

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING
Accelerated Nursing Program Report
October 2024

[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

Seventy-two 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, 2024. 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. 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 and one student has enrolled in the Doctor of Nursing Practice program at UW and is practicing in the state.**

Status	Hometown	City of Practice
Enrolled	Casper	
Enrolled	Cheyenne	
Enrolled	Cody	
Enrolled	Cheyenne	
Enrolled	Cheyenne	
Enrolled	Worland	
Enrolled	Rawlins	
Enrolled	Laramie	
Practicing	Lander	Lander
Practicing	Cheyenne	Cheyenne
Re-enrolled in DNP	Gillette	
Practicing	Laramie	Laramie
Practicing/Enrolled in DNP	Saratoga	Saratoga
Repayment	Casper	Windsor

FY23 Fiscal report

University of Wyoming BRAND Loan Program

Loan Rec-Student balancing Year Ended 6/30/23

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	
Loan advances 2022		45,000.00	
Loan advances 2023		100,000.00	
Loan advances 2024		100,000.00	
Total Loans Advanced			1,644,502.00
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	
Canceled-Service 2022		-85,266.07	
Canceled-Service 2023		-88,577.93	
Canceled-Service 2024		-86,802.51	
Total Loans Canceled			-1,290,472.55
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	
Principle repayment 2022		-755.15	
Principle repayment 2023		-25,798.54	
Principle repayment 2024		-20,454.96	
Total Loans Repaid			-100,284.77
Loans-Rec Student			\$253,744.68

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 (72 graduates), repaid the loan in cash (1 student who, as noted earlier, did not complete the program and 1 student who is repaying currently) WE USED 95% COME BACK TO WY FOR ALLOWANCE or are in the process of paying back the loan through service in the state (4 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, Lander, Laramie, and Saratoga.

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.