

Health, Science and Mathematics Student Loan Program

Frequently Asked Questions (F.A.Q.)

***For questions about any unfamiliar terms used with the documentations on this site, please visit our [definitions page](#). ***

Note: HSM is a scholarship/loan, meaning any funds received as a result of this program must be repaid in service or cash. If you wish to cancel the loan through service by working or if required to repay in cash, you must contact NCSEEA Repayment Services to ensure that you are in compliance with the program regulations.

[Link to New Applicant Questions \(page 1, below\)](#)

[Link to Renewal Applicant Questions \(page 5\)](#)

[Link to Graduate Questions \(page 6\)](#)

NEW APPLICANT QUESTIONS:

Q1. *How can I apply for HSM funding?*

- A. The application period is from January to April of the following calendar year for that fall and spring semesters. Applications are processed in order of receipt until all funding has been awarded. Applications are accessible at www.cfnc.org/hsm.

Q2. *Do I have to complete the FAFSA?*

- A. All applicants must complete the FAFSA annually. Results should be received by March 31st for priority consideration. The FAFSA may be submitted online at www.fasfa.ed.gov. The data will be transferred electronically to NCSEEA and it is not necessary to mail any FAFSA documents to our office.

Q3. *What are the eligibility requirements for HSM?*

- A. To be eligible for HSM consideration, an individual must:
- Be a resident of North Carolina for tuition purposes.
 - Have been unconditionally promoted to the third, fourth or fifth year of an approved undergraduate program.
 - Have attained unconditional acceptance into a graduate level program or selected two-year undergraduate program
 - Enroll Fulltime in the program of study
 - Have financial need as determined by the program rules
 - Secure the loan by signing a promissory note to be endorsed by two or more cosigners/sureties
 - Return all application and supporting materials to the HSM program office within established time frames.

Q4. *May an HSM recipient receive other scholarships, grants or loans when receiving HSM funds?*

- A. No, HSM recipients **may not**:

Receive Nurse Education Scholarship Loan (NESLP), Teacher Assistant Scholarship Fund (TASF), Prospective Teacher Scholarship Loan (PTSL), Physical Education Coaching (PEC), Future Teachers of North Carolina (FTNC), Millennium Teacher Scholarship Loan Program (MTSLP), Nurse Educator of Tomorrow (NET) nor Nurse Scholars Program (NSP), Master's Nurse Scholars Program (MNSP) funds within the same academic year

Q5. *Is an HSM loan portable to another school if I elect to enter another eligible school after one semester?*

A. Yes, provided the HSM recipient provides documentation of unconditional acceptance to an approved program at the eligible school prior to enrollment.

Q6. *Why do I need a surety?*

A. The HSM recipient enters into a contract with the State of North Carolina to work full-time in approved employment within the state of North Carolina in the field for which he/she was funded. In the event the applicant defaults, a surety ensures the financial obligation of the loan will be fulfilled.

Q7. *Who can serve as a surety for me?*

A. **Two** sureties (Cosigners) are necessary, in some cases one surety will suffice (determined by Program Office). If the applicant is married, their spouse must sign as one of two required Sureties.

MARRIED COUPLES ARE CONSIDERED ONE COSIGNER.

In the case of sole surety (approved by Program Office), any NC Resident other than the applicant or the applicant's spouse, who demonstrates financial ability to fulfill the applicant's loan obligations should the applicant's loan default may qualify. Also, the person agreeing to be the applicant's sole surety must sign a separate notarized statement, provided by the program office, agreeing to serve as **SOLE SURETY**.

In the case of two sureties, any NC Resident other than the applicant, that demonstrates financial ability to fulfill the applicant's loan obligations should the applicant default.

Remember: Incomplete statements CANNOT be considered

Q8. *Can I fax my surety information in?*

A. Yes, but the applicant must mail the original documentation to be complete. All questions must be answered and notarized by a licensed notary.

