



National Health Service Corps Scholarship Program

DEFERMENT INFORMATION BULLETIN

Deferring the Service Obligation of National Health Service Corps Scholarship Program
Participants for Approved Postgraduate Training

For Year 2012 Graduates of Schools of Allopathic & Osteopathic Medicine and Dentistry
AND
For NHSC Scholars Continuing Approved Postgraduate Training for 2012-13

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Health Resources and Services Administration
Bureau of Clinician Recruitment and Service

National Health Service Corps Scholarship Program
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 8-37
Rockville, Maryland 20857

For Questions, please call 1-800-221-9393 (TTY: 1-877-897-9910), or email GetHelp@hrsa.gov, Monday through Friday (except Federal holidays) 8 am to 8 pm EST.

The Bulletin describes the terms and conditions for a deferment of the NHSC Scholarship Program service obligation for purposes of pursuing approved postgraduate training (residency) and the process for requesting such deferment. In the event that any of this information changes, participants will be notified.

PRIVACY ACT NOTIFICATION STATEMENT

General

This information is provided pursuant to the Privacy Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-579), as amended, for individuals supplying information for inclusion in a system of records.

Statutory Authority

Title III, Section 338A of the Public Health Service Act (42 USC 254I), as amended; and Sections 338C-H of the Public Health Service Act (42 USC 254m-q), as amended

Purposes and Uses

The purpose of the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Scholarship Program (SP) is to provide scholarships to students pursuing primary care health professions training in return for a commitment to provide primary health services in Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) within the United States. The information supplied by participants will be used to approve or disapprove requests for deferments of their NHSC SP service obligation.

An individual's information is maintained in a system of records to be used within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to monitor NHSC SP-related activities. The information may also be disclosed outside the Department, as permitted by the Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Act, to the Congress, the National Archives, the General Accountability Office, and pursuant to court order and various routine uses (see <http://www.hrsa.gov/about/privacyact/09150037.html>).

Effects of Nondisclosure

Disclosure of the information sought is voluntary; however, if not submitted, deferment requests may be considered incomplete and therefore may not be approved.

Paperwork Reduction Act Public Burden Statement

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The OMB control number for this collection of information is 0915-0146 and the expiration date is 4/30/2014. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1/4 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to HRSA Reports Clearance Officer, 5600 Fishers Lane, Room 10-33, Rockville, Maryland 20857.

Discrimination Prohibited

In accordance with applicable Federal laws, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is prohibited from discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability.

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I. DEFERMENT REQUEST PROCESS

This Bulletin is for National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Scholarship Program (SP) participants who are:

- (1) Graduating in 2012 from schools of allopathic medicine (MD), osteopathic medicine (DO), and dentistry (DDS and DMD); AND
- (2) Physicians and dentists continuing in approved postgraduate training programs who must confirm their training status for the 2012-13 training year.

The Bulletin is designed to notify physician and dental scholars of the current programs of approved postgraduate training for purposes of their participation in the NHSC Scholarship Program. The Bulletin will also familiarize physician and dental scholars with the requirements and process for requesting and receiving approval of a deferment prior to the beginning of **each** training year.

What is a deferment?

A deferment is a delay in the NHSC Scholarship service obligation that is granted upon a scholar's request to enter and complete approved postgraduate training. Requests for deferment are reviewed annually and are granted in 1-year increments.

How do I request a deferment?

To obtain a deferment to pursue approved postgraduate training, a physician or dentist scholar **must annually submit a deferment request to the NHSC SP**, requesting permission to pursue approved postgraduate training.

A deferment request includes:

- (1) A Deferment Request Form (completed on the BCRS Participant Portal)
 - (2) A Match Intent Letter from the program director confirming acceptance into the residency program, for scholars entering postgraduate training programs;
- OR-

A letter from the program director confirming the scholar's status in the postgraduate training program, for scholars continuing in approved postgraduate training (uploaded through the BCRS Participant Portal).

The Deferment Request Form and letter from the program director must be submitted to the NHSC SP before the deadline of **April 15, 2012**. Failure to submit a timely and complete deferment request will cause a delay in the processing of your request and may result in noncompliance with your NHSC scholarship contract.

Please note: If requesting to switch residency programs or to pursue a chief residency position or fellowship, the NHSC SP requires advanced written notice of the requested change and/or additional information to make a timely decision concerning approval or disapproval of the deferment request. Please consult Sections III and IV of this Bulletin for a description of the documentation needed.

