



FRIDAY HUDDLE

Convene • Connect • Collaborate

A gathering of Oregon nursing workforce leaders to offer timely updates and share insights from peers and stakeholders.



NURSE WORKFORCE

Oregon Nursing Wages and Workforce Data: Huddlers discussed Oregon's recent ranking as the top state for nurse pay when adjusted for cost of living, and the importance of reviewing more detailed wage data by geographic region, practice setting, and specialty. To assist in looking beyond statewide averages, OCN has updated its [nursing wage report](#) to better understand compensation trends across the locations and work settings.

NURSE EDUCATION

Workforce Impact and Graduate Education Loan Limits: Discussion centered on the [federal graduate student loan limits](#) scheduled to take effect July 1 and the potential impact on advanced nursing education. Participants raised concerns that reduced access to federal loans could discourage nurses from pursuing DNP, PhD, NP, CRNA, faculty, and other advanced practice pathways, particularly for those who are primary wage earners, carry family responsibilities, or rely on employer-sponsored health insurance. The conversation highlighted worries that the changes could exacerbate workforce shortages, limit socioeconomic diversity in advanced nursing roles, and create additional barriers to educating future nursing faculty.

Workforce Equity and Graduate Education Loan Limits: Participants explored the broader issue of rising higher education costs and questioned whether loan policy changes address the root causes of educational affordability. Several attendees emphasized that while systemic reform is needed, nursing and other caregiving professions must still advocate for equitable access to graduate education in the current environment. Concerns were raised that limiting educational opportunities may disproportionately affect nurses from lower-income and first-generation college backgrounds, ultimately impacting workforce diversity and access to care.

If you have been impacted by graduate student loan limits, consider sharing your story with Nurses for America through [this survey](#) or their upcoming [virtual postcard writing party](#).

RESOURCES

2026 Nurse Preceptor Recognition - Nominations Opening Soon! The [call for nominations](#) will open on June 15, 2026. SAVE THE DATE for the event - Wednesday, September 23. Facilities are invited to recognize preceptors who have made a difference in Oregon's nursing workforce.

OCN Nursing Workforce Conference: Registration is now [open for OCN's conference](#). Join nursing leaders, educators, students, frontline clinicians, and healthcare partners from across the state for the Oregon Center for Nursing's 2026 Conference. The conference will be on October 19, 2026 at the Holiday Inn in Wilsonville OR.

National Sample Survey of Registered Nurses Webinar: [Registration is open now](#) for the June 16, 2026 NSSRN webinar, which will dive deep into their most recent survey findings.

Linfield University Celebration of Nursing: [Join Linfield](#) on June 26, 2026 to celebrate nursing and learn about disability inclusion and accessibility in nursing.

OHSU Political Competence Among Graduate Nursing Students Survey: Help OHSU identify strengths and barriers to advocacy in nursing students by participating in [this survey](#).



OREGON CENTER
for **NURSING**

NEXT FRIDAY HUDDLE:

Friday, June 12th, at 8:00 a.m.

OregonCenterForNursing.org

REGISTER HERE 

