

shown that student aid must more closely approximate the costs of education to the student which range from minimal in public institutions to many hundreds of dollars for tuition and fees alone each year. Cost should not be the determining factor in the selection of a nursing program.

G. Accreditation

In the interests of quality of patient care and of the students undertaking study with Federal support, quality factors were included in the Nurse Training Act of 1964. To be eligible for participation, nursing programs had to meet standards of accreditation at the time of application or to show that these standards would be met within periods of time specified for the various provisions of the Act. In the case of projects for the improvement of nurse training, the standards would have to be met by the end of the project. Schools with reasonable assurance participating in the loan program had to meet accreditation standards after graduation of the first class receiving loans.

The Nurse Training Act has been a major factor in stimulating and assisting schools to improve and meet accreditation standards. The progress in accreditation of all types of nursing programs since enactment of the Nurse Training Act is significant. In January 1965, soon after passage of the Nurse Training Act of 1964, 776, or 67 percent of the 1,158 nursing education programs were accredited or had reasonable assurance of accreditation and were thereby eligible to participate in the provisions of the Act. By January 1968, when the total number of nursing programs had increased by over 100, the number of eligible programs increased to 917, 72 percent of the total 1,269 programs. These eligible programs enrolled 83 percent of the total students in nursing education programs. The importance of quality programs to the students themselves were evidenced recently when the National Student Nurses' Association passed a resolution urging that " * * * NLN accreditation be a primary criterion in the allocation of Federal, State or local funds to schools of nursing."

III. ACCOMPLISHMENTS UNDER ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS PERSONNEL TRAINING ACT

The Allied Health Professions Personnel Training Act of 1966 was implemented in Fiscal Year 1967. Therefore, there has been only one full year of experience with the programs under it.

A. Construction of teaching facilities.

The Act authorizes grants for construction of allied health educational facilities; however, no construction grants have been made. No funds were appropriated for this program in 1967. \$2,000,000 is available in Fiscal Year 1968, and applications for construction grants are now being received.

B. Allied health improvement grants

In Fiscal Year 1967, a total of \$3,285,000 was available for basic improvement formula grants for the purpose of improving the quality of curricula for the eligible allied health professions. This amount provided 41% of the total statutory entitlement amount for eligible institutions. Basic improvement grants were awarded to 192 junior colleges, colleges and universities. The following curricula have been designated eligible for support under the program :

Baccalaureate or Higher Degree

- Medical Technologist
- Optometric Technologist
- Dental Hygienist
- Radiologic Technologist
- Medical Records Librarian
- Dietitian
- Occupational Therapist
- Physical Therapist