

## Frequently Asked Questions Chou Nursing Scholarship Fund for Advanced Education

### **How will the amount of my Chou Nursing Scholarship Fund award be determined?**

The Chou Nursing Scholarship Funds are used to supplement the tuition reimbursement available through the Legacy Health Educational Assistance Program (LEAP.) For full-time employees, LEAP will reimburse 75% of tuition up to \$2,000. For part-time employees (.6 FTE and higher), LEAP will reimburse 75% of tuition up to \$1,000.

The Chou Nursing Scholarship Fund matches the LEAP program with an additional maximum award of \$2,000 for full-time employees, and \$1,000 for part-time employees. Like LEAP, Chou awards are paid out on a cost reimbursement basis for paid tuition expenses. After the LEAP program has first reimbursed the student, they will then be reimbursed by the Chou Nursing Scholarship Fund for any remaining tuition expenses up to the award amount.

**Example 1:** A part-time employee taking one BSN level class per quarter at the cost of \$775 per class, can expect to accumulate \$3,100 in tuition costs for the calendar year. LEAP will reimburse this student for \$1,000 (75% up to \$1,000), leaving a remaining balance of \$2,100. Therefore, this student's Chou Nursing Fund award would be the maximum annual amount of \$1,000.

**Example 2:** A full-time employee taking BSN level classes for one term at Western Governors University will incur tuition expenses of \$3,087.50. LEAP will reimburse this student for the maximum amount of \$2,000, leaving a remaining balance of \$1,087.50 to be reimbursed from their Chou Nursing Fund award.

### **When will I get my award?**

The Chou Nursing Scholarship Fund will reimburse awardees at the close of each term, after they are reimbursed by LEAP (assuming the GPA requirements are met.) Awardees must submit the Chou Scholarship Payment Form along with proof of tuition paid, term grades and GPA.

### **What exactly will the Chou Nursing Funds award reimburse me for?**

In order to best align with the LEAP tuition reimbursement program and most effectively support the goals of this program, the Chou Nursing Scholarship Fund award will only reimburse the cost of tuition not paid for by LEAP or other grants/scholarships. Textbooks and supplies are not eligible for reimbursement. However, an exception may be made to reimburse a student for enrollment fees not covered by LEAP.

### **Is my award reimbursement taxed?**

If the awardee chooses to have their Chou Nursing Scholarship Fund reimbursement sent directly to the educational institution toward a future term, the amount will not be taxed.

If the awardee chooses to have their reimbursement applied to their pay check and paid directly to them, it will be taxed at the bonus rate of 25% Federal and 9% state. This is because the amount of tax free tuition reimbursement allowable per person under IRS section 127 is already maxed out by the LEAP program.