Q9. *Why do I need an unconditional letter of acceptance?*

A. The HSM loan is program specific, and this letter demonstrates that the applicant has been accepted into a specific field of study and meets all enrollment requirements.

Q10. *Where would I obtain an unconditional letter of acceptance?*

A. This letter would come from the college to be attended (or currently attending) and should state that the applicant has been accepted into a program of study **without any contingencies or conditions to be met.**

Q11. *What if I have not received a conditional/provisional letter of acceptance?*

A. We must have an unconditional acceptance to complete the application process. If the provisions have been met, per the school, the applicant may

send any supporting documentation as verification to the HSM program office.

Q12. *What is the address to where supporting documentation and application should be mailed?*

A. NCSEAA-HSM, P.O. Box 13663, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709
Please visit [What to Expect](#) for more specific details.

Q13. *How much could I be awarded through HSM?*

A. The following explains the award amounts and its terms.

Associate Degree/Certificate Programs: \$3,000 per year. Maximum loan amount is \$6,000 for two years if unconditionally accepted into a specific program discipline.

Baccalaureate Degree/Certificate Programs: \$5,000 per year for two years. Maximum loan amount is \$10,000, with possible third clinical year.

Master's Degree Program: \$6,500 per year in two-year programs. Maximum loan amount is \$13,000.

Health Professional/Doctoral Programs: \$8,500 per year. Maximum loan amount is \$34,000 in programs requiring four years to complete.

Q14. *How will I be notified of awarding decisions?*

A. After the budget has been approved by the state legislature, applicants will be instructed to check the Student Portal: www.cfnc.org/seaastudent. Students should monitor this website for status and updates.

Remember: The applicant is responsible for ensuring the accuracy of contact information, as well as, notifying the program office of changes in contact information such as email, address, or phone number.

Q15. *Will all eligible candidates who apply by the application deadline receive Health, Science and Math loan awards?*

A. The number of available scholarships for new students in this program will depend on the level of program funding that is provided by the NC General Assembly and the number of students who apply. While over 400 students were assisted last year, the number of awards will vary.
All scholarship offers will be contingent upon the receipt of sufficient money to fund those awards.

Q16. *If awarded, when will I receive the funds?*

A. Funds are electronically transmitted to the school financial aid office in which students are unconditionally accepted and enrolled.

Q17. *Where may I work to receive service repayment credit?*

A. The recipient must first earn the degree for which HSM funding was received in order to qualify for service repayment credit. One calendar year of full-time employment in North Carolina in a designated shortage area is required for each year a loan was received. The program staff must approve the employment site and receive annual verifications of continued employment and compliance with all program regulations for borrowers' respective disciplines. For explicit information on the program's rules and regulations visit [rules and regulations](#). Visit [employment shortage areas](#) for the current year's listing of employment shortage areas.

Q18. *Can this loan be consolidated if I am in cash repayment status?*

A. No. Only federal loans can be consolidated. HSM, a state loan, currently isn't provisioned for loan consolidation. Please visit [repayment](#) for additional repayment questions.

Q19. *What is the interest rate for an HSM loan?*

A. The In-school interest rate is 4%, the out-of-school interest rate is 10%. Interest accrues at 4% beginning with the date of the loan fund transmittal until a recipient becomes ineligible for continued participation in the program or becomes eligible for service repayment. If in a cash repay status, the interest rate goes to 10% per annum.

*****Note: Please visit, [What to Expect](#), for explicit details on the process from application to graduation! *******

Renewal Applicant Questions

Q1. *How can I renew my scholarship/loan?*

A. If you are a previous HSM recipient, you will receive an email with instructions on how to renew. Please visit [Current Announcements](#) for current updates.

All documentation must be received by April 1st for priority consideration.

Remember: The applicant is responsible for ensuring the accuracy of contact information, as well as, notifying the program office of changes in contact information.

