



**State University System
2023-2024 Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund
Proposal Form**

University:	University of Florida
Healthcare Partner:	UF Health Shands and UF Health Cancer Center
Date Proposal Approved by University Board of Trustees:	10/03/2023
Amount Requested:	\$400,000
University Contact (name, title, phone, & email):	Debra Lyon, Interim Dean UF College of Nursing
Please check the boxes below as appropriate:	<i>All boxes must be checked in order to be eligible to participate.</i>
Healthcare partner making contribution is located in and licensed to operate in Florida?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
Healthcare partner making contribution is a healthcare provider as defined in Section 768.38(2), Florida Statutes?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
Nursing programs met or exceeded a first-time NCLEX passage rate of 70% for the prior year based on the 2023 Accountability Plan?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
The funds will be used for an eligible purpose per section 1009.8962, Florida Statutes?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes

Background

The LINE Fund is intended to incentivize collaboration between nursing education programs and healthcare partners and to meet local, regional, and state workforce demand by recruiting faculty and clinical preceptors, increasing the capacity of high-quality nursing education programs, and increasing the number of nursing education program graduates who are prepared to enter the workforce. Subject to available funds, for every dollar contributed to an institution by a healthcare partner, the fund shall provide a dollar-for-dollar match to the participating institution for approved proposals.

Funds may be used for student scholarships, recruitment of additional faculty, equipment, and simulation centers to advance high-quality nursing education programs throughout the state. Funds may not be used for the construction of new buildings. To participate, an institution must submit a timely and complete proposal to the Board of Governors for consideration. For more details, see Board of Governors [Regulation 8.008 - Nursing Education](#).

Proposals must be submitted with a total of no more than three pages of narrative for the following sections. Proposals with more than three pages of narrative will be rejected.

Proposal Details

Provide a detailed narrative for each section below.

- I. Use of Funds** - *Describe in detail and with specificity how the institution plans to use the funds, including how the funds will be utilized to increase student enrollment and program completion.*
- II. Onboarding & Retention of Graduates** - *Describe in detail and with specificity how the health care partner will onboard and retain graduates.*
- III. Program Expansion** - *Describe in detail and with specificity how the funds will expand the institution's nursing education programs to meet local, regional, or state workforce demands. If applicable, include advanced education nursing programs and how the funds will increase the number of faculty and clinical preceptors and planned efforts to utilize the clinical placement process established in Section 14.36, Florida Statutes.*

Background: This UF College of Nursing/UF Health Shands Line Fund Proposal will be used to increase the number of prelicensure nursing education program graduates who are prepared to enter the workforce as registered nurses (RNs) in acute care nursing. UF College of Nursing has a 15-month accelerated baccalaureate program (ABSN) for students who enter with a baccalaureate degree or higher in other fields of study. The ABSN program provides rapid entry into the workforce: students will begin in May 2024 and finish the program in August, 2025. These students are not eligible for usual grant/loan sources because the nursing degree is not the initial baccalaureate degree for the matriculant so they need further funding sources and would gravitate towards these scholarships. This funding would likely increase our applicant pool as we continue to expand our pre-licensure programs at UF College of Nursing to meet demands for registered nurses in the state of Florida. We will expand the number of seats for the ABSN students by 15 students in the next cohort (May 2024-August 2025).

LINE funding will be used to develop a UF Health cohort of accelerated baccalaureate nursing students (ABSN) in the UF College of Nursing accelerated prelicensure (APL) program over 15 months (May 2024 – August 2025). Up to 40 students will be selected for this opportunity. Upon signing a required work agreement with UF Health, each of the 40 students will receive scholarship funding of \$20,000 for four semesters of their 15-month program (approx. \$18,094 for in-state tuition/fees + books). These scholarships will provide each UF nursing student selected \$10,000 towards their school related expenses in exchange for a 2 year work commitment at UF Health and request LINE Funds to match the \$10,000 so that each students gets a total of \$20,000/student. We understand that LINE dollars cannot be given with conditions which is why UF Health is willing to attach the employment agreement only to the dollars that are given the students from UF Health. In turn, the students will agree to work fulltime as registered nurses at UF Health following graduation.

II. Students selected for the UF Health Scholarship Cohort will have their clinical rotations at UF Health so that they gain familiarity with the environment, systems and nursing units at UF Health. After graduation, scholarship recipients will transition into UF Health's well-developed registered nurse orientation program. First Licensed Year Transition (FLYT) Program focuses on role transition for the new nurse and is designed to provide experiences that develop graduate nurses into independent, confident, professional nurses. The program consists of blended learning experiences over the first year as a registered nurse. FLYT is recognized by the American Nurses Credentialing Center as an accredited practice transition program for registered nurses (RNs).

III. This funding will permit us to increase the number of pre-licensure students by expanding the pool of eligible applicants and matriculated students, by providing scholarships to defray the financial constraints that accompany obtaining an additional college degree at the baccalaureate level. As part of the expansion, we will increase the number of pre-licensure students in the ABSN cohort by 15 students for the 2024/2025 ABSN academic year.