

# Financial Aid

2026-2027

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*Submit a FAFSA for BSN-DNP scholarship consideration.*

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## Basics of Financing Your BSNDNP Degree

BSN-DNP students are strongly encouraged to understand the financial impact of full-time study in this particular program. The Office of Financial Aid provides workshops, financial literacy programs, as well as one on one meetings with students to maximize creative borrowing and help with a loan repayment strategy after graduation.

Wake Forest School of Medicine adheres to a Cost of Attendance that will vary during each of your three years in BSN-DNP school. You will receive an award notification from our office each May that details Cost of Attendance, your suggested budget, and your loan offer for the year. It is important to note that personal resources should be used whenever possible to delay borrowing. Even small contributions out of pocket can make a tremendous difference in accruing interest on federal loans. Always delay borrowing as long as possible.

Most BSN-DNP students already have a budget that works for them however make sure to take our suggested budget into consideration when planning your time in this program. Reduce consumer debt as much as possible before matriculation so you are not using borrowed funds to pay old debt.

## Scholarship Resources

### BSN-DNP Program Scholarships:

Helen Vos Scholarship; [Lettie Pate Whitehead Scholarship](#); Lillian Stansfield Smith Scholarship; [Nurse Anesthesia Traineeship Funds](#); Advanced Nursing Traineeship Grant; [Ruth Holleman Scholarship](#); Sandra Maree Ouellette Scholarship; [Francis Frey Scholarship](#); Betty Petree Scholarship; [Foster Scholarship Fund](#)

**All Roads Scholarship:** The School of Medicine All Roads Scholarship is awarded to students who demonstrate financial need.

Students who submit a FAFSA will be considered for the above scholarships. The awarding of all Nurse Anesthesia scholarship funds is based on financial need and other criteria noted in the fund agreement for each individual scholarship. The specific amount of funding varies from year to year, based on allocations and investment performance.

To be considered for the **Lettie Pate Whitehead Scholarship**, (females only), you will not need to complete a supplemental scholarship application, information from your application to the SOM will be used to determine eligibility.

**External Scholarships:** The links below provide information on external funding opportunities. Click each one to find funding amounts and application deadline information.

[The NC League for Nursing Academic Scholarship Program](#): Scholarships available for graduate study in nursing.

[Nurses' Educational Funds, Inc](#): Awards scholarships to graduate degree nursing students who are members of a national professional nursing association.

[The North Carolina Nurses Association](#): Provides scholarships to NC residents.

## Student Loans

**Federal loans** - As a graduate student, you are eligible for the unsubsidized Stafford loan that has a max cap of \$20,500 per year with an aggregate limit of \$100,000.

An Unsubsidized Stafford loan has an interest rate of 8.08% and origination fee of 1.057%.

Federal loans have fixed interest rates. Once set, each individual loan's rate will never change. Interest rates are evaluated by the Department of Education each year. If they are adjusted, only new loans disbursed after July 1<sup>st</sup> are affected.

Benefits of federal loans include:

- Six-month grace period before beginning repayment
- Flexible, easy to manage repayment plans
- PSLF eligibility

**Private Loans:** Private loans are offered to borrowers with established credit history. A cosigner may be required for borrowers who have a low credit score. A list of private lenders can be found at [www.ElmSelect.com](http://www.ElmSelect.com). Private loans are not eligible for the federal Public Service Loan Forgiveness.

Private loans cannot be consolidated with federal loans and they are not eligible for Public Service Loan Forgiveness. These loans could be a viable option to use as a supplement to the federal loan, if needed. They have the potential to offer lower interest rates for borrowers with established credit history. Private loans are good options for students who are managing cash flow, as opposed to those who are living solely on financing. If you secure a position upon graduating, you may likely be in the position to repay your loans quickly saving you money in accrued interest over time.

## North Carolina FELS

NC FELS (Forgivable Education Loan for Service) is a loan forgiveness program that provides \$14,000 a year to BSN-DNP Nurse Anesthesia students from North Carolina in exchange for a service obligation following the completion of their training. The service obligation requires recipients to work in NC as a full-time Nurse Anesthetist for each year the loan was awarded. You may work in any geographic area of NC. If you fail to stay in NC after training, you must repay the loan at an interest rate of 7% (interest accrues from the date of disbursement). \* **Please note: BSN-DNP Nurse Anesthesia graduates must provide direct healthcare delivery to NC residents to qualify for service forgiveness.**

