How to Fund Your Physician Assistant Education

In graduate PA education, students primarily use loans to pay for school. Scholarships are also available based on varying criteria. Students are discouraged from seeking employment while enrolled in the program due to the rigorous nature of the curriculum.

Contact Shenandoah University Financial Aid
Wilkins Hall 223
1460 University Drive
Winchester, VA 22601
Phone: (540) 665-4538 or (800) 432-2266
Fax: (540) 665-4939
Email: finaid@su.edu
Federal School Code: 003737

Visit the Shenandoah Financial Aid Web Site
www.su.edu
Admissions & Aid
Financial Aid
For Graduate Students

Guaranteed Student Loans Complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) as soon as possible after January 1 of the year you are planning to matriculate. (http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/) FAFSA will be used to determine eligibility for aid such as grants, federal student and parent loans. It is strongly recommended to sign the FAFSA on-line by using the U.S. Department of Education PIN. The signature PIN can be obtained at http://www.pin.ed.gov. Both the student and their parent (if applicable) can obtain a PIN. To ensure Shenandoah University receives your FAFSA, be sure to list our Federal School Code: 003737.

Federal Graduate PLUS Loan. SU must certify the requested amount. These PLUS loans require the FAFSA. Credit checks are required and are only good for 90 days so you do not want to do them too early.

Virginia Tuition Assistance Grant (VTAG). This is grant, not a loan. Estimated award is $1,150 per year. You must be a full-time student for the length of the program to remain qualified. Applicant must be a tax-paying resident of Virginia. For more information go to http://www.schev.edu/students/factsheetvtag.asp.

Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Scholarships of up to $50,000 annually to cover tuition, room and board, fees and books! Based on financial need, academic achievement, leadership and other factors. Go to www.jkcf.org

Loan Repayment Programs National Health Service Corps (NHSC). Repays up to $60,000 in qualifying education loans in exchange for a two-year service commitment in an area of greatest need. Visit their website: http://nhsc.hrsa.gov/. The State Loan Repayment Program is part of the Health Resources and Services Administration’s (HRSA) Bureau of Health Professions (BHPr) overall strategy to improve access to underserved communities. For more information, visit this website: http://nhsc.hrsa.gov/loanrepayment/stateloanrepaymentprogram/index.html
**Internal Scholarships.** The SU PA program has an endowment fund. Past awards have ranged from $500 – 10,000 per year. Applications reviewed for academic excellence, leadership, financial need, and demonstrated support of the SU PA program values and mission.

**Rural Health Primary Care Track** This stipend is offered by the SU PA Program through a grant received from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services through the Affordable Health Care Act. The goal is to increase the number of physician assistants in the workforce. Shenandoah is one of 26 programs nationwide to receive this grant which will provide five stipends annually. A total of $44,000 will be awarded to each individual selected. The PA Program will notify admitted students of application procedures and eligibility.

**External Scholarships** NHSC offers payment of tuition, fees and expenses for up to four years of education. See website address above.

**The United States Military and Reserves** have offered scholarship programs in the past in exchange for service obligations. Contact your local recruiter’s office to see what incentives are currently available.

**The Indian Health Service Scholarship program** offers three scholarships to help qualified American Indian and Alaska Native candidates move forward with their education and pursue careers in a health profession. It is important for you to familiarize yourself with the three IHS scholarships and note the eligibility requirements for all applicants. [http://www.ihs.gov/scholarship/index.cfm](http://www.ihs.gov/scholarship/index.cfm)

**AAPA (American Academy of Physician Assistants) Foundation** offers about 50 scholarships annually ranging from $1,500 to $3,000. Criteria include financial need and academic record. See [http://www.pa-foundation.org/](http://www.pa-foundation.org/)

**Winchester Medical Center Auxiliary.** Past awards ranging from $1000 - $2000.

04/2013