

VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

VA Health Professional Scholarship Program (HPSP)

Presentation for: Students interested in HPSP Scholarship

Presented by: VHA, Workforce Management and Consulting (WMC), Scholarship & Clinical Education (S&CE)

Date of Briefing: Wednesday, September 17, 2025

Did you know?

The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) is the largest integrated health care system in the United States, providing care at **1,380 health care facilities**, including 170 VA Medical Centers and 1,193 outpatient clinics to over 9.1 million Veterans enrolled in the VA health care program.



HPSP Program Overview

- The Health Professional Scholarship Program (HPSP) provides financial assistance to students receiving education or training in a health care services discipline.
- Eligible occupations/specialties are determined annually based on VHAs current and projected workforce needs.



Application Timeline

- Application Period:
 - **January 12, 2026 – February 27, 2026**
 - All applications must be submitted via the Application Management System (AMS) by 11:59pm EST.
 - *Failure to submit or incomplete applications will not be considered*
 - Award payments beginning with Fall 2026 academic year



FY 2026 Eligible Programs and Specialties

- Diagnostic- Radiologic Technologist
- Medical Technologists
- Social Work
- Physician Assistant
- Registered Nurse/Nurse Practitioner
 - Long-Term Care
 - Mental Health
 - Primary Care
- Physician
 - Mental Health/Psychiatry
 - Primary Care
 - Gastroenterology
 - Radiology-Diagnostic











Scholarship Eligibility

- ✓ U.S. Citizenship
- ✓ Unconditionally accepted in an accredited program/university
(Program must be an approved occupation/specialty at time of application)
- ✓ Minimum 3.0 Cumulative GPA
- ✓ Full-Time student (Unless FT VA employee)
- ✓ Must Pass background check
- ✓ Agree to full-time VA employment after graduation/licensure

Required Application Forms

Online application process which includes the submission of the following:

-  Application (completed in AMS)
-  Academic Verification
-  Evaluations/Recommendations (2)
-  Resume/CV
-  Transcript (Must show a minimum 3.0 CGPA with at least 15 earned credit hours)
-  Declaration for Federal Employment
-  DD214 (current and former service members)
-  SF50 (current and former VA employees)

Selection Process

- Review Stages: Administrative Review → Selection Panel
- Selection Criteria
 - Academic performance
 - Faculty/employer recommendations
 - Career goals aligned with VA needs
 - Veteran Status (considered but not required)

Award Payments

- 100% Tuition & mandatory Fees
 - *Paid Directly to school (maximum of 4 years)*
 - *No tuition paid for repeat courses*
- Monthly stipend
 - *Paid directly to participant*
 - *\$ 1,328 (as of 2025)*
- Annual book stipend
 - *Paid directly to participant*
 - *Non Physicians: \$1,328 (as of 2025)*
 - *Physicians (MD/DO): \$1,683 (as of 2025)*



SCHOLARSHIPS








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Participant Responsibilities

-  Maintain enrollment & GPA (academic good standing)
-  Notify S&CE monthly of any changes (address, status, curriculum, etc.)
-  Submit grade reports at end of each semester
-  Obtain licensure/certification
-  Complete required service at a VA facility

Service Obligation

Upon completion of your educational program and licensure/certification you agree to work as a permanent, full time, VA employee in the occupation for which the scholarship was awarded.

- **Non-Physicians:** Service obligations are year-for-year with a ***minimum requirement of 2 years***
 - Extended for individuals attending residencies and fellowships by half the period of the training. A 1-year residency or fellowship will add 6 months to the minimum service obligation.
- **Physicians (MD/DO): Service obligation is 18 months per year awarded**
 - Service Obligation is not extended for residency programs only fellowships

Mobility Agreement

HPSP helps the VA meet its need for qualified health care professionals for which recruitment or retention is difficult.

- All participants are required to sign a mobility agreement and agree to relocate at their own expense, if necessary to complete service obligation.
- It is critical that you are flexible at the time of graduation/residency completion to fill one of these locations anywhere in the US.



Non-Compliance Consequences

- ! Liquidated damages: \$1,500 if scholarship declined after award
- ! Full repayment for failing to complete education or get licensed
- ! Triple repayment if service obligation isn't met

VA Scholarship Resources

- HPSP Website and Where to apply:

<https://va-ams-info.intelliworxit.com/hpsp/about-hpsp/>

- Other VA Scholarship Opportunities

<https://vacareers.va.gov/employment-benefits/education-support/#scholarships>

Next Steps

- Attend Application Overview session in January
- Gather your information in preparation for the application open period

<https://va-ams-info.intelliworx.com/>



Live Q & A



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VA HPSP Contact & Support

- Contact: HPSPTEAM@va.gov
- Program Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8-5:30pm EST.
- [Program Office Hours](#): Thursdays from 4-6pm EST

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