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For more information on  
Federal Student Loans, visit  
[www.studentaid.gov](http://www.studentaid.gov)

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NC FELS Applications can be found at  
[www.CFNC.org](http://www.CFNC.org)

## Supporting a Family

Cost of attendance includes only the expenses associated with the student. A dependent care allowance, which most often means the cost of day care for dependent children, may be added to increase the cost of attendance. The amount allowed for day care is based on the ages of the children and on reasonable costs in the area. Keep in mind that the dependent care allowance results in borrowing more money. Students with these circumstances should discuss them with their Financial Aid Officer early in the admission process. Other sources of dependent support that should be explored include social services, religious organizations, and financial assistance from parents or other relatives. Students and spouses/domestic partners should review their lifestyle expectations and be in agreement before making the financial commitment to attend school. Each person needs to be prepared to live like a student, which often means giving up "extras" that before were taken for granted. Begin planning early to reduce debts, and start saving in anticipation of relocation expenses and salary reductions.



*Speak with your Financial Aid Officer if you need additional loans for childcare costs.*

## Public Service Loan Forgiveness

Public Service Loan Forgiveness was created by Congress to encourage individuals to enter into and continue to work full-time in public service employment. Under PSLF, borrowers may qualify for forgiveness of the remaining balance of their federal student loans after they have made 120 monthly payments while employed full-time by certain public service employers.

### **Program Requirements:**

**BORROW** – Have eligible loans (Direct Loans Only).

**WORK** – Maintain a full-time employment status while working for a qualifying public service organization.

**REPAY** – Make 120 qualifying payments under an eligible Repayment Plan.

## Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Loan Repayment Program

Loan repayment is available to Registered Nurses and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses working in a public or private eligible Critical Shortage Facility OR Nurse Faculty employed at an eligible school of nursing.

Awarded participants will receive payments totaling 60 percent of their outstanding qualifying educational loan balance incurred while pursuing an education in nursing in exchange for a two-year service commitment. \*Qualifying participants may receive an additional 25 percent of their original loan balance for an optional third year of service.



<https://bhw.hrsa.gov/>  
800-221-9393 M-F 8am-8pm

## Financial Aid Timeline

**October, 2025:** FAFSA available

**May 15, 2026:** WFSM deadline for FAFSA

**June 15, 2026:** award letters are emailed to students

**June 30, 2026:** Deadline to accept/decline awards, sign master promissory note and complete entrance counseling

**August 2026:** First financial aid disbursement available

**January 2027:** Second disbursement available

**May 2027:** Third disbursement available



## Department of Financial Aid

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## Financial Aid Staff

**Ashleigh Beard, Program Manager III**

Penny Greenwood, Program Manager II

Michelle Van Meter, Program Manager III

Roberta Powell, Program Manager III

Ellen Montgomery, Director of Financial Aid

Please let us know how we can be of assistance!

## Important Information

Below are tidbits to help you with your first year in the BSNDNP program:

- Your 1st disbursement will be received in August 2026. Your second disbursement will be in January 2027, and your third disbursement will be in May 2027.
- Read your Financial Aid emails and reach out to Ashleigh, your financial aid administrator!
- Explore ways to save money and cut borrowing.
- Review your financial aid award letter that will be emailed to you in mid-June. Submit your acceptance within 14 days of receipt.
- Sign up for direct deposit to receive your living expense funds.

## Budgeting Information

### BSNDNP Student 12-Month

#### Budget 2026-2027

#### First Year

Tuition/Fees	\$67,398
Books/Supplies	
&Equipment	\$1,400
Lodging	\$21,600
Utilities	\$3,540
Food	\$5,760
Transportation	\$5,700
Misc.	\$2,304
Health Insurance	\$5,785
Loan Fees	\$217
Laptop	\$1,222
RN Licensure	\$105
<b>Total Budget:</b>	<b>\$118,585</b>

### BSNDNP Student Budget

#### 2026-2027

#### Monthly Living Expenses

#### First Year

Lodging	\$1,800
Utilities	\$295
Food	\$480
Transportation	\$475
Misc.	\$192

**Total Monthly Budget: \$3,242**

\*The entering 2026-2027 1st years are credit hour based. \$1,434 per credit hour with 47 credit hours in 1st year, 25 credit hours in 2nd year, and 18 credit hours in 3rd year.

### Your Monthly Estimates

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\*Check: <https://school.wakehealth.edu/education-and-training/nursing-programs/financial-aid#bsndnp> -in late February for updates to the 2027-2028 budget.