

**Accelerated Second Degree Funding Opportunities**

**Am I eligible for financial aid as a second degree student?**

Yes, you are eligible for the Federal Stafford Loan Program if you are admitted to a degree-seeking program and enrolled at least half-time (six credit hours per semester).   
  
Students who have already earned a BA/ BS are not eligible for grant programs such as the Pell Grant.

**How much money may I borrow in the Federal Stafford Loan Program?**

Independent second degree studentsare eligible to borrow up to $12,500 each academic year for tuition and related expenses.

Dependent second degree students are eligible to borrow up to $7,500 each academic year for tuition and related expenses.   
  
Independent students are at least 24 years old, are married, or have a child. Dependent students are younger than 24, are not married or do not have a child.   
  
**Are there other funding sources such as private loans or hospital work agreements?**

**Alternative Loans**: You can also apply for alternative loans. Alternative loans have a slightly higher interest rate than the federal loans and are based on credit worthiness. Students can borrow up to the cost of attendance in alternative loans. Visit the Bellarmine Financial Aid website at www.bellarmine.edu/financialaid for information about applying for alternative loans.  
  
**Parent PLUS Loans:** Dependent students pursuing a second bachelor’s degree may be eligible for Parent PLUS loans.

**Hospital Assistance**: Some hospitals offer scholarship-to-work opportunities that will help you finance your nursing education. Visit your local hospitals’ website(s) to learn about opportunities in your area. These scholarship programs are typically managed by the Human Resources or Workforce Development Offices.   
  
Louisville area residents should review the following websites: Norton Healthcare, Baptist Health, Kentucky One Health, Clark Memorial Hospital and Floyd Memorial Hospital.

**Military Opportunities**: All branches of the military offer some funding opportunities for nursing. Contact the local recruiting office for the military branch of your choice.