



Teachers College

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
Office of Financial Aid

Nurse Faculty Loan Program (NFLP) Guidelines

The Nurse Faculty Loan Program (NFLP) is funded by the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) to provide additional loan assistance to eligible students who are committed to entering the workforce as a nurse educator upon graduation. As an NFLP recipient, you may be eligible to receive up to 85% loan forgiveness and cancellation while serving as a full-time nurse faculty member at a school of nursing. NFLP recipients are eligible to receive up to \$35,500 a year for up to five academic years total of loan support.

The Office of Financial Aid (OFA) Teachers College (TC) offers the NFLP to Doctoral students who are pursuing study within Nurse Education. New and continuing students are eligible to apply for the NFLP each academic year.

Student Eligibility, Application and Selection Process

Students must submit the NFLP Interest Form to the Office of Financial Aid by the designated deadline in order to be considered for the NFLP. To be eligible for NFLP participation, the student must be a U.S. citizen/national or a lawful permanent resident and be a matriculated doctoral student enrolled at least part-time. TC also requires students to submit a complete Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) each year to be considered for NFLP funding. Students who are in default on a federal loan are ineligible for the NFLP.

Submission of the NFLP Interest Form does not guarantee approval for an award. Students are selected for NFLP based on their demonstrated commitment as well as on the availability of NFLP funding for the pertaining academic year. Late submissions of the NFLP Interest Form will not be accepted.

Student Responsibilities

As an NFLP awardee, you will be responsible for completing any required documents and agreements each academic year in order to receive the loan assistance. In addition, you must maintain eligibility based on enrollment and academic progress throughout each academic year in which NFLP loan funding is awarded. There are also additional academic coursework requirements that NFLP awardees must complete prior to graduating from their TC degree program. Requirements for NFLP awardees include:

- Complete the NFLP Interest Form
- Complete Entrance Counseling and Master Promissory Note (MPN) for each academic year
- Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) standards
- Enroll in a minimum of 1 credit
- Complete required NFLP Nursing Education academic coursework determined by program advisor prior to graduation
- Complete Exit Interview requirement as an NFLP borrower, upon program completion or the student has ceased enrollment

Continuing students who are previous NFLP recipients at TC are eligible to renew their participation through the NFLP Interest Form each academic year if they maintain good academic standing. Note that NFLP funding for new and continuing student recipients is subject to the availability of funds provided to TC by HRSA each fiscal year.



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Award Detail and Interest Rates

NFLP funding can cover tuition and fee costs. NFLP funding does not provide loan support for other educational expenses, such as books and supplies or cost of living. Students who are awarded with NFLP funding may also utilize other federal aid awards (such as the Unsubsidized and Graduate PLUS loans and Federal Work-Study) in conjunction with NFLP funding, up to the allowable TC cost of attendance per academic year. Students can receive NFLP support for a maximum of \$35,500 per year for up to five academic years. Students who have previously received NFLP support can remain in a degree program beyond five years, but they will not be eligible for additional NFLP support beyond the five years they received NFLP funds.

Interest on the amount of NFLP support a student has been awarded will accrue at the rate of 3% per annum beginning three months after the student ceases to be enrolled as a student from the degree program (i.e.: withdrawal or graduation). NFLP borrowers employed as full-time nurse faculty at an accredited school of nursing for a consecutive four-year period will bear interest at the rate of 3% for the four-year period and the remaining years of the repayment period. If the student fails to complete the program of study at TC, or fails to establish full-time employment as nurse faculty following graduation from the degree program, the loan will bear interest on the unpaid balance at the prevailing market rate. The prevailing market rate is determined by the Treasury Department and is published quarterly in the Federal Register.

Repayment and Grace Periods

The grace period for NFLP loan repayment is nine months and begins immediately after borrowers cease to pursue a course of study at the school of nursing (i.e. withdrawal or graduation). The 10-year repayment period for an NFLP loan begins following a nine month grace period after the borrower ceases to be enrolled as a student in the program (i.e. withdrawal or graduation). While the NFLP loan bears interest on the unpaid balance at the rate of 3% per annum beginning 3 months after graduation from the program, neither interest nor principal is required to be paid during the nine month grace period. During the grace period, NFLP borrowers may repay the loan but are not required to do so. NFLP borrowers who fail to establish employment as full-time nurse faculty at an accredited school of nursing following graduation must begin repayment of the NFLP loan following the nine month grace period at the prevailing market rate.

With the exception of an approved temporary Leave of Absence defined by TC or an enrollment exception as outlined within the official NFLP guidelines, students who cease to maintain their enrollment eligibility at the institution will automatically enter the designated repayment grace period for the NFLP as well as other relevant federal loan programs.

Loan Cancellation/Forgiveness, Deferment, Forbearance and Default

NFLP borrowers will qualify for partial loan forgiveness/cancellation each year while employed as a full-time nurse faculty at an accredited school of nursing over a consecutive four year period following graduation. NFLP borrowers are eligible for loan cancellation of up to 85% of their NFLP principal and interest in the four year consecutive employment schedule:



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- 20% each year for the first, second, and third year of employment
- 25% for the fourth year of employment

Percentages are calculated on the amount of the unpaid balance on the first day of employment. If you discontinue employment or have a break in service, you are ineligible for further cancellation. Employer-provided paid leave such as vacation or sick leave is not considered a break in service. In the event of a permanent and total disability or death, the loan obligation will be discharged.

Deferment of NFLP repayment is only granted in specific circumstances when the borrower is serving as an active member of a uniformed service of the United States or when the borrower is participating in a post-doctorate research program. Readmission to another graduate degree program of study at TC or another institution does not qualify a student for deferment. Uniformed services of a volunteering nature are not eligible for deferment.

NFLP borrowers may request forbearance when extraordinary circumstances such as poor health or hardships temporarily affect the borrower's ability to make scheduled loan repayments. Forbearance is limited to situations in which the borrower clearly intends to repay the NFLP loan obligation but is temporarily unable to comply with the existing repayment schedule. During periods of forbearance, the borrower's obligation to make payments on interest and principal may be either reduced or eliminated. Interest on the loan continues to accrue at whatever rate was applied prior to the forbearance period.

The NFLP borrower is required to submit the appropriate documentation and forms to TC if they have a loan forgiveness/cancellation, deferment, or forbearance request. Requests are only granted for a specific period of time (i.e.: three month, six month, full academic year, etc.) and must be renewed after the relevant period has expired. Requesting loan forgiveness/cancellation under NFLP is a student borrower responsibility.

Resources and Contact

Office of Financial Aid

Building 528, Third Floor

Phone: (212) 678-3714

Email: financialaid@tc.columbia.edu

Website:

<https://www.tc.columbia.edu/admission/financial-aid/aid-at-teachers-college/federal-aid/special-grant--loan-programs/>

Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA)

Website: <https://www.hrsa.gov/grants/find-funding/HRSA-24-015>