Meet periodically with junior nursing students to lead study sessions in either Pathophysiology or Pathopharmacology
- Document attendance at study sessions
- Submit attendance documents periodically as directed by program director
- Attend periodic leadership training and mentoring sessions

Risks and Related Protections:

- If students discontinue service as a peer tutor, it will not jeopardize their status as a student enrolled in the nursing program.
- The maximum stipend payment amount is \$250 per month.
- Peer tutors must be full-time enrolled seniors in good standing.
- Grant restrictions require that NWD scholarship and stipend funds cannot be paid to the same student concurrently.
- Failure to conduct weekly one hour (minimum) study sessions with timely submission of attendance rosters will result in loss of monthly stipend and release from role as a peer tutor.
- Peer tutors will not be held personally responsible for class performance (in Pathophysiology and Pathopharmacology) of students attending study sessions as all students are expected to study, complete assignments and prepare for exams and class participation.
- Incomplete applications will not be processed.