



VA Office of Academic Affiliations Nurse Practitioner Residency

Office of Academic Affiliations Mission

As one of four statutory missions, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) conducts an education and training program for health professions students and residents to enhance the quality of care provided to Veteran patients within the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) healthcare system. In accordance with this mission, "To educate for VA and for the Nation," education and training efforts are accomplished through coordinated programs and activities in partnership with affiliated U.S. academic institutions.

What is the Nurse Practitioner Residency Program?

The VA Office of Academic Affiliations (OAA) Nurse Practitioner Residency (NPR) is one of VA's premier education and training programs designed to prepare the next generation of well-rounded, highly skilled Nurse Practitioners (NPs) to address the specific needs of our nation's Veterans in VA and the community. The VA OAA NPR is a bridge from strong academic foundations to clinical practice that develops competent and confident NPs equipped with the knowledge and skills to successfully practice in today's complex, fast-paced health care environment. An unparalleled 12-month VA OAA NP residency focuses on the advancement of clinical, leadership, and scholarship skills.

OAA Contact & Website

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<https://www.va.gov/OAA/Nursing/Home.asp>

The VA Office of Academic Affiliations (OAA) Nurse Practitioner Residency (NPR) is designed to produce a pipeline of highly qualified NPs within VA. OAA offers NPR training in two specialty areas most in need of qualified providers: Mental Health NP and Primary Care NP. National evaluation of the VA OAA NPR effectiveness revealed positive outcomes, including a significant improvement in NP clinical skills and confidence in practice at the completion of the program. OAA's competency-based NPR curriculum is an 80/20 model with 80% of training time focused on advancement of clinical skills and 20% on enhancement of clinical knowledge with emphasis on Veteran-centric topics, principles of assessment, diagnostics, and treatment of complex clinical cases that incorporate bio-psycho-social aspects and evidence-based practice. The VA OAA NPR training is delivered in an interprofessional learning environment where NP residents work collaboratively with physicians, psychologists, pharmacists, social workers and other health professions resident trainees. Leadership skills development involves a variety of experiential and mentoring activities. Evidence-based practice engages NP residents in quality enhancement and system redesign projects, leading to improved patient and organizational outcomes and providing opportunities for scholarly presentations and publications.

VA Central Office Funding

VA medical facilities receive funding from OAA, which includes:

1. Nurse resident pay and benefits funds (NP position requests must be for one-year full-time appointments)
2. Nurse residency infrastructure funds to support the salary of VA staff who serve in program director, program coordinator, and clinical faculty roles
3. Veterans Equitable Resource Allocation/Education Support Supplement (VESS) funds to cover other expenses associated with managing the VA OAA PB-RNR programs

Participant Eligibility

1. Recent graduates (within 12 months) of master's or doctoral level NP programs accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) or the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE)
2. Citizen of the United States
3. Hold current board certification in the same specialty area as the program's focus:
 1. Mental Health NP Residents - Psychiatric Mental Health certification
 2. Primary Care NP Residents - Adult-Gerontological NP or Family NP certification
4. Current, full, active, and unrestricted registration as a nurse practitioner in a state, commonwealth or territory of the United States, or the District of Columbia, prior to the start of the VA OAA NPR program

Recommendations

1. VA OAA NPR programs are requested by VA medical facilities through the VA OAA Request for Proposals application cycle
2. Proposal approval decisions are based primarily on the quality of the proposals and supporting documentation submitted
3. Funding for facilities awarded positions is expected to recur in subsequent years, assuming the program demonstrates evidence of educational quality