

Fellowship for Nursing Government Advocacy

For nurses interested in engaging in public policy to advance the nursing profession and improve the quality of health care provided by The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center.

The OSU Fellowship for Nursing Government Advocacy is a product of the Nursing Government Affairs Advocates (NGAA) whose mission is to address policy, regulatory and legislative issues that impact nursing at The Ohio State University, and to mobilize nurses to become active in government and community affairs.

Support for NGAA and this fellowship is provided by our nursing and government affairs leaders:

Jackie Buck, PhD, RN, NEA-BC

Chief Nursing Officer, OSU Health System

Assistant Dean for Clinical Affairs, College of Nursing, The Ohio State University

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Associate Vice President, Government Affairs, Wexner Medical Center & Health Sciences

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Vice Dean, College of Nursing, The Ohio State University

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Executive Director, Clinical Services

Chief Nursing Officer, Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital & Richard J. Solove Research Institute

Bernadette Melnyk, PhD, RN, CPNP

Dean, College of Nursing, The Ohio State University

Associate Vice President for Health Promotion, The Ohio State University

University Chief Wellness Officer, The Ohio State University

The Fellowship for Nursing Government Advocacy will provide nurses with the knowledge, skill set and practical experience they need to engage in the legislative and rule-making processes at the federal, state and local levels of government. Up to two individuals will be selected as a Fellow at a 0.2 FTE, average 8 hours weekly, for the 12-month program (April 2021-March 2022).

Specifically, each Fellow will:

- Receive mentorship by staff in the Office of Government Affairs;
- Identify, in consultation with government affairs staff, specific work products in which to engage related to legislation, rules and regulations;
- Work with government affairs staff to inform and educate legislators and staff on nursing issues;
- Make two presentations related to advocacy on a policy issue to Ohio State nurses and nursing students; and
- Evaluate and participate in Fellowship coursework, benchmarks and projects.



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**The deadline to submit your completed application is
Sunday, January 31, 2021, at 11:59pm.**

The Nursing Government Affairs Advocates (NGAA) include all Ohio State nurses – nursing students and nurses in both academic and medical center positions. It serves a tripartite purpose of:

- *Educating the nursing team and the community we serve regarding the impact of health care legislation and policy;*
- *Monitoring, initiating, and reviewing legislative and regulatory activities as they apply to the practice of nursing and The Ohio State University; and,*
- *Implementing activities which enhance the practice of nursing while promoting a healthy community.*

Thank you for your interest in applying for The Ohio State University Fellowship for Nursing Government Advocacy. A program overview of the Fellowship and instructions are provided along with the application. Please read the document carefully.

Program Overview

The OSU Fellowship for Nursing Government Advocacy is a 12-month program designed to provide an opportunity for nurses at The Ohio State University to experience the full spectrum of advocacy by developing the skills to effectively engage with public officials and participate in the public process of decision-making. The Fellowship will begin in April 2021, culminating with a completed policy project and presentation in March 2022. Up to two individuals will be selected to dedicate 8 hours weekly to their work as a fellow.

Aims of the Program

The objectives of the Fellowship are to:

- Encourage policy inquiry and innovative problem-solving regarding the public policies and processes that impact nursing practices and health care at The Ohio State University.
- Provide an educational and experiential forum for nurses in influencing and promoting policies, rules and laws that benefit the nursing profession and health care.
- Develop nurses' leadership skills in identifying and analyzing issues, locating and appraising information, developing options and plans to address the issues, and disseminating updates and results to inform nurses throughout the university.
- Cultivate the professional growth and development of Ohio State nurses in navigating the public sector of policy and decision-making.

Central to the success of the fellowship is the partnership of the fellow with staff of the Office of Government Affairs, nurse leaders, and the Ohio State nursing community as a whole. The Office of Government Affairs will arrange and coordinate the information, skills and practical experience for the fellowship, and its staff will serve as mentors. The mentors will assist the fellows in developing and implementing a project aimed at addressing an issue of importance to the nursing profession. Mentors will also assist the fellows in working collaboratively with key staff and leaders, internal and external to Ohio State.

Fellows will participate in a variety of educational programs to promote their professional development in advocacy. The fellowship program includes educational sessions, group activities and self-directed learning activities in order to promote the fellow's learning and to facilitate a successful understanding of how laws, rules and policy can be influenced.

