

SCHOLARSHIP PROTOCOL

Scholarship: The name of the scholarship shall be the **St. Francis School of Nursing Endowed Scholarship**

Benefactors: Graduates of the St. Francis School of Nursing

Type (Annual or Endowed): Endowed

Year Begun: 2011

History: Before 1883 there were no nurses in western Wisconsin. A hospital (the first institution of its kind in the area) was being built on the edge of town and it needed nurses. Physicians gladly offered to instruct Franciscan religious in the art of nursing. When St. Francis Hospital opened in 1883, five nursing sisters were ready. They built a small hospital and began the mission of nursing.

In 1901 the sisters accepted two laywomen for training. In 1902, the St. Francis School of Nursing formally opened. Seven secular women and five sisters, from seven states, enrolled in an organized program of studies with Sister M. Seraphia McCafferty as director of nurses. The first graduating class was 1905.

The St. Francis School of Nursing was a three-year diploma program in which students were prepared through education and clinical practice to serve primarily in hospitals, as was the norm at the time. It was also the type of education that served the needs of hospitals and was supported by the medical community.

In 1911 the school received accreditation by the Wisconsin Committee on Nursing Education. It became affiliated with Viterbo College and the Catholic University of Washington, D.C. in 1943. Recognizing its strong educational and clinical program, the National League of Nursing granted St. Francis School of Nursing national accreditation in 1954.

When the new St. Francis School of Nursing Building opened in 1942, it was described as Wisconsin's newest and finest three-year diploma school. Science classes at Viterbo College were added to the curriculum, and students continued a supervised progression through the hospital clinical areas.

With the development of the four-year Baccalaureate program in nursing at Viterbo College, which followed a national trend toward four-year nursing programs, the three-year diploma school closed. The 1970 commencement marked the end of the St. Francis School of Nursing.

In 2011, Viterbo University adopted all of the graduates from the St. Francis School of Nursing as Honorary Alumnae. The St. Francis School of Nursing Alumnae Association became a chapter member of the Viterbo University Alumni Association and the members made contributions to the university in excess of \$20,000 to fund this endowment.

The purpose of the St. Francis School of Nursing Endowed Scholarship is to keep the heritage of this former program alive and to inspire future generations of nurses to provide the very best in caring and compassionate patient care. It is the hope of those who created this endowment that the recipients of this fund will continue to support this endowment to perpetuate the excellence in health care that was a hallmark of these early graduates.

Purpose/Eligibility: The purpose of the scholarship shall be to assist a full-time degree seeking nursing student admitted to the BSN Completion program. The recipient should be in good academic standing with the university, show need of financial assistance and be enrolled as a full-time student. In the event the BSN Completion program would cease to exist at Viterbo University the endowment should be directed toward individuals pursuing a graduate degree in nursing (preferably in nursing education) utilizing the same criteria as listed below.

Selection Process: Financial Aid Selected

The scholarship will be awarded to a student that has met the following criteria:

- Full-time undergraduate student
- Demonstrated financial need
- In good academic standing

The scholarship shall be awarded annually and is **renewable for one year**, if recipient continues to meet the above criteria.

Required Reports and/or Responsibilities: (1) If eligibility of the student(s) receiving the scholarship is in dispute, the President of Viterbo University shall make final determination of eligibility. (2) Changes in these guidelines may be made by the benefactor. In addition, changes may be made with the approval of the Viterbo University Board of Trustees and then only when strong and sufficient cause exists.