For additional information, the NHSC SP can be reached at 1-800-221-9393. Prior to completing the Deferment Request Form, you can also e-mail your respective color service team based on the state in which your school (for 2012 graduates) or residency program (for all others) is located. Please see the color service team email information provided below.

Service Team	Email	States
Blue Team	NHSC-Blue@hrsa.gov	AK, AL, AZ, AR, CO, CT, DC, FL, GA, ID, MD, MT, ND, NE, NJ, NM, OK, OR, SC, UT, VT, VA, WV
Gold Team	NHSC-Gold@hrsa.gov	CA, DE, HI, IA, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MS, NH, OH, RI, SD, TN, WA
Orange Team	NHSC-Orange@hrsa.gov	MA, ME, MI, MN, MO, NC, NV, NY, PA, PR, TX, WI, WY

II. GENERAL RULES FOR DEFERMENTS

Deferments will be granted to complete postgraduate training only if the training is in a specialty that is consistent with the needs of the NHSC.

- a. **Physicians:** Physician (MD or DO) scholars must complete a primary care residency training program listed in Section III. The NHSC SP **will not** provide financial support (e.g., stipend, training expenses, certifying exams) while a physician is in postgraduate training. Should a physician fail to match to a postgraduate training program, the physician **must** notify the NHSC SP at once in writing.

If a physician fails to enter approved postgraduate training, decides to enter unapproved postgraduate training, or fails to complete approved postgraduate training, the physician will be placed in default and will be liable to pay liquidated damages equal to three times the amount of the scholarship plus interest.

Dentists: Dentist scholars graduating in 2012 have the option to request a deferment to complete postgraduate training in one of the primary care dental specialties listed in Section IV. Dentist scholars who intend to complete postgraduate training must complete and upload the Notice of Intent Form (See page 18) to the BCRS Participant Portal. The NHSC SP **will not** provide financial support (e.g., stipend, training expenses, certifying exams) while a dentist is in a dental residency program. Should a dentist scholar decide not to proceed with postgraduate training, the scholar will begin his or her NHSC service obligation as a general dentist upon graduation from dental school.

b. **Postgraduate Training Imposing Service Obligations**

The NHSC SP will not approve deferments for postgraduate training conducted by any entity that imposes a service obligation, such as a branch of the United States Armed Forces.

c. **Terms and Conditions of Deferment:**

- (1) Pursue only the postgraduate training that the NHSC SP has officially approved for your deferment.
- (2) Prior to each year of postgraduate training, you are required to submit:
 - A Deferment Request Form (completed on the BCRS Participant Portal); and
 - A letter from the program director confirming a scholar's status in the postgraduate training program, for scholars continuing in approved postgraduate training (uploaded through the BCRS Participant Portal).
- (3) Do not make any changes in your period or type of postgraduate training, including switching to another residency program, without prior written approval from the NHSC SP.
- (4) Update any changes in your contact information (e.g., physical address, email address) through the BCRS Participant Portal.

d. **Failure to Meet the Terms and Conditions of Deferment**

Physicians who fail to comply with the terms and conditions of their deferment may be placed in default and be liable for liquidated damages equal to three times the amount of the scholarship award plus interest.

Dentists who fail to comply with the terms and conditions of their deferment must immediately commence their NHSC service obligation as a general practice dentist. Dentists who fail to accept their assignment will be placed in default and will be liable for liquidated damages equal to three times the amount of the scholarship award plus interest.

III. DEFERMENTS FOR PHYSICIANS

The NHSC SP will grant deferments in 1-year increments for physicians upon written request for postgraduate (residency) training in specialty programs needed by the NHSC. The only postgraduate training programs approved by the NHSC SP for deferment are the following:

Family Practice	3 years
General Internal Medicine	3 years
General Pediatrics	3 years
Obstetrics-Gynecology	4 years
General Psychiatry	4 years
Internal Medicine/Family Practice (IM/FP)	4 years
Internal Medicine/Pediatrics (IM/PED)	4 years
Rotating internship with a request to complete a residency in one of the above specialties (DOs only, see below for more details)	1 year

a. One Year Osteopathic Internship Deferments

DOs only: One year osteopathic internships are approvable for deferments as some state Osteopathic Boards require a traditional rotating internship prior to entering a standard residency program. If you plan to pursue this one year internship, please provide a letter from your program director stating that the internship is for one year and is a prerequisite to entering residency training. Upon completion of the one year internship, osteopathic physicians are required to enter and complete a residency program in one of the approvable specialties listed above.