Program Overview

Minimum Requirements for Participation

To be considered for the Fellowship, the following is required:

- Minimum 50 percent employment (0.5 FTE) active licensed nurse at:
 - The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center including, for example, OSUH/Ross/Dodd, OSU East and OSU Harding;
 - OSUCCC – James; or
 - The Ohio State University College of Nursing.
- Leadership skills
- Strong clinical skills
- Fundamental computer skills
- Committed to completing the entire program and chosen project, at 0.2 FTE (average 8 hours per week)
- No current disciplinary or corrective action
- Letter of support from nurse manager/supervisor
- Letters of recommendation from a nursing peer and a nursing professional who can speak to the applicant’s clinical performance (for example: clinical nurse specialist, nurse practitioner, nursing educator, program manager, nursing faculty member)

The Selection Process

The OSU Fellowship for Nursing Government Advocacy is open to active licensed nurses at The Ohio State’s University Wexner Medical Center, The James, and College of Nursing who meet the minimum requirements for participation. The selection process for the Fellowship will include a review of all submitted applications by the fellowship selection committee. Following the application review, selected candidates will be asked to participate in a brief interview prior to a recommendation of the selection committee to the Nursing Government Affairs Advocates Steering Committee for their review and approval. Selected candidates will be announced no later than March 19, 2021.

“Be an advocate for the people and causes important to you, using the most powerful tool only you have — your personal stories.”

- John Capecci and Timothy Cage

Instructions

To begin the application process:

- Consult with your nurse manager/supervisor regarding your interest in participating in this 12-month program, April 2021 through March 2022.

Also, consider and identify the following:

- An issue, law/rule, or aspect of government that interests you. This will not necessarily be the issue which you address during your fellowship.
- Individuals who can complete letters of recommendation.

When submitting your application, please be sure to submit the following items:

- Completed *Applicant Profile*
- Professional resume
- 500-word *Statement of Interest*
- Copies of two articles related to your issue or topic of interest
- Signed *Applicant Contract*
- Signed *Nurse Manager/Supervisor Agreement*
- A letter of support from your nurse manager/supervisor
- A letter of recommendation from a nursing peer
- A letter of recommendation from a nursing professional who can speak to your clinical performance (for example: clinical nurse specialist, nurse practitioner, nursing educator, program manager, nursing faculty member)

**The deadline to submit your completed application is
Sunday, January 31, 2021, at 11:59pm.**

Submit your completed application and supporting documents to:

Colleen O'Brien | Office of Government Affairs | Colleen.OBrien@osumc.edu

660 Ackerman Road, #548 | Columbus, OH 43202

Submission by e-mail is preferred.

If you have any questions regarding the Fellowship or the application process, please contact Colleen O'Brien, Office of Government Affairs, at Colleen.OBrien@osumc.edu or 614-292-4689.

Applicant Profile

Name/Credentials: _____

Job Title: _____

Clinical Unit/Area: _____ Percent Employment: _____

Years of Experience in Nursing: _____ Years of Experience on Current Unit: _____

Email Address: _____

Work Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

Nurse Manager/Supervisor: _____

Statement of Interest

Submit a 500-word statement detailing the following with your completed application:

- Reason(s) for applying
- Your expectations and desired outcomes for the fellowship program
- A public policy issue that interests you and why you have selected it
- How you plan to use what you learn from the fellowship

Professional Resume

Submit a professional resume detailing the following with your completed application:

- Educational background
- Clinical experience (include patient populations served and special projects/committees/leadership roles)
- Certifications
- Public policy experience (include any courses/classes/projects that you have completed related to public policy)
- Quality improvement experience (include any courses/classes/projects that you have completed related to QI)
- Computer experience (include list of computer skills and any courses/classes that you have completed related to computer programs—Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Excel, etc.)
- Additional information (include any other information you would like to share regarding your background, experience and accomplishments)

Please note that your experience in public policy, quality improvement and computer programs is requested for informational purposes in structuring the educational sessions of the fellowship. Having no experience in these areas will not preclude you from consideration.

