

About the Susan K. Ipacs Nursing Legacy Scholarship Fund and the Susan K. Ipacs Scholarship for Nursing Advancement Fund

The **Susan K. Ipacs Legacy Scholarship Funds** were established at the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio to honor the work and life of Susan Ipacs – nurse, instructor, mother, wife and friend.

Sue Ipacs' character reflected her Appalachian heritage. Her mother (from Tyler County, West Virginia) and father (from Ross County, Ohio) were self-reliant and independent, committed to a financially responsible lifestyle of hard work and industriousness. Her parents were kind and helpful toward others, their Christian beliefs fundamental to their home life. As a result, Sue had a preference to soothe and avoid conflict, though never to be confused with acquiescence or unwillingness to tenaciously defend her views. Like her parents, Sue put others at ease and is remembered for her compassionate nature.

On her path to professional accomplishments, Sue had to overcome significant obstacles. After graduating from Chillicothe High School, her passion to help others led her to pursue a career in nursing. However, she abandoned her studies in favor of marriage but soon found herself divorced and the mother of an infant daughter, Jill. Working a minimum wage job and feeling trapped by her life circumstances, Sue realized education was the key to a positive future for both her and her daughter. She was determined to complete her degree in nursing. She graduated Summa Cum Laude from Hocking College in 1977. Although a single working mother, Sue continued her studies and earned her BSN from Ohio University in 1984, again graduating Summa Cum Laude. In 1985, Sue became a nursing instructor at Hocking College. Sue became a mother again, giving birth to Joseph ("Joey") in 1988 and Christopher ("Bo") in 1990. Not to be deterred from her continued studies, Sue earned her master's degree from Wright State in 1994.

Although Sue could be described as cerebral and thoughtful, she was intensely passionate about her family and nursing. Her dedication, competence, and character led Sue to become an Associate Dean in the school of Nursing at Hocking College in 1999. Her professional memberships included the Ohio Council of associate degree Nursing Education Administrators, the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission, and the Education Advisory Council of the Ohio Board of Nursing.

Sue never lost her love of nursing and never forgot the circumstances that led to her college education. She felt a personal responsibility to recognize and attend to the underprivileged and non-traditional student. As a nursing instructor and Associate Dean, Sue strove to ease the burdens and obstacles facing students, while nurturing their passion to help others. It is hoped that students pursuing their nursing degree understand and always remember the consecrated role they will have in the lives and deaths of their patients, and the family members that care for them.





FOUNDATION FOR
APPALACHIAN OHIO

Susan K. Ipacs Nursing Legacy Scholarship and the Susan K. Ipacs Legacy Scholarship for Nursing Advancement

2026 Guidelines and Application Applications are due by Friday, May 1, 2026

The **Susan K. Ipacs Legacy Scholarships** were established to honor the memory of Susan Ipacs and her lifelong contributions to nursing. Two different awards, detailed below, are available. Please select the award that best describes you and your status as a nurse, student, and/or healthcare professional. If you are eligible and wish to apply for both awards, please check both boxes and complete all requested information.

Eligibility criteria for both scholarships:

- Applicants must demonstrate financial need/hardship. This will be the primary consideration in awarding the scholarship.
- Priority will be given to students attending a nursing program at Hocking College or any Ohio University campus, and to students who reside (determined by permanent address) and attend school in or work in Athens, Hocking, Ross, or Vinton Counties.
- Recipients shall be chosen on the basis of character as evidenced by their values, attitudes, and personal conduct as applicable to the nursing field and demonstrated in their personal statements and nomination forms.

Review Process: FAO annually appoints a Scholarship Committee to review applications and recommend awards. Final approval is made by the Foundation's Board of Trustees, and all decisions are final.

Ohio's 32 Appalachian Counties: Adams, Ashtabula, Athens, Belmont, Brown, Carroll, Clermont, Columbiana, Coshocton, Gallia, Guernsey, Harrison, Highland, Hocking, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Lawrence, Mahoning, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Perry, Pike, Ross, Scioto, Trumbull, Tuscarawas, Vinton, and Washington.

The Susan K. Ipacs Nursing Legacy Scholarship is for students actively enrolled in an accredited postsecondary nursing program who have completed at least one year of that program.

Eligibility Requirements & Criteria

- Must be a student enrolled in an accredited postsecondary nursing program who has completed at least one year of their nursing program.
- Must reside (determined by permanent address) and attend school in Ohio's 32 Appalachian counties.
- Candidates should have at least a 2.66 GPA on a 4.0 scale.