b. Dual Residency Programs

The NHSC's goal is to place well trained providers into underserved communities as soon as possible. Therefore, the dual residency training programs listed above are the only dual residency programs that are approved for the 2012-13 training year. A physician seeking to begin or switch to a dual residency program other than IM/FP and IM/PED for the 2012-13 training year will not be granted a deferment.

c. Switching Residency Programs

If you were granted a deferment for the 2011-12 training year and want to switch to another postgraduate training program in the same or different approvable specialty (as listed above) for the 2012-13 training year OR if you are granted a deferment for 2012-13 training year and want to switch to another postgraduate training program in the same or a different approvable specialty during the same training year, you must submit a new Deferment Request Form and a letter from the new program director indicating your anticipated beginning and completion dates in the new residency program. The letter should also state how much credit, if any, will be given for the prior residency training. You must also submit a brief description why you have chosen the new program and how will it benefit your NHSC career (Letter of Intent).

The NHSC SP will grant up to four (4) years from the start of the original program to complete residency training in a different program or specialty. The new Deferment Request Form and letter from the program director should be submitted at least 30 days before the anticipated start date. Do not sign a contract with the new training program before the NHSC SP approves the switch.

d. **Deferment for Chief Residency Positions (2012-13 Training Year)**

Should you be offered a one-year Chief Residency position by your postgraduate training program, the NHSC SP **may** grant the additional deferment year. To request a deferment for a Chief Residency position, the NHSC SP must receive the following three items on or before February 1, 2012:

- (1) A Deferment Request Form for an additional year of deferment;
- (2) A letter from the program director stating your anticipated start and completion dates and including a description of the chief residency position and your responsibilities; and
- (3) A brief description from you on how you plan to use the additional clinical training in your NHSC career (Letter of Intent).

The NHSC SP's decision to release you from the NHSC's placement process for an additional year will be based largely on the demand for your specialty that year. Do not sign your Chief Residency contract before you have requested and received approval from the NHSC SP of your additional year's deferment.

e. **Deferment for Fellowship**

The NHSC SP may approve, on a case-by-case basis, consistent with the needs of the NHSC, requests submitted by physicians in their last year of approved postgraduate training to complete one of the following fellowships:

- (1) A two-year Child Psychiatry fellowship following the completion of residency training in General Psychiatry;
- (2) A one-year Obstetrics/Gynecology fellowship following the completion of residency training in Family Practice; and
- (3) A one-year Geriatrics fellowship following the completion of residency training in Family Practice or General Internal Medicine or dual residency in IM/FP.

To request a deferment for a fellowship, the NHSC SP must receive the following three items on or before February 1, 2012:

- (1) A Deferment Request Form for the additional year of deferment;
- (2) A letter from the program director stating your anticipated start and completion dates and including a description of the fellowship and your responsibilities; and

(3) A brief description from you on how you plan to use the additional clinical training in your NHSC career (Letter of Intent).

The NHSC SP’s decision to release you for an additional year from the NHSC’s placement process will be based largely on the demand for your specialty that year. Do not sign your fellowship contract before you have requested and received from the NHSC SP written approval of your additional year’s deferment.

f. **Deadlines:**

For physician scholars graduating in 2012:

Deadline	Documentation
April 15, 2012	Deferment Request Form, Letter from the Program Director (Match Intent Letter) (Completed and uploaded on the BCRS Participant Portal)
April 15, 2012	1 Year Osteopathic Internship(if applicable): Letter from the Program Director (Uploaded on the BCRS Participant Portal)

For physicians continuing postgraduate training in 2012-13:

Deadline	Documentation
February 1, 2012	Fellowship: Deferment Request Form, Letter from the Program Director, AND Brief Description – Impact on NHSC career (Letter of Intent).
February 1, 2012	Chief Residency: Deferment Request Form, Letter from the Program Director, AND Brief Description – Impact on NHSC career (Letter of Intent).
April 15, 2012	Continuing Postgraduate Training: Deferment Request Form AND Letter from the Program Director
At least 30 days prior to anticipated start date	Switching Residency Programs: Deferment Request Form, Letter from the Program Director, AND a Letter of Intent.

g. **Licensure Examination**

The NHSC requires physicians to pass **all** three parts of the medical licensing examination (USMLE or COMLEX) prior to completing their last year of training to ensure that their NHSC service obligation can commence immediately upon completion of approved postgraduate training.