Applicant Contract

If I am accepted into the OSU Fellowship for Nursing Government Advocacy, I agree to:

- Attend all fellowship educational sessions as scheduled by Government Affairs staff, and collaborate with unit leadership for scheduled release time to attend required educational sessions and fellowship activities.
- Use the designated hours* of fellowship seminar (non-clinical) time to develop my skills in identifying relevant issues, locating and appraising information, outlining arguments for and against an issue, and disseminating information to promote the engagement of other nurses and health professionals with the specific issue.
** Additional hours may be necessary based on the nature of the project. These work hours, if necessary, should be negotiated with your unit leadership and your mentor.*
- Meet one-on-one with my designated Government Affairs staff mentor a minimum of once per month**.
***Additional meetings may be necessary based on the nature of the project. These meetings, if necessary, should be negotiated with your unit leadership and your mentor if they fall outside of your scheduled fellowship seminar (non-clinical) time.*
- Update nurse manager/supervisor and nursing peers monthly on the progress of my fellowship and projects through written communication and/or staff meeting communication. Other forms of communication may be negotiated with my unit leadership.
- Identify, in consultation with Government Affairs staff, a specific nursing/health care issue or work product in which to engage related to legislation, rules and regulations.
- Collaborate with nursing and other government relations and health care professionals to develop and implement my project.
- Develop a written summary of my work within two months following completion of the fellowship and submit it to my manager/supervisor, mentor and the Nursing Government Affairs Advocates (NGAA) Steering Committee and NGAA Fellowship Advisory Committee.
- Make two presentations to Ohio State nurses and nursing students during my fellowship related to advocacy on a topic(s) to be agreed upon with my mentor.
- Disseminate the results of my project to The Ohio State University nursing community through a presentation and/or publication as negotiated with my mentor.
- Assist in evaluating and further developing the Fellowship as it relates to coursework, benchmarks and projects.
- Serve as a unit/college champion of advocacy by sharing the knowledge and experience gained during my fellowship.
- Be a member of the Fellowship Advisory Committee following my year as a fellow and remain engaged through attendance at NGAA events and as a mentor of the fellows who succeed me.

Applicant's Name (please print): _____

Applicant's Signature: _____

Work Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

Date(A): _____

Nurse Manager/Supervisor Agreement

If the nurse applicant, (Name) _____, is accepted into the OSU Fellowship for Nursing Government Advocacy, I agree to:

- Provide support to the fellow in identifying an appropriate policy issue that is a high priority for the unit and/or organization and for which the fellow can create a plan that examines the issue.
- Facilitate the fellow's attendance at educational sessions and the use of the designated hours* of fellowship seminar (non-clinical) time to develop the skills for identifying relevant issues, locating and appraising information, outlining arguments for and against an issue, and disseminating information to promote the engagement of other nurses and health professionals with the specific issue.
** Additional hours may be necessary based on the nature of the project. These work hours, if necessary, should be negotiated with the fellow's mentor and the fellow.*
- Facilitate meetings between the fellow and the Government Affairs mentor a minimum of once per month** to monitor progress and advise on the advocacy project.
***Additional meetings may be necessary based on the nature of the project. These meetings, if necessary, should be negotiated with the fellow's mentor and the fellow.*
- Facilitate computer access and necessary resources and supplies that the fellow needs to complete the advocacy project(s).
- Support the fellow through the phases of the fellowship and demonstrate the value of the fellow's project(s) through verbal and visible support at staff meetings and other forums.
- Assist the fellow in collaborating with nursing and interdisciplinary professionals to develop and implement the advocacy project; provide opportunities for the fellow to update colleagues on the progress of the advocacy project(s).
- Support the implementation and evaluation of the fellowship project(s).
- Review the written summary of the fellow's work, which is to be completed by the fellow within two months following conclusion of the fellowship.
- Support the fellow in disseminating results of the fellowship activities and projects to nursing peers through presentations and publications as negotiated with the mentor and the fellow.

In addition:

- I affirm that the nurse applicant for the OSU Fellowship for Nursing Government Advocacy is not in corrective action and has not been in corrective action in the past 12 months.
- I affirm that the nurse applicant for the OSU Fellowship for Nursing Government Advocacy has consistently demonstrated the ability to meet professional commitments and responsibilities.

Nurse Manager's/Supervisor's Name: _____
(please print)

Manager's/Supervisor's Signature: _____

Phone Number: _____ Pager: _____

Date(M): _____

Application Checklist

- _____ Completed *Applicant Profile*
- _____ Professional resume
- _____ Typed *Statement of Interest* (500-word maximum)
- _____ Copies of two articles related to your issue/topic of interest
- _____ Signed *Applicant Contract*
- _____ Signed *Nurse Manager/Supervisor Agreement*
- _____ Letter of support from the nurse manager/supervisor
- _____ Letter of recommendation from a nursing peer
- _____ Letter of recommendation from a nursing professional (CNS, NP, nurse educator, nursing faculty)

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