Susan K. Ipacs Legacy Scholarship for Nursing Advancement is for students who are accepted into and attend a course of study that allows a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) to complete the eligibility requirements to take the NCLEX-RN exam OR for established patient care-focused healthcare professionals such as but not limited to EMTs, nursing assistants, and home health aides, who plan to pursue a career in nursing.

Eligibility Requirements & Criteria

- Must be a graduate of an LPN program pursuing a Registered Nurse (RN) credential at an accredited nursing program OR;
- Be a current healthcare professional who has been in a patient care position for at least one year, pursuing a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) credential or a two- or four-year degree in nursing at an accredited post-secondary nursing program.
- Applicants must either reside and attend school in Ohio's 32 Appalachian counties OR be employed in a patient care role in one of Ohio's 32 Appalachian counties.
- Must meet all the nursing program's enrollment requirements.
- Candidates should have at least a 2.66 GPA on a 4.0 scale.
 - This requirement is waived if the applicant is not currently enrolled in a postsecondary program and graduated high school or equivalent before 2020.



FOUNDATION FOR APPALACHIAN OHIO

2026 APPLICATION for the Susan K. Ipacs Nursing Legacy Scholarship and the Susan K. Ipacs Legacy Scholarship for Nursing Advancement

Please review the eligibility requirements and select which scholarship you are applying for:

NURSING LEGACY

NURSING ADVANCEMENT

APPLICANT INFORMATION

NAME: _____
First Middle Initial Last

Gender: _____ Date of Birth: _____ County of Residence: _____

Current Address: _____
Street City State Zip

Permanent Address: _____
Street City State Zip

Email: _____ Phone: _____

FAMILY INFORMATION

(If you are an independent taxpayer, write "n/a" in the parent/guardian sections and include any dependents in the children/siblings section.)

Parent/Guardian Name(s): _____

Phone: _____ Email(s): _____

Parent/Guardian Mailing Address: _____

Names and ages of siblings and/or school-aged dependents in your home:

Children's relationship to applicant: siblings children/dependents

1. _____ age _____	4. _____ age _____
2. _____ age _____	5. _____ age _____
3. _____ age _____	6. _____ age _____

PERSONAL STATEMENTS

Please attach your typed response to the following questions:

1. What does becoming a nurse mean to you? If you are currently caring for patients in a healthcare role, what does your career in nursing or healthcare mean to you? What character attributes do you feel are required to become a nurse and to thrive in a nursing role? What are the hazards and rewards of nursing?
2. Please share why this scholarship would be important to you and your family.

SCHOOL INFORMATION

High School Attended OR Equivalent: _____ Graduation Date: (MM/YY) _____

Nursing School: _____ City/State: _____

Currently Attending

What year of your program are you entering for the 2026/27 school year? _____

Enrolled – beginning classes (month/year) _____ Accepted, not enrolled

Nursing Credential(s) you are pursuing: _____

Anticipated Graduation Date (MM/YY): _____ Date of NCLEX-RN exam: _____

Past nursing program(s) attended: _____

Dates of attendance (MM/YY): _____ Graduated? Yes No

Any nursing/healthcare credentials already held: _____

Please Select:

I will: Live on Campus Live off Campus Commute

I am enrolled: Less than Half-Time Half time Full-Time

TRANSCRIPT INFORMATION AND EMPLOYMENT VERIFICATION

1. Please attach your most recent transcript of grades.

* This requirement is waived if the applicant is not currently enrolled in a postsecondary program and graduated high school or equivalent before 2020.

2. **If you are currently employed in a patient-care role**, please attach your Resume/CV and an employment verification letter that confirms your starting date and current position.

Current Employer and Facility: _____

City/State: _____ County: _____

Position/Title: _____ How long have you been in this role? _____

FINANCIAL AID

Student Aid Index (SAI) Score: _____

*Please attach the SAI page(s) of your FAFSA Submission Summary containing your name and SAI number to your application. Screenshots will not be accepted.

Please list any scholarships, grants, and loans you have secured and/or are seeking for the upcoming academic year: _____

NOMINATIONS

To be eligible for consideration a Susan K. Ipacs Legacy Scholarship, your application must be supported by two healthcare professionals who can speak to your experience, character, potential, and professional conduct such as faculty members of your nursing program, the supervisor of your healthcare position, a senior colleague, and/or a clinical staff member. Family members may not write your nominations. Nominations may be returned to you in a sealed envelope or to FAO directly.

