



Dr. Frank O. Kershner Nursing Scholarship

The primary purpose of MercyOne Clinton scholarships is to encourage people from all walks of life and economic backgrounds to enter into a career in the health care field.

To be eligible for the **Dr. Frank O. Kershner Nursing Scholarship**, an applicant must:

- Reside in the service area of MercyOne Clinton Medical Center.
- Be admitted to a nursing program and use scholarship funds for education in pursuit of a nursing degree.
- Complete the **MercyOne Clinton Scholarship Application Form**.
- Complete the Dr. Frank O. Kershner Nursing Scholarship Essay Questions.
- Provide three forms of recommendation using the **MercyOne Clinton Scholarship Reference Form**.

Incomplete applications are subject to disqualification.

Selection of scholarship recipients will not be based on sex, age, race, color, national origin, disability, marital status or religion.

Preference in awarding scholarships is given to those accepted to Clinton Community College and other area colleges.

Applications must be returned to MercyOne Clinton Foundation • 1410 North 4th Street • Clinton, IA 52732 by March 31.

Applicants will be notified of the Scholarship Committee's decision in May.



Dr. Frank O. Kershner Scholarship

More than three decades ago, Helen M. Kershner established the Frank O. Kershner Scholarship in recognition of her husband's service to the medical profession and honoring his hope that the establishment of such a scholarship program would encourage young people within the vicinity of Clinton, Iowa to enter the nursing program to gain a higher education in the nursing profession.



Dr. Kershner, a native of Paola, KA, was educated at the University of Kansas, Northwestern University Medical School and completed postgraduate study at the University of Vienna, Austria. He came to Clinton from Chicago at the request of a leading citizen of Clinton whom he had operated on in Chicago. She invited him to Clinton to visit and encouraged him to set up a practice. Dr. Kershner practiced as a physician and surgeon in Clinton from 1907 to 1946.

His daughter remembers him saying that if nurses were trained in Clinton, if they worked in Clinton, perhaps they might remain in Clinton. He was quoted over and over as saying, "The hospital is only as good as its nursing staff." Another daughter recalls: "He maintained a sharp, active mind until his death at age 91. He avidly played bridge, even with a magnifying glass and was happy being read to when his eyes no longer allowed him to read to himself. He squeezed a hard ball to keep his surgeon fingers nimble." One of his grandchildren remembered, "I know that my Grandfather Kershner would have mourned the death of those he and the nurses could not save and celebrate together the lives of those they cared for." Another granddaughter recalls, "I use to hear stories about how my grandfather always brought home the spouse or the referring physician from out of town of the person he might have operated on for a formally served noon time meal." His younger grandson said, "Grandpa Kershner taught me to shake hands with someone and look them in the eye and firmly squeeze their hand."

Dr. Kershner was well respected and on the staff of both Jane Lamb and Mercy hospitals. He was active in the community until his death.

His legacy is the Frank O. Kershner Scholarship for Clinton area students to continue to provide fine medical care in the area.



Dr. Frank O. Kershner Scholarship Essay Questions

Please provide a brief response to each of the following questions. Please add an extra sheet if needed. **Do not write on the back of the application.**

Provide a statement of your professional goals.

How do you envision this program of study benefiting a health care organization?



Dr. Frank O. Kershner Scholarship Essay Questions

Please provide a brief response to each of the following questions. Please add an extra sheet if needed. **Do not write on the back of the application.**

What do you plan to do after completing the program of study you are embarking upon?

List your contributions of the activities you are involved in?