

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING
Accelerated Nursing Program Report
October 2017

[Pursuant to W.S. 21-17-122(c) and (f)]
To the Joint Labor, Health and Social Services Interim Committee

Program Overview

The Fay W. Whitney School of Nursing at the University of Wyoming offers an accelerated baccalaureate program preparing prior non-nursing baccalaureate degree graduates for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree to enable them to become a registered nurse. This program, started in the summer of 2008, is called BRAND (Bachelors Reach for Accelerated Nursing Degree) and takes 15 months to complete.

The State of Wyoming Legislature established an educational loan repayment program for accelerated students in the BRAND program in 2009 (W.S. 21-17-122). Under this statute the University of Wyoming was authorized to provide five loans annually of up to \$25,000 each for full-time students enrolled in the BRAND program, although the BY15-16 funding allows for nine loans during each biennium, instead of ten. The funding is divided over a four-semester period. Students receiving support from the state are obligated to engage in professional practice as a registered nurse for two years in Wyoming or repay all amounts expended by the state for their education.

Required Report

W.S. 21-17-122 (c) – Under this provision, the University’s Board of Trustees, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, may relieve a student from repayment of a loan provided under this section for undue hardship. The provision requires the University to report to the Joint Labor, Health and Social Services Interim Committee the number of students who have been relieved of the obligation to repay the loan.

W.S. 21-17-122 (f) - On or before October 1 of each year, the university shall submit a report to the committee on expenditures from the account during the prior fiscal year. Funds from students who repay their loans flow into this account. Currently, four students are in the grace period and ten students are paying with service in Casper, Cheyenne, Evanston, Jackson, and Torrington.

Loan Repayment Update

State funding for the current biennium totals \$221,626, which is sufficient to support eight students during a two year period. For FY2017, four (4) students were supported, receiving their loans over the course of the 2016-17 academic year. During FY2018, a total of four (4) awards will be given.

Forty-four students have been supported by the BRAND loan payment program since it was established. The table below summarizes the current status of the students/graduates who are currently enrolled in the BRAND program, in the grace period, or are currently paying off the loan as of August 30, 2017. All other graduates not listed on the table have completed their repayment of the loan. No students have been relieved of their obligation to repay the loan. Currently, no students are repaying the loan in cash rather than in professional service to the state, although one student who did not complete the program has completely repaid her partial loan. Another students worked 1 ½ years in the state and through board approval was able to have her loan cancelled at a year and a half rate and then repaid the

remaining balance that was left for that last half year. However, since it was only a partial loan the funds available in the repayment account are not enough to provide support to any additional students at this time. One student has enrolled in the Doctor of Nursing Practice program at UW (labeled as “re-enrolled” on the table below), so the loan has been deferred while the individual is in school.

Status	Home Town	City of Practice
Deferred for practice	Jackson	Jackson
Deferred for practice	Douglas	Douglas
Deferred for practice	Rock Springs	Laramie
Deferred for practice	Wilson	Laramie
Deferred for Practice	Jackson	Laramie
Deferred for Practice	Lander	Lander
Deferred for Practice	Cheyenne	Casper
Deferred for Practice	Cheyenne	Cheyenne
Deferred for Practice	Cheyenne	Cheyenne
Enrolled Currently	Laramie	
Enrolled Currently	Cheyenne	
Enrolled Currently	Casper	
Enrolled Currently	Jackson	
Enrolled in DNP Program	Cody	
Grace Period	Jackson	
Grace Period	Casper	
Grace Period	Jackson	

FY17 Fiscal report

University of Wyoming
 BRAND Loan Program
 Loan Rec-Student balancing
 Year Ended 6/30/17

Loan advances 2010	225,000.00	
Loan advances 2011	112,500.00	
Loan advances 2012	112,500.00	
Loan advances 2013	112,500.00	
Loan advances 2014	93,750.00	
Loan advances 2015	100,000.00	
Loan advances 2016	125,000.00	
Loan advances 2017	78,000.00	
Total Loans Advanced		959,250.00
Canceled - Service 2012	(57,835.48)	
Canceled - Service 2013	(146,756.04)	
Canceled - Service 2014	(172,190.78)	
Canceled - Service 2015	(48,984.98)	
Canceled - Service 2016	(85,917.00)	
Canceled -Service 2017	(129,569.02)	
Total Loans Canceled		(641,253.30)

Principal repayment 2015	(5,626.66)	
Principal repayment 2016	(1,862.51)	
Principal repayment 2017	(3,970.00)	
Total Loans Repaid		(11,459.17)

Loans-Rec Student

306,537.53

Summary

The BRAND Program has been quite successful and is accomplishing its goals. The State of Wyoming and health care employers are experiencing the impact of the loan repayment program. All graduates who have received loans have either completed their payback with service in Wyoming (20 graduates), repaid the loan in cash (1 student who, as noted earlier, did not complete the program) or are in the process of paying back the loan through service in the state (10 graduates). As you can see from the 3rd column in the table above, a variety of Wyoming cities have benefited by a BRAND graduate, including Sheridan, Cody, Buffalo, Lander, Douglas, Jackson, Evanston, Torrington and Green River.

The BRAND graduates are also high quality nurses. They do very well with an NCLEX (national nursing licensure examination) pass rate of 78% to 93% over the last 5 years. Moreover, the BRAND program attracts a diverse student pool with an increasing number of men and women of color graduating from the program. The BRAND program has a solid record (see above) of retaining graduates in the state and increasing the number of loans could be a key part of addressing the pressing nursing shortage in Wyoming.