

Salmon Creek Hospital Foundation

Chou Nursing Scholarship Fund for Advanced Education

Established in 2015, The Chou Nursing Scholarship Fund supports continuing education for nurses A pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) or Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree while employed at Legacy Salmon Creek Medical Center. All funds are used to supplement the tuition reimbursement available through the Legacy Health Educational Assistance Program (LEAP.)

The Chou Nursing Scholarship Funds will be awarded on an annual, calendar year basis to best align with the LEAP tuition reimbursement program, and most effectively support the goals of this program and Legacy SCMC employee's financial needs. Applications are due in the fall and are approved for the following calendar year. All clinical programs are eligible and encouraged to apply.

Number of Awards: Maximum of 40
Amount of Award: up to \$2,000 annually

Submission deadline: November 3, 2025
Recipients notified by: December 2025

Eligibility

Candidates must meet the following criteria to apply:

- Current employee (0.6 FTE or greater) of Legacy Salmon Creek Medical Center for at least one year.
- Accepted to/enrolled in a program leading to a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) or Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree. (All BSN programs are eligible, not just RN to BSN.)
- Family Nurse Practitioner **(FNP) degrees are NOT eligible** for Chou Award funds.
- Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degrees are only eligible if the individual plans to remain in nursing (as opposed to a prescribing provider.) However, BSN and MSN students will be given priority over doctoral candidates.
- Taking courses leading directly to an advanced degree (prerequisite course work is not eligible.)
- Eligible coursework must first be approved for tuition reimbursement through the Legacy Educational Assistance Program (LEAP.) If you are planning to apply to LEAP but it is too early to do so, please estimate your expected LEAP reimbursement amount on this application.
- **GPA of at least 3.0 for a BSN student and a 3.7 for a MSN** must be earned in order to qualify for the reimbursement. *

**In pass/no pass programs at education institutions such as Western Governors University, a "pass" is considered a 3.0 GPA. Therefore, BSN students can be eligible for Chou Nursing Funds, but MSN students are not.*

When all other considerations are equal, priority for Chou funds will be given to nurses currently serving in leadership positions, including charge nurse and nurse supervisor roles.

Part-time employees will receive pro-rated awards.

Process for Reimbursement:

Applicants MUST be approved and reimbursed by Legacy's Educational Assistance Program (LEAP) before being eligible to receive Chou Nursing Scholarship award payment(s.) To accomplish this, you must apply to the Legacy benefit department and receive approval within 14 calendar days of beginning the course(s). You can find more details about LEAP on the intranet: <https://legacyhealth.sharepoint.com/sites/Benefits/SitePages/EducationAssistance.aspx>

Upon completion of the term/semester, the student must first submit to the LEAP program for reimbursement. LEAP will reimburse 75% of tuition expenses paid by the student, up to \$2,000 for full time employees (.9 or more) and \$1,000 for part time employees (.6 or more).

Once the awardee has received reimbursement from LEAP, they will need to provide proof of tuition payment, semester grades and GPA (at least 3.0 for a BSN student and a 3.7 for a MSN*) to Salmon Creek Hospital Foundation. They will then be reimbursed by the Chou Nursing Scholarship Fund for any remaining tuition expenses up to the award amount.

At this time, the awardee may opt to have their reimbursement sent directly to the educational institution toward a future term or added to their paycheck. If applied to the paycheck and paid directly to the awardee, the reimbursement will be taxed at the bonus rate of 25% Federal and 9% state.

**Students attending a pass/no pass institution, a pass grade is considered a 3.0.*

Multiple Awards

While priority will be given to applicants who have not yet received Chou Nursing Scholarship Funds, employees who have previously received an award may apply again in a future year(s). Pending continued availability of funds, nurses may be eligible to receive annual awards for up to three years for BSN and up to two years for MSN/DNP.

Salmon Creek Hospital Foundation 2026 Chou Nursing Scholarship Fund

APPLICATION

Applicants must submit the following items for evaluation by the selection committee via email to Kristine Krause, kkrause@lhs.org, or mail to Kristine Krause, Office of Philanthropy, PO Box 4484, Portland, OR 97208, with the subject line "Chou Nursing Scholarship Application", received no later than November 3, 2025:

- 1) Personal Statement of Financial Status
- 2) Essay Questions
- 3) Supervisor Approval/Signature

Candidates must type their application using this form to be considered or be disqualified.

Name _____

Address _____
Street City State Zip

Phone _____ Email _____

Employee ID# _____ Cost Center _____ Supervisor Name _____

Hospital department of employment _____

Position Title _____ Is a BSN/MSN required for your position? _____

Are you full time or part time? Please list your FTE status: _____

Length of employment with Legacy Salmon Creek Medical Center _____

Last completed degree _____

Name of educational institute funds are requested for _____

Program Name _____ Cumulative GPA (if currently enrolled) _____

When did/will you start this program? _____

When do you expect to complete your degree? _____

Have you been awarded this scholarship before? _____

If yes, in what year(s) and how much funding did you receive? _____

Will you apply for LEAP reimbursement for 2026? _____

Coursework must first be approved for tuition reimbursement through LEAP in order to be eligible for Chou funds. If you are planning to apply to LEAP but it is too early to do so, please estimate your expected LEAP reimbursement amount on this application. (Employees must receive LEAP approval within 14 calendar days of beginning the course in order to be eligible for reimbursement.)

Personal Statement of Financial Status:

How many credit hours to you intend to take in the 2026 calendar year?	
Tuition cost per credit hour:	x \$
Expected total 2026 tuition cost:	\$
Expected 2026 LEAP reimbursement:	- \$
Other scholarships or tuition assistance expected?	- \$
Expected remaining balance needed in Chou Nursing Funds:	= \$

Please provide a brief statement generalizing your financial status. Consider how you plan to finance your education. If applicable, include details about your family's financial situation such as the number of family members currently pursuing post-secondary education or other important considerations. Please indicate if you have received other financial aid or scholarships, and from what source.

Essay Questions – *Responses must be 250-500 words.*

Explain 1) your desire to further your education, your career goals and any special interests you may have; 2) how furthering your education will positively impact patient care at Legacy Salmon Creek; and 3) why you should be awarded the scholarship.

Explain 1) what you have done for Legacy Salmon Creek to improve the quality of clinical care; 2) how have you contributed to the success of your unit/dept/hospital in quality, finance, employee engagement, patient experience, etc.

CERTIFICATION

Applicant:

I hereby certify that all the information provided in and with this application is true and accurate. Further, I certify that my own ideas and work product are set forth in this application.

Applicant's Signature

Date

Supervisor:

I hereby certify that this applicant is in good employment standing, is .6 or more FTE, and has supervisor approval to apply for Chou Nursing Scholarship funds.

Supervisor's Signature

Date

Supervisor's Printed Name

Check List

- ☐ Completed application – signed by applicant and dated
- ☐ Supervisor Approval Signature