

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING
Accelerated Nursing Program Report
October 2021

[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 starting with 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.

Loan Repayment Update

Sixty 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 July 1, 2021. 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, one student is repaying the loan in cash rather than in professional service to the state and 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 | Laramie | Laramie |
| Deferred for Practice | Jackson | Jackson |
| Deferred for Practice | Laramie | Laramie |
| Deferred for Practice | Laramie | Laramie |
| Deferred for Practice | Rock Springs | Rock Springs |
| Deferred for Practice | Cheyenne | Cheyenne |
| Deferred for Practice | Cody | Cody |
| Enrolled | Sheridan | |
| Enrolled | Jackson | |
| Enrolled | Laramie | |
| Enrolled | Lander | |
| Enrolled in DNP | Cheyenne | |
| Enrolled in DNP | Riverton | |
| Grace | Wilson | |
| Grace | Evanston | |
| Repayment | Casper | |

FY21 Fiscal report

University of Wyoming BRAND Loan Program

Loan Rec-Student balancing Year Ended 6/30/21

| | | |
|--------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| 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 | |
| Loan advances 2018 | 143,626.00 | |
| Loan advances 2019 | 78,000.00 | |
| Loan advances 2020 | 143,626.00 | |
| Loan advances 2021 | 75,000.00 | |
| | | |
| Total Loans Advanced | | 1,399,502.00 |
| | | |
| 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 | |
| Canceled-Service 2018 | -113,609.66 | |
| Canceled-Service 2019 | -99,267.29 | |
| Canceled-Service 2020 | -101,217.48 | |
| Canceled-Service 2021 | -74,478.31 | |
| Total Loans Canceled | | -1,029,826.04 |
| | | |
| Principal repayment 2015 | -5,626.66 | |
| Principal repayment 2016 | -1,862.51 | |
| Principal repayment 2017 | -3,970.00 | |
| Principal repayment 2018 | -2,716.09 | |
| Principal repayment 2019 | -659.01 | |
| Principal repayment 2020 | -25,710.93 | |
| Principal repayment 2021 | -12,730.92 | |
| Total Loans Repaid | | -53,276.12 |
| | | |
| Loans-Rec Student | | \$316,399.84 |

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 (32 graduates), repaid the loan in cash (1 student who, as noted earlier, did not complete the program and 1 student who is repaying currently). 95% come back to WY for allowance or are in the process of paying back the loan through service in the state (8 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 Cheyenne, Cody, Jackson, Laramie and Rock Springs.

The BRAND graduates are also high quality nurses. They do very well with an NCLEX (national nursing licensure examination) pass rate of 88% to 100% over the last 3 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.