

**Akron Children's Hospital Nursing Workforce Initiative  
Assuring Success with a Commitment to Enhance Nurse Diversity (ASCEND)**

**Application Instructions**

**PURPOSE:**

Provide support and professional development to nursing students who belong to traditionally underrepresented groups in the nursing field, including **Black/African American, Hispanic/Latinx, Asian, Multi-Racial, Males, LGBTQ+, and Military/Veterans.**

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

ASCEND is a 10-week full-time program for BSN nursing students who have completed their junior year by the program start date. The program provides professional development, pre-nursing skills and the potential for future employment in a pediatric hospital setting.

- Clinical practice experiences with a mentor in one pediatric clinical practice setting
- Professional enrichment experiences such as:
  - Hands on nurse-related activities using case studies and simulation lab experiences
  - Topics include professionalism, pediatric nursing roles exploration, communication skills, teamwork, clinical practice policies, family-centered care delivery model, cultural awareness, interview skills, and resume development

**POSITION:**

ASCEND interns are employed as student nurse technicians during the program and therefore receive compensation for hours worked during the program.

**ELIGIBILITY:**

- Completion of junior year by the program start date
- Completion of medical-surgical nursing clinical course
- Completion of pediatric clinical course will be considered for critical care area when applicable (such as Emergency Department, PICU, etc.)
- Current BLS certification
- Good standing in an accredited BSN program
- Available for the 10-week program (May-July)
- Available for a selection interview (February-March)
- For international students, the student must have a work VISA to be considered
- Completed application packet
  - Application
  - Personal Statement
  - Reference Letters
  - Unofficial Transcript

**PERSONAL STATEMENT:**

- 2 pages typed, double spaced, Times New Roman font 12
- Statement should describe the unique qualities, talents and leadership skills of the applicant.
  - Statement may include:
    - Special projects or experiences
    - Career goals
    - Healthcare topics of special interest
- Describe the biggest challenge or barrier encountered while in nursing school (maximum of 250 words, in addition to two-page personal statement)

**REFERENCE LETTERS:**

- Two letters of reference are required
  - One letter from a clinical instructor, addressing clinical performance/skills
  - One letter from a non-relative mentor, faith leader, employer, etc. addressing character/work ethic

**TRANSCRIPT:**

- One copy of an unofficial grade transcript from accredited BSN program

**APPLICATION PROCESS:**

- 2023 applications will be available at <https://www.akronchildrens.org/pages/ASCEND.html> no later than February 1, 2023.
- Applications will be accepted for no less than 2 weeks.
- The student will apply for an employed ASCEND nurse technician position and will upload **all** application materials to be considered for the program.
- Human resources recruiters will conduct initial interviews.
- After human resources recruiter interviews, the ASCEND Committee will invite qualified applicants to complete a second interview during February or March 2023.
- Final selection will occur after the completion of interviews and candidate passes background check (BCI/FBI fingerprints confirm no disqualifying convictions under ORC 2151.86).
- All candidates will be notified by March 31, 2023. Other employment opportunities may be identified for students not participating in the ASCEND Program.

**QUESTIONS:**

- Application and/or program questions can be directed to Megan Dorrington at [mdorrington@akronchildrens.org](mailto:mdorrington@akronchildrens.org)

**Assuring Success with a Commitment to Enhance Nurse Diversity**  
**ASCEND APPLICATION PACKET CHECKLIST**

\_\_\_\_\_ **PERSONAL INFORMATION APPLICATION (3 PAGES)**

- All fields completed
- University recommendation / selection form signed from a University or College official

\_\_\_\_\_ **PERSONAL STATEMENT (2 PARTS)**

- Include information that demonstrates your unique qualities, talents and leadership skills
- Describe the biggest challenge or barrier encountered while in nursing school

\_\_\_\_\_ **REFERENCE LETTERS (2 LETTERS)**

\_\_\_\_\_ **A. CLINICAL INSTRUCTOR**

- Addressing clinical performance/skills

\_\_\_\_\_ **B. NON-RELATIVE MENTOR, FAITH LEADER, EMPLOYER, COACH**

- Addressing character/work ethic

\_\_\_\_\_ **TRANSCRIPT**

- One **unofficial copy** of applicant's grade transcript from accredited BSN program

**Akron Children's Hospital Nursing Workforce Initiative  
Assuring Success with a Commitment to Enhance Nurse Diversity (ASCEND)**

**PERSONAL INFORMATION APPLICATION**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

School E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Home E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

College/University BSN Program: \_\_\_\_\_

Anticipated Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Current GPA: \_\_\_\_\_ Are you in good standing? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

By May 15, 2023, will you have:

- Completed a medical/surgical clinical rotation? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No
- Completed a pediatric nursing clinical rotation? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

Current BLS certification expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_

If you are an international student, do you have a current work VISA?

\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ N/A

Which traditionally underrepresented group in the nursing field do you belong to?

(Check all that apply)

\_\_\_ Black/African American    \_\_\_ Hispanic/Latinx    \_\_\_ Asian  
\_\_\_ Multi-Racial    \_\_\_ Male    \_\_\_ LGBTQ+  
\_\_\_ Military/Veteran

Other underrepresented group(s): (Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

I am voluntarily providing the information above.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**PERSONAL INFORMATION APPLICATION PAGE ONE OF THREE**

**Akron Children's Hospital Nursing Workforce Initiative  
Assuring Success with a Commitment to Enhance Nurse Diversity (ASCEND)**

**Please identify your areas of interest in pediatric nursing:**

Medical/Surgical: \_\_\_\_

Hematology/Oncology: \_\_\_\_

Pediatric Intensive Care: \_\_\_\_

Neonatal Intensive Care: \_\_\_\_

Emergency Department: \_\_\_\_

Burn Center: \_\_\_\_

Behavioral Health: \_\_\_\_

Surgical Services: \_\_\_\_

PreOp/PACU: \_\_\_\_

Float: \_\_\_\_

Infants/Toddlers/Preschoolers: \_\_\_\_

School-Age: \_\_\_\_

Adolescents/Young Adults: \_\_\_\_

Variety of Ages: \_\_\_\_

**Please identify your preference for intern experience location:**

Akron/Canton area: \_\_\_\_

Mahoning Valley/Youngstown area: \_\_\_\_

No Preference: \_\_\_\_

**\*Please note that your interests/preferences will be taken into consideration. If you are selected for the 2023 ASCEND Program, you will be asked to prioritize your interests/preferences in a future survey.**

**PERSONAL INFORMATION APPLICATION PAGE TWO OF THREE**

**Akron Children's Hospital Nursing Workforce Initiative  
Assuring Success with a Commitment to Enhance Nurse Diversity (ASCEND)**

**UNIVERSITY RECOMMENDATION / SELECTION**

**Applicant Name** \_\_\_\_\_

This nursing student's application has been reviewed by members of our university and has been selected by our reviewers as a candidate for the Akron Children's Hospital Nursing Workforce Initiative for the Summer 2023.

I attest this applicant's materials have been reviewed and have met all eligibility criteria listed on the application instructions.

**University Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**University Official Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Printed Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PERSONAL INFORMATION APPLICATION PAGE THREE OF THREE  
(All Applications must include this signed page)**