

Care for Fellow Veterans and *Cut Your Medical Education Costs*



BUILD A CAREER: GIVE BACK WHILE GETTING BACK

Discover VA Programs to Reduce Medical School Debt

Veterans choosing a medical career providing top-notch healthcare to fellow Veterans are eligible for financial support in exchange for post-residency service at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) under three scholarship programs authorized or enhanced by the MISSION Act of 2018.



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VA



**U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs**
Veterans Health
Administration



Veterans Healing Veterans Medical Access and Scholarship Program (VHVMASP)

This program provides funding for the medical education of the two highest ranking Veterans entering into each covered medical school in 2020 (*see box*). The Veterans receive financial support in exchange for four years of full-time service at a VA facility after residency. Support covers tuition, books and equipment, fees, two away rotations at a VA facility during senior year and a monthly stipend.

Eligible Applicants

-  **Apply for and be admitted to the entering class of 2020 at any of the nine listed schools.**
-  **Submit the American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS) application to medical school within 10 years of military separation.**
-  **Are not in receipt of Post-9/11 GI Bill or VA Vocational Rehabilitation funds while on scholarship.**
-  **Indicate on the school's application a wish to participate in the program.**

Program Obligations

-  **Agree to the service requirements of the program.**
-  **Stay enrolled at the medical school.**
-  **Maintain acceptable academic standing and progress leading to graduation.**
-  **Complete residency training in a VA-applicable specialty (e.g., pediatrics would not apply).**
-  **Become board-eligible in a specialty and be licensed in any state.**
-  **Become a full-time clinical provider at a VA facility for four years (12 mos per year of support).**

VHVMASP: Participating Medical Schools

Texas A&M College of
Medicine

University of South
Carolina School of
Medicine

Boonshoft School of
Medicine at Wright State
University

Joan C. Edwards School
of Medicine at Marshall
University

Quillen College of
Medicine at East
Tennessee State
University

Howard University
College of Medicine

Meharry Medical College

Charles R. Drew
University of Medicine
and Science

Morehouse School of
Medicine

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Health Professions Scholarship Program

Veterans may receive preference from VA under this program, which provides at least 50 medical and dental student scholarships per year. Financial support may cover two to four years of medical school costs, including tuition, books and equipment, fees and a monthly stipend.

Eligible Applicants

- 👍 Be U.S. citizens (U.S. Veterans are considered first among all equally qualified candidates).
- 👍 Be willing to undergo a background/suitability investigation.
- 👍 Be enrolled in and seek financial support for medical or dental school.

Program Obligations

- 👍 Agree to serve for 18 months at a VA facility for each year of support.
- 👍 Complete residency training in a VA-applicable specialty (e.g., pediatrics would not apply).
- 👍 Stay enrolled in school.
- 👍 Become board-eligible in a specialty and be licensed in any state.
- 👍 Maintain acceptable academic standing and progress leading to graduation.

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Specialty Education Loan Repayment Program

Veterans may receive preference from VA under this program, which repays the education loans of physician residents who fill a need for medical specialists in key geographic areas or at certain VA facilities. Residents must agree to serve at VA for a minimum of two years, and may apply right after the residency match or at least two years before the residency ends. Repayment is **\$40,000** for each year of service, up to **\$160,000**.

Program Obligations

- 👍 **Agree to serve at VA for the required number of years and at a specified location.**
- 👍 **Complete residency leading up to board eligibility in a VA-applicable specialty (e.g., pediatrics would not apply).**
- 👍 **Be licensed in any state.**

Other Scholarship Considerations

- 👍 **Fellowships.** If you are completing a VA-applicable specialty fellowship, you may postpone your service requirement until program completion. Postponements are granted on a case-by-case basis.
- 👍 **Location preference.** VA considers your location preferences, but makes assignments based on the healthcare needs of Veterans in geographic areas.

Learn More

- **VISIT VA Careers** to learn more about these programs at www.vacareers.va.gov/Benefits/EducationSupport/#scholarships.
- **DOWNLOAD** the educational initiatives [fact sheet](#) (PDF).
- **EXPLORE** other education benefits at www.VAcareers.va.gov/Benefits/EducationSupport.