

The North Carolina General Assembly created the Forgivable Education Loans for Service (FELS) program ([G.S. 116-209.45, et. seq.](#)) in 2011 to provide financial assistance in the form of forgivable loans to qualified students who are committed to working in North Carolina in order to respond to critical employment shortages.

Funding and Loans

The annual appropriation for the 2020-21 year was \$16,594,166. A total of \$21,131,407 was loaned to 2,290 students under the FELS program. Most borrowers repay their forgivable loan in service to North Carolina. However, some do not. New loans are funded by the annual appropriation plus receipts from borrowers who are repaying in cash.

2020-21 Student Count and Funds by Category

Field	Students	Amount
Allied Health	787	\$8,126,945
Medical	408	\$5,673,000
Nursing	901	\$6,086,065
Education	194	\$1,245,397
Total	2,290	\$21,131,407

2020-21 Student Count and Funds by Field of Study

Field	Students	Amount
Allied Health-Addiction (Substance Abuse) Counseling	2	\$20,000
Allied Health-Audiology	1	\$14,000
Allied Health-Chiropractic Care	4	\$49,000
Allied Health-Clinical Laboratory Sciences	8	\$47,750
Allied Health-Dental Hygiene	5	\$12,000
Allied Health-Emergency Medical Science	6	\$21,500
Allied Health-Imaging	3	\$12,250
Allied Health-Medical Technology	1	\$7,000
Allied Health-Occupational Therapy	68	\$717,500
Allied Health-Occupational Therapy Assistant	10	\$20,250
Allied Health-Optometry	46	\$633,500
Allied Health-Pharmacy	108	\$1,512,000
Allied Health-Physical Therapy	125	\$1,561,000
Allied Health-Physical Therapy Assistant	4	\$10,500
Allied Health-Physician Assistant	204	\$1,887,500
Allied Health-Radiography	3	\$6,000
Allied Health-Radiology Technician	5	\$20,000

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Field	Students	Amount
Allied Health-Social Work	59	\$552,000
Allied Health-Sonography	1	\$1,500
Allied Health-Speech-Language Pathology	54	\$515,695
Counseling-Clinical Mental Health Counseling	70	\$527,000
Counseling-Counseling	1	\$7,000
Counseling-Rehabilitation and Career Counseling	2	\$10,000
Education (Teaching)-Elementary (Grades K-6)	44	\$278,750
Education (Teaching)-Elementary Birth through Kindergarten	5	\$28,000
Education (Teaching)-Elementary English as a Second Language	1	\$750
Education (Teaching)-Elementary Exceptional Children – GC	2	\$10,000
Education (Teaching)-Middle Grades	11	\$64,750
Education (Teaching)-Middle Grades-Math	4	\$15,750
Education (Teaching)-Middle Grades-Science	6	\$30,250
Education (Teaching)-Secondary Biology	2	\$12,000
Education (Teaching)-Secondary Chemistry	1	\$7,000
Education (Teaching)-Secondary Comprehensive Science	4	\$27,000
Education (Teaching)-Secondary English as a Second Language	2	\$10,029
Education (Teaching)-Secondary Foreign Language	2	\$12,000
Education (Teaching)-Secondary Math	3	\$21,000
Education (Teaching)-Biology	3	\$21,000
Education (Teaching)-Comprehensive Science	1	\$5,000
Education (Teaching)-English as a Second Language	4	\$17,000
Education (Teaching)-Foreign Language	4	\$24,500
Education (Teaching)-Math	10	\$64,500
Education (Teaching)-Science	1	\$7,000
Education (Teaching)-Special Education	50	\$267,118
Education (Teaching)-School Psychology	34	\$322,000
Medical-Dentistry (DDS)	109	\$1,526,000
Medical-Dentistry (DMD)	112	\$1,568,000
Medical-Medical Doctor (MD)	160	\$2,205,000
Medical-Osteopathy (DO)	21	\$294,000
Medical-Psychology (PhD)	2	\$28,000
Nursing-Clinical Nurse Specialist	6	\$44,500
Nursing-Nurse	548	\$2,556,402
Nursing-Nurse Anesthesia	68	\$900,500
Nursing-Nurse Education	34	\$172,000
Nursing-Nurse Practitioner	245	\$2,424,163
Nursing-Nurse Midwifery	1	\$2,500
Total	2,290	\$21,131,407