Pre-Nursing Majors and Financial Aid Eligibility

To be in compliance with U.S. Department of Education Federal Financial Aid regulations, Hawai‘i Community College will no longer award Pell grants to pre-Nursing students completing preparatory coursework for the A.S. Nursing (NURS) and C.A. Practical Nursing (PRCN) programs.

Pre-Nursing students who have NOT previously earned a Liberal Arts or Bachelor’s or higher degree, and are eligible to receive the Pell grant, may change their major to Liberal Arts Exploratory Health Sciences (LBRT-EXHS), and may possibly receive Pell grant funding.

Pre-Nursing students who HAVE previously earned a Liberal Arts or Bachelor’s or higher degree, and are classified as a NURS or PRCN major are ineligible for the Pell grant, but may be loan eligible for only one (1) academic year. Pre-Nursing students classified as a NURS or PRCN major are eligible to apply for student loans for only one (1) academic year of preparatory coursework. If the student cannot complete the preparatory coursework within the one (1) year, then no federal financial aid is available after that year.

Once a student is admitted into the actual NURS or PRCN program, he/she may receive the Pell grant (as long as the student has not earned a Bachelor’s or higher degree) and/or student loans.

Please consult with an academic counselor (934-2720 in Hilo and 969-8816 in Kona) or financial aid advisor (934-2712) to determine what is the best for your individual situation.