

## CHAPTER 45. PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

## Section

- 540:45-1-1. Purpose
- 540:45-1-2. Statutory administration
- 540:45-1-3. Terms and conditions of scholarship
- 540:45-1-4. Eligibility; amount; method of payment
- 540:45-1-5. Procedures for administering scholarships
- 540:45-1-6. Repayment of scholarship loan
- 540:45-1-7. Applicant contracts
- 540:45-1-8. Annual reports to Governor and Legislature

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[**Source:** Codified 5-11-06]

**540:45-1-1. Purpose**

The Physician Manpower Training Commission shall establish and administer a Physician Assistant Scholarship Program under the provisions of Section 697.21 Title 70 of the Oklahoma State Statutes. *The purpose of the program is to encourage persons to enter physician assistant education programs and to practice in rural and medically underserved areas of this state.*

[70:697.21(a)]

[**Source:** Added at 22 Ok Reg 2780, eff 8-4-05

(emergency)(preemptive): Added at 23 Ok Reg 1107, eff 5-11-06]

**540:45-1-2. Statutory administration**

*The Physician Assistant Scholarship Program shall be administered by the Physician Manpower Training Commission pursuant to rules promulgated by the Commission and shall be funded based on an annual estimate of need as determined by the Commission.* [70:697.21(a)]

[**Source:** Added at 22 Ok Reg 2780, eff 8-4-05

(emergency)(preemptive): Added at 23 Ok Reg 1107, eff 5-11-06]

**540: 45-1-3. Terms and conditions of scholarship**

The terms and conditions governing the scholarship shall be as prescribed and formulated by the Physician Manpower Training Commission, but shall include the conditions that each recipient upon completion of the course of study, shall repay the scholarship by practicing in a rural Oklahoma community outside

the Oklahoma City and Tulsa Metropolitan Service Areas and having a population of 20,000 or less according to the last preceding United States Decennial Census and having a need therefore, as determined by the Commission, for one month for each month the scholarship was received. The contract shall provide that in the event the recipient breaches the terms of the contract by not serving in an approved community for the specified period of time, the recipient shall pay liquidated damages in an amount not to exceed 100% of the principal. After payment of liquidated damages, repayment of the principal may be made in cash with *interest at a rate that equals the prime interest rate plus one percent (1%) from the date of disbursement of the funds.* [70:697.21(c)]

[**Source:** Added at 22 Ok Reg 2780, eff 8-4-05  
(emergency)(preemptive): Added at 23 Ok Reg 1107, eff 5-11-06]

**540:45-1-4. Eligibility; amount; method of payment**

(a) *Only students who are residents of this state and who have been admitted as a student in an accredited physician assistant program shall be eligible to participate in the Physician Assistant Scholarship Program.* [70:697.21(b)]

(b) Applicants must also indicate a desire and intent to *practice in rural and medically underserved areas of this state.* [70:697.21(a)]

(c) Applicants must submit proof that they are not currently obligated, and will not become obligated, to any other scholarship assistance that has a conflicting service obligation requirement.

(d) *The number of and amount of each award shall be determined by the Commission based on the availability of funds.* [70:697.21(a)]

(e) In the event a physician assistant student begins participation in the scholarship program after the beginning of an academic year, the Commission may approve retroactive payment.

[**Source:** Added at 22 Ok Reg 2780, eff 8-4-05  
(emergency)(preemptive): Added at 23 Ok Reg 1107, eff 5-11-06]

**540:45-1-5. Procedures for administering scholarships**

The Commission shall promulgate and adopt procedures as may be necessary to carry out the administration of the scholarship program. The Commission shall delineate the following procedures:

- (1) **Promulgation of information concerning scholarships.**

Every reasonable effort shall be made to contact all physician assistants being trained in the State of Oklahoma concerning the availability of the scholarship.

(2) **Applications.** All interested physician assistant students shall file an application with the Physician Manpower Training Commission. This application can be submitted at any time during the year. Applications are available in the office of the Physician Manpower Training Commission.

(3) **Approval of scholarship by the Commission.** Scholarship applications shall be submitted to the Commission for approval at any regular Commission meeting. Applications will be reviewed in the order they are received and will be approved or declined as determined by the Commission.

(4) **Renewal of contracts.** The original scholarship shall be guaranteed for the initial fiscal year, and renewed each year thereafter contingent upon funding from the Legislature, and continued approval of the Commission based on the students academic performance and recommendation of the Director of the Physician Assistant Program.

[**Source:** Added at 22 Ok Reg 2780, eff 8-4-05  
(emergency)(preemptive): Added at 23 Ok Reg 1107, eff 5-11-06]

**540:45-1-6. Repayment of scholarship loan**

(a) Each recipient shall repay the scholarship loan to the state by practicing full time in an approved community in Oklahoma, one month for each month the scholarship loan was received. The period shall begin on the date the recipient begins to practice in the approved community.

(b) Repayment of the total amount of the loan, plus principal, interest, litigation costs, and liquidated damages in an amount up to 100% of principal as assessed by the Physician Manpower Training Commission, upon failure of the recipient to fulfill the contractual obligations, shall be made payable to the Commission.

(c) *There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving fund for the Physician Manpower Training Commission to be designated the "Physician Assistant Scholarship Fund". The fund shall be a continuing fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations, and shall consist of all monies received by the Physician Manpower Training Commission for implementation of the Physician Assistant Scholarship Program. All monies accruing to the credit of the fund are hereby appropriated and may be budgeted and expended by the Physician Manpower Training Commission for such scholarships as may be provided for pursuant to the Physician Assistant Scholarship Program. Expenditures*

*from the fund shall be made upon warrants issued by the State Treasurer against claims filed as prescribed by law with the Director of State Finance for approval and payment.*

[70:697.21(d)]

[**Source:** Added at 22 Ok Reg 2780, eff 8-4-05  
(emergency)(preemptive): Added at 23 Ok Reg 1107, eff 5-11-06]

**540:45-1-7. Applicant contracts**

(a) Each applicant, before being granted a scholarship, shall enter into a contract with the Commission agreeing to the terms and conditions upon which the scholarship shall be granted to the applicant.

(b) The recipient shall fulfill their contractual obligation to a qualifying community as outlined in the original contract.

(c) The contract shall include such terms and provisions as will carry out the full purpose and intent of the Physician Assistant Scholarship Program, and shall be in a form prepared and approved by the Attorney General.

(d) The contract shall be signed by the Executive Director on behalf of the Commission, and by the applicant. In the event the applicant is married, the contract shall also be cosigned by the applicant's spouse.

(e) The Commission may file suit against any recipient, and cosigner if applicable, for any balance due the Commission on any contract. The Commission may cancel any contract made between it and any recipient of a scholarship upon cause deemed sufficient by the Commission.

(f) The Commission shall maintain copies of the Physician Assistant Scholarship Program contracts in its offices.

[**Source:** Added at 22 Ok Reg 2780, eff 8-4-05  
(emergency)(preemptive): Added at 23 Ok Reg 1107, eff 5-11-06]

**540:45-1-8. Annual reports to Governor and Legislature**

The Commission shall make an annual report to the Governor and Legislature on the activities of the Physician Assistant Program. This report shall include the names of recipients, an accounting of the funds expended on scholarships and on the administration of the program.

[**Source:** Added at 22 Ok Reg 2780, eff 8-4-05  
(emergency)(preemptive): Added at 23 Ok Reg 1107, eff 5-11-06]