

Southwest Georgia Technical College, Foundation Inc.

Scholarship Policies and Procedures

Growing Nurses Recruitment Scholarship

PURPOSE

This scholarship was developed by SWGTC to attract more students to the Associate Degree Nursing program in an effort to help alleviate the critical shortage of nurses in the local community, State of Georgia, and nationwide. The funding for the Growing Nurses program was established by Archbold Medical Center in support of SWGTC's Invest in the Vision Major Gift Campaign. Thirty \$1000 scholarships will be awarded annually to deserving students who desire a career as a Nurse and who are committed to attending SWGTC in order to complete the requirements for obtaining an Associate's Degree in Nursing. The Growing Nurses Scholarship will be offered Spring and Fall Quarters. This scholarship is only available to Associate Degree Nursing students enrolling in SWGTC's Main Campus program.

PROCEDURES

SWGTC Foundation Scholarship Applications (Attachment A) will be distributed to high school students through the Guidance Offices of each school in the College's service area. Additional scholarship applications will be available in the Office of Financial Aide at SWGTC and in the Office of Institutional Advancement.

Thirty scholarships of \$1000 will be awarded annually to individuals who desire a career as a Nurse. Individuals will be recruited from the following areas:

- High school seniors or recent high school graduates with an interest in the Nursing program at SWGTC;
- Licensed Practical Nurses entering SWGTC's Bridge Option program; and
- Individuals desiring entry into the nursing field through SWGTC's Associate Degree Nursing program.

Growing Nurses Scholarship Applicants must meet the criteria established in the SWGTC policies:

- Applicant must begin the admissions process at the time of scholarship application, and be formally accepted to SWGTC before scholarship is awarded.
- Applicant must not be currently enrolled in the Associate Degree Nursing program.
- Scholarship recipients must enroll in SWGTC within six months of award notification.
- Applicants must be a high school graduate or equivalent.
- Applicant must submit proof of admission test scores that indicate the applicant is program-ready for the Associate Degree Nursing program. Equivalent SAT test scores will also be acceptable.
- Applicants must submit an essay entitled, "Why I Want to be A Nurse."

- A letter of recommendation from a former educator, employer or clergy member must also be submitted for review. This letter should outline the applicant's dependability, determination, character and desire to pursue nursing. Letters of recommendation must be on letterhead with a current date and an original signature.

SELECTION PROCESS

The Executive Director of the Southwest Georgia Technical College Foundation has established a committee to review scholarship applications for the Growing Nurses scholarship. Members of the committee include: College Counselor, Dean of Instruction for Allied Health Education and a member of the College's Associate Degree Nursing faculty. Each member shall serve on the committee until notified otherwise.

The Committee will review completed applications and conduct scholarship interviews with candidates before making final recommendations for awards to the Director of Institutional Advancement. Scholarship interviews will only be conducted if the number of scholarship applicants exceeds the number of available scholarships.

The Executive Director will provide final approval and correspond with all applicants as to the results of the selection process.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

A letter from the Executive Director specifying the amount of the award and the timeline for enrolling will be presented to the recipient through regular mail or during high school honors day programs or graduation programs (if appropriate).

When available, a member of the Foundation Board of Trustees will attend the high school honors or graduation programs to present each scholarship.

Scholarship funds can be used for core classes. The Growing Nurses Scholarship recipients may only receive funds once during their enrollment in the Associate Degree Nursing program.

Please Note: Should the scholarship winner change majors, any unused portion of the scholarship will be removed from the student's account and returned to the SWGTC Foundation. The primary intent of the scholarship program of the SWGTC Foundation is to assist students with tuition, fees, and book expenses through need-based and merit-based scholarships. For this reason, all scholarship applicants are required to apply for financial aid. Financial aid awards will be considered in the scholarship awards process.

Southwest Georgia Technical College Foundation funded scholarships are to be used at Southwest Georgia Technical College only (Thomas County, Grady County, Mitchell County, and the Valdosta Technical College A.D.N. program) and are not transferrable to other institutions.

