

CHAPTER 45. PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

540:45-1-1. Purpose

The ~~Physician Manpower~~Health Care Workforce Training Commission shall establish and administer a Physician Assistant Scholarship Program under the provisions of Section 697.21 Title 70 of the Oklahoma State Statutes. *The purpose of the program is to encourage persons to enter physician assistant education programs and to practice in rural and medically underserved areas of this state.* [70:697.21(a)]

540:45-1-2. Statutory administration

The Physician Assistant Scholarship Program shall be administered by the ~~Physician Manpower~~Health Care Workforce Training Commission pursuant to rules promulgated by the Commission and shall be funded based on an annual estimate of need as determined by the Commission. [70:697.21(a)]

540:45-1-3. Terms and conditions of scholarship

The terms and conditions governing the scholarship are to be as prescribed and formulated by the ~~Physician Manpower~~Health Care Workforce Training Commission, but includes the conditions that each recipient upon completion of the course of study, will repay the scholarship by practicing in a rural Oklahoma community outside the Oklahoma City and Tulsa Metropolitan Service Areas and having a need therefore, as determined by the Commission, for one month for each month the scholarship was received. The contract will provide that in the event the recipient breaches the terms of the contract by not serving in an approved community for the specified period of time, the recipient will pay liquidated damages in an amount not to exceed 100% of the principal. After payment of liquidated damages, repayment of the principal may be made in cash with *interest at a rate that equals the prime interest rate plus one percent (1%) from the date of disbursement of the funds.* [70:697.21(c)]

540:45-1-5. Procedures for administering scholarships

The Commission shall promulgate and adopt procedures as may be necessary to carry out the administration of the scholarship program. The Commission shall delineate the following procedures:

- (1) **Promulgation of information concerning scholarships.** Every reasonable effort shall be made to contact all physician assistants being trained in the State of Oklahoma concerning the availability of the scholarship.
- (2) **Applications.** All interested physician assistant students shall file an application with the ~~Physician Manpower~~Health Care Workforce Training Commission. This application can be submitted at any time during the year. Applications are available in the office of the ~~Physician Manpower~~Health Care Workforce Training Commission.
- (3) **Approval of scholarship by the Commission.** Scholarship applications shall be submitted to the Commission for approval at any regular Commission meeting. Applications will be reviewed in the order they are received and will be approved or declined as determined by the Commission.
- (4) **Renewal of contracts.** The original scholarship shall be guaranteed for the initial fiscal year, and renewed each year thereafter contingent upon funding from the Legislature, and continued approval of the Commission

based on the students academic performance and recommendation of the Director of the Physician Assistant Program.

540:45-1-6. Repayment of scholarship loan

(a) Each recipient shall repay the scholarship loan to the state by practicing full time in an approved community in Oklahoma, one month for each month the scholarship loan was received. The period shall begin on the date the recipient begins to practice in the approved community.

(b) Repayment of the total amount of the loan, plus principal, interest, litigation costs, and liquidated damages in an amount up to 100% of principal as assessed by the ~~Physician Manpower~~Health Care Workforce Training Commission, upon failure of the recipient to fulfill the contractual obligations, shall be made payable to the Commission.

(c) *There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving fund for the ~~Physician Manpower~~Health Care Workforce Training Commission to be designated the "Physician Assistant Scholarship Fund". The fund shall be a continuing fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations, and shall consist of all monies received by the ~~Physician Manpower~~Health Care Workforce Training Commission for implementation of the Physician Assistant Scholarship Program. All monies accruing to the credit of the fund are hereby appropriated and may be budgeted and expended by the ~~Physician Manpower~~Health Care Workforce Training Commission for such scholarships as may be provided for pursuant to the Physician Assistant Scholarship Program. Expenditures from the fund shall be made upon warrants issued by the State Treasurer against claims filed as prescribed by law with the Director of ~~State Finance~~Office of Management and Enterprise Services for approval and payment. [70:697.21(d)]*