Q2. *What if I don't want to renew my scholarship/loan?*

A. Being a previous HSM recipient, you will receive an email with renewal instructions. If the applicant desires to decline the award, they may do so per the renewal application. Submit the renewal request but indicate that you do not wish to renew. You may be asked to forward additional documents, such as verification of enrollment.

Q3. *If awarded, when will I receive the funds?*

A. Funds are not mailed directly to the student, but to the school in which they are unconditionally accepted and enrolled, through electronic transmission. Students can view the 'amount dispersed' via the Student Portal under Current Year Awards: www.cfnc.org/seaastudent

Q4. *If I'm renewing must I submit new surety statements?*

A. Provided your sureties were previously approved and have had no significant changes, you may indicate on the renewal application it is your intent to continue using the same sureties.

If you need to change your surety *or* your marital status has changed, please visit https://www.cfnc.org/paying/pubs/pdf/HSM_Surety.pdf.

Q5. *Do I have to complete the FAFSA?*

A. All applicants who want to be considered for financial aid should complete the FAFSA. As this is a state funded, need based program, it is a requirement to complete and submit the FAFSA annually.

You may submit the FAFSA online at www.fasfa.ed.gov . Since the data is transferred electronically, please do not mail any FAFSA documents to our office.

Q6. *What are the eligibility requirements for renewal applicants?*

A. The applicant must:

Be enrolled full time in an approved field of study

Be in good standing academically, fiscally, and socially at the institution in which he/she is enrolled.

Have not reached the maximum loan amount

*****Note: Please visit, [What to Expect](#), for explicit details on the process from application to graduation! *******

Graduate Questions

- Q1. *What do I need to do when I graduate?*
- A. Submit a copy of your diploma within 90 days of your graduation date. You will then receive instructions from Repayment Services.
- Q2. *What is the deadline for submitting my employment information?*
- A. It is strongly recommended that the graduate submit their information upon or soon after graduation, so that the process for the paperwork for service repayment could be reviewed and initiated. However, the maximum time available before interest accrual is 90 days from the date of graduation.
- Q3. *What if I am a graduate seeking funding for higher level degree?*
- A. The applicant must submit the following:
The applicant must submit a request for loan deferment while in school
The applicant must submit a **new** application for upper field area of study
If you have further questions on how to service multiple degree level loans please call Repayment Services at Repayment Services at the NCSEAA at (800) 700-1775, 'Option 2' or (919) 549-8614, 'Option 2'
- Q4. *What are the repayment options?*
- A. Loan Forgiveness or cash repayment. For repayment questions, please call Repayment Services at the NCSEAA at (800) 700-1775, 'Option 2' or (919) 549-8614, 'Option 2' to request a [Repayment Agreement](#).
- Q5. *What are the cash repayment options?*
- A. The applicant can repay using the lump sum option, or monthly cash payments can be established. Please call [Repayment Services](#) at the NCSEAA at (800) 700-1775, 'Option 2' or (919) 549-8614, 'Option 2' to request a Repayment Agreement.
- Q6. *Can I request a deferment?*
- A. Requests for deferred repayment may be granted for continued enrollment in school, military obligations, medical residencies, postgraduate training, medical or maternity needs. Documentation verifying your reason for deferment must be sent to the NCSEAA in addition to your written request for deferment. Interest accrues during the deferment period. Students, who wish to continue in school, must request a deferment based on continued enrollment.
- Q7. *HSM provide Job Placement Assistance?*
- A. Yes, for specific graduates, employment assistance is provided by the Medical Placement Services Staff at NC Office of Rural Health. They provide recruitment assistant to rural and underserved communities with **NO PLACEMENT FEES**. Please visit, [NC Office of Rural Health](#) for further information. You may contact the Medical Placement Services Staff of the NC Office of Rural Health at (919)733-2040.

*****Note: Please visit, [What to Expect](#), for explicit details on the process from application to graduation! *******