Southwest Georgia Technical College Foundation scholarships are intended for approved educational related expenses only, as set forth in the scholarship policies. Any fraudulent use of scholarship funds or misrepresentation of expense to gain reimbursement will result in termination of scholarship funding and ineligibility to apply for future Southwest Georgia Technical College Foundation scholarship funding opportunity.

Scholarship accounts that remain inactive for one year will be adjusted and unused funds will be transferred back to the SWGTC Foundation. Exceptions to this policy will be in cases where the length of time the scholarship can remain in the student's account before usage are outlined in the individual scholarship policy (such as the High School Scholarship and other recruitment-based scholarships).

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Growing Nurses scholarships are intended primarily for NEW Associate Degree Nursing students. However, in special circumstances when funds are available and when a sufficient number of new Associate Degree Nursing students have not made application, the Executive Director of the Southwest Georgia Technical College Foundation may allow current Associate Degree Nursing students enrolled in the Main Campus program to apply for scholarship assistance. These special circumstances will be communicated to Associate Degree Nursing students through faculty members. This exception will not be a regular occurrence to the scholarship award cycle and will only be made at the discretion of the Executive Director based on the availability of scholarship funds. When these circumstances do exist and when this exception is made, current Associate Degree Nursing students may submit a scholarship application. The following requirements will apply to this exception:

- Scholarship applicants will not be accepted from Associate Degree Nursing students who have already received the Growing Nurses Scholarship previously.
- A letter of recommendation must be submitted by the student from a current full time member of the Associate Degree Nursing faculty that endorses the student as a student in good academic standing who has demonstrated the ability to complete the Associate Degree Nursing program.
- In lieu of points being awarded on the basis of entrance test requirements, points will be awarded based on GPA (see evaluation criteria).
- A second letter of recommendation and the scholarship interview will not be necessary (see evaluation criteria).

Approved: April 2008

Revised: October 2008; May 2009; July 2009; November 2009; April 2010; July 2010

Growing Nurses Recruitment Scholarship Evaluation Criteria

Academic Achievement

Admissions Test Scores

5 points will be awarded if applicant meets one of the following:

ASSET:	45 or greater score for each area: Writing, Reading, Algebra
SAT:	500 or greater score for both Verbal and Math sections
ACT:	A composite score greater than 20
COMPASS:	81 or greater for Reading; 62 or greater for Writing, 42 or greater for Algebra

2.5 points will be awarded if applicant meets one of the following:

ASSET:	42-44 for each area: Writing, Reading, Algebra
SAT:	480-499 Verbal score; 440-499 Math score
ACT:	A composite score of 20
COMPASS:	74-80 for Reading; 60-61 for Writing, 37-41 for Algebra

Essay

Followed criteria	= 1 - 5 pts.
Grammatically correct	= 1 - 5 pts.
Defined characteristics	= 1 - 5 pts.
Illustrated personal commitment	= 1 - 5 pts.
Compelling case	= 1 - 5 pts.

Letter of Recommendation

Supports student as recipient	= 1 - 5 pts.
Specific observations	= 1 - 5 pts.
Commonalities with essay	= 1 - 5 pts.

Scholarship Interview

Uses correct grammar	= 1 - 5 pts.
Communicates desire to become a nurse	= 1 - 5 pts.
Dresses appropriately for interview	= 1 - 5 pts.
Answers questions effectively	= 1 - 5 pts.

**Growing Nurses Recruitment Scholarship Evaluation Criteria for Existing
Associate Degree Nursing Students
When Special Circumstances Exist**

Academic Achievement

Grade Point Average

(90-100)	4.0	= 5 pts.
(85-89)	3.5-3.99	= 4 pts.
(80-84)	3.0-3.49	= 3 pts.
(74-79)	2.5-2.99	= 2 pts.
(70-73)	2.0-2.49	= 1 pts.

Essay

Followed criteria	= 1 - 5 pts.
Grammatically correct	= 1 - 5 pts.
Defined characteristics	= 1 - 5 pts.
Illustrated personal commitment	= 1 - 5 pts.
Compelling case	= 1 - 5 pts.

Faculty Evaluation

Supports student as recipient	= 1 - 5 pts.
Specific observations	= 1 - 5 pts.
Commonalities with essay	= 1 - 5 pts.