

<https://www.vacareers.va.gov/Benefits/EducationSupport/#scholarships>

Help to Pursue New Heights

>Scholarships

>Health Professional Scholarship Program (HPSP)

Health Professional Scholarship Program

Provides financial assistance to students receiving education or training in a direct or indirect health-care services discipline (Title 38 and Hybrid Title 38 occupations); and assists in providing an adequate supply of such personnel for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). HPSP helps the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) meet its need for qualified health care professionals for which recruitment or retention is difficult.

Occupations

During FY 2020, HPSP eligible occupations as determined and published by VHA workforce needs are:

- Bachelors of Science in Nursing
- Masters of Science in Nursing (Mental Health Practitioners Only)
- Masters of Physician Assistant Studies
- Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD)
- Bachelors Degree in Medical Technology/Clinical Laboratory Science
- Physician

During FY 2020, HPSP anticipates offering scholarships to Medical Officers (Medical School Students) to meet requirement introduced as part of the VA Mission Act of 2018. Program details are as follows:

VA's Health Professionals Scholarship Program provides scholarships to medical students in exchange for service at VA.

Includes tuition, fees, books and equipment, and a stipend for 2 to 4 years with an obligation of 18 months of service for each year of support.

Applicants must agree to specialize in a field applicable to VA and are required to complete training leading to licensure and board eligibility.

Minimum number of scholarships is 50 annually, or 10% of VA's physician shortage when that number falls below 500.

HPSP anticipates accepting applications starting in February 2020.

Eligibility

- Eligible applicants must be enrolled in, or accepted for enrollment in, an academic program located in the United States that prepares graduates to meet the VA qualification standards for employment in the occupations listed above
- Applicants must be citizens of the United States and pass a background investigation

Covered Expenses

- Full-time students:
 - Tuition, authorized required fees, stipend, and annual education expense payment
 - 4 years to complete education
- Part-time students (current VA employees only):
 - Tuition, authorized required fees, stipend, and annual education expense payment (Award amounts are based on ratio of full-time attendance)
 - 6 years to complete education

Service Obligation

- Upon completing their educational program and licensure/certification, participants work as permanent, full-time VA employees in the occupations for which the scholarship was awarded
- Participant service obligation: Full-time student – 2 to 3 years; Part-time student – 1 to 3 years
- Physician - 18 month service obligation for each year of support.
- Participants sign a Mobility Agreement to relocate at their own expense if required to fulfill their service obligation

Application Process

- HPSP anticipates accepting applications for FY 2020 starting in February.