

# **Innovative Undergraduate Scholars Programs: Preparing Future Nurse Advocates, Scholars, and Leaders in Healthcare**

AACN Transform  
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1

## Disclosures

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### Conflict of Interest

• No conflict of interest

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2

# Objectives



Identify the steps in creating an innovative undergraduate scholars' programs in a nursing program.



List benefits of implementing an innovative, collaborative, and service-learning BSN Scholar program in an undergraduate nursing program.



Describe the resources needed to support a BSN Scholars program.



Understand how to implement and evaluate the effectiveness of a BSN Scholars program.

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3

## Background

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (2021) recommend educational programs specifically address health inequity.

To address this need, the School of Nursing launched three unique undergraduate scholars' programs: **Policy and Leadership Undergraduate Scholars (PLUS) program, Baby And Mother Bonding Initiative Advocacy Student Scholars (BASS) program, and the Honors Scholars program.**

These programs provide baccalaureate nursing (BSN) students opportunities to learn advanced leadership skills and participate in innovative immersive experiences in nursing research, health policy, and advocacy.

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4

# Purpose

The purpose of this triple, co-curricular scholars' programs is to impact student readiness for a complex and dynamic health system through immersion into nursing policy, advocacy, leadership & research.



## Description of our BSN Scholars Programs



### Honors Program

Scholars FOCUS: Research

Engage in research and quality improvement while fostering critical thinking and leadership.

8 Students—Admit Fall

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### BAMB I (*Baby and Mother Bonding Initiative*) Advocacy Student Scholars (BASS) Program

Scholars FOCUS: Advocacy & Maternal Health Equity

Engage in advocacy and policy with a special focus on women's health equity.

10 Students—Admit Spring



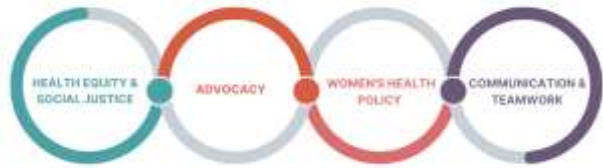
### Policy and Leadership Undergraduate Scholars (PLUS) Program

Scholars FOCUS: Policy & Leadership

Engage in leadership skill development and explore healthcare policy and the nurse's role in influencing change.

5 Students—Admit Summer

# BASS Scholars



## Purpose:

Address maternal health inequities through advocacy, policy exploration, social justice in healthcare exploration, and service-learning opportunities with incarcerated women

## Immersion:

Student led health education in the prison for incarcerated pregnant mothers.  
Labor, birth & postpartum support for incarcerated mothers  
Policy immersion at state Capitol

## Dissemination:

Development & Publication of a Student led Health Equity Podcast  
Health Equity Symposium  
Quality Improvement Project

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7

# PLUS Scholars



## Purpose:

Foster the leadership potential of undergraduate nursing students by demonstrating the impact and responsibility that professional nurses hold in health care and beyond.

## Immersion:

Policy immersion at state Capitol  
Immersive opportunities with leaders in practice

## Dissemination:

Policy Symposium  
Poster Presentation at Public Health Conference- awarded 1<sup>st</sup> place

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8

# Honors Scholars



## Purpose:

Foster scientific inquiry through exposure and immersion in the field with experienced Nurse Researchers.

## Immersion:

Collaborate with peers, interprofessional groups, and nurse research scholars to maximize the opportunities to engage, learn, and develop as scholars and leaders.

## Dissemination:

Individualized, project focused presentation or publication by each student

Research Symposium

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# BSN Scholars Application & Program Flow

## Semester #1

- Information Session
- Criteria- GPA, Professionalism
- Applications open Semester #1
- Applications reviewed by team and panel
- Applicants accepted (5-10 students)

## Semester #2

- Students begin their scholars work
- Skill Training
- Panel Sessions
- Interviews- story telling
- Portfolio work

## Semester #3

- Students immersion into scholars work
- Panel sessions
- Portfolio work

## Semester #4

- Students host a University Scholars Symposium (Advocacy, Policy & Research)
- Student disseminate work- conferences

# BSN Scholars Programs Student Benefits

## Advocacy Skills

- Strengthen skills in patient education, patient interaction, and refinement of the helping relationship for vulnerable populations. (PLUS & BASS)

## Policy Skills

- Increased awareness of ethical and human rights issues and policy impacts on historically excluded populations. (BASS & PLUS)

## Communication/ Leadership Skills

- Increased self-confidence and self-efficacy in communication skills (all programs)

## Specialty nursing focus

- Obstetrics, gynecology, community, and infant care (BASS)

## Exploration of Nursing Research

- Deepen their understanding of the nurse scholar and how this role can influence healthcare and patient outcome (Honors)

## Service opportunities

- Multiple opportunities to engage with vulnerable populations- Population Health clinical hours 3rd semester (all programs)

## Scholarship

- Develop understanding and process for scholarship (all programs)

## Community Engagement

- Better meet the population health core competencies with service-learning opportunities. (BASS & Honors)

## Personal

- Stipend for participation & commitment
- Academic scholarship- covering tuition & fees (Honors)
- Sponsorship for immersion travel- Capitol (BASS & PLUS)

11/22/2023



# Discussion- Implications for Students and clinical practice



## Advocacy

BSN Scholars Program is a template for educators to utilize service learning to broaden and enrich student understanding of vulnerable populations.

## Policy

BSN Scholars Program creates an awareness of the ethical, human rights issues and the need to provide process improvement through evidence-based practice, policy and advocacy for vulnerable populations

## Community Health Competencies

BSN Scholars Program provides a template for educators to use in order to create and implement community- based service opportunities for undergraduate nursing students.  
House Bill 650- (Dignity Act, 2019).

## Preparation for Leadership

Providing students with these advanced skills, the technology, expansion of resources, and the access to key stakeholders in the health system and community through this transformed scholar immersion, has the potential to strengthen student competencies and better equip students to advocate for their patient's following graduation.

## Research

Students gain hands on experience in the research process. Including literature searches (Scoping Review), IRB application/approval process, recruitment and consenting participants, data collection and analysis, manuscript writing and presentation of findings.

# Conclusion & Future

Continue to strengthen collaborations while seeking new ones within scholars program

Provide innovative space for scholars students to share lessons learned to cohort and community

Build scholarly work to disseminate process and program

Explore program impact on student early and frequent engagement into policy, leadership, advocacy, and research.



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# Thank you! Questions?



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