It is your responsibility to select a residency program that will adequately prepare you to sit for the USMLE or COMLEX and obtain the appropriate license to practice in the United States. **You must notify the NHSC SP when you have successfully completed all three parts of the medical licensing examinations by uploading the certificates through the BCRS Participant Portal.**

IV. DEFERMENTS FOR DENTISTS

Dentists graduating in 2012 have the option to request a deferment to complete postgraduate training in one of the primary care dental specialties listed below. Dentist scholars who intend to complete postgraduate training must complete and upload the Notice of Intent Form (See page 18) to the BCRS Participant Portal. Dentist scholars who decide not to proceed with postgraduate training will begin their NHSC service obligation as a general dentist upon graduation from dental school.

The NHSC SP will grant deferments in 1-year increments for dentists upon written request for postgraduate (residency) training in the following specialty programs, which are needed by the NHSC:

General Practice Dentistry	1 Year
Advanced Education in General Dentistry	1 year
Pediatric Dentistry	2 Years
Public Health Dentistry	2 Years

a. **Switching Residency Programs**

If you were granted a deferment for the 2011-12 training year and want to switch to another postgraduate training program in the same or different approvable specialty (as listed above) for the 2012-13 training year OR if you are granted a deferment for 2012-13 training year and want to switch to another postgraduate training program in the same or a different approvable specialty during the same training year, you must submit a new Deferment Request Form and a letter from the new program director indicating your anticipated beginning and completion dates in the new residency program. The letter should also state how much credit, if any, will be given for the prior residency training. You must also submit a brief description why you have chosen the new program and how it will benefit your NHSC career (Letter of Intent).

b. **Deferment for Fellowship**

The NHSC SP **may** approve, on a case-by-case basis, consistent with the needs of the NHSC, requests submitted by dentists in their last year of approved postgraduate training to complete the following fellowship:

- A one-year Geriatric Dentistry fellowship following the completion of postgraduate training.

To request a deferment for a fellowship, the NHSC SP must receive the following three items on or before February 1, 2012:

- (1) A Deferment Request Form for the additional year of deferment;
- (2) A letter from the program director stating your anticipated start and completion dates and including a description of the fellowship and your responsibilities; and
- (3) A brief description from you on how you plan to use the additional clinical training in your NHSC career (Letter of Intent).

The NHSC SP's decision to release you from the NHSC's placement process for an additional year will be based largely on the demand for your specialty that year. Do not sign your fellowship contract before you have requested and received written approval from the NHSC SP of your additional year's deferment.

c. **Deadlines:**

For dentists graduating in 2012:

Deadline	Documentation
February 1, 2012	Notice of Intent (Upload the completed Notice of Intent Form to the BCRS Participant Portal Home page using the 'Ask a Question' feature. See Form on Page 18 of the Bulletin)
April 15, 2012	Deferment Request Form, Letter from the Program Director (Match Intent Letter) (Completed and Uploaded on the BCRS Participant Portal)

For dentists continuing postgraduate training in 2012-13:

Deadline	Documentation
February 1, 2012	Fellowship: Deferment Request Form, Letter from the Program Director, AND Brief Description – Impact on NHSC career (Letter of Intent)
April 15, 2012	Continuing Postgraduate Training: Deferment Request Form AND Letter from the Program Director
At least 30 days prior to anticipated start date	Switching Residency Programs: Deferment Request Form, Letter from the Program Director, AND a Letter of Intent

d. **Licensure Examination**

Dental scholars are expected to take the appropriate licensure exams at the earliest possible date. The NHSC requires dentists to pass **both** parts of the National Board Dental Examination (NBDE Parts 1 and 2) prior to completing their last year of dental school or approved postgraduate training to ensure that the NHSC service obligation can commence immediately upon completion of education or approved postgraduate training.

V. SUSPENSIONS OF THE SERVICE OBLIGATION

Suspensions of the service obligation, during postgraduate training, may be granted only for the reasons listed below. Requests for suspension and any required supporting documentation must be submitted via the BCRS Participant Portal. For further information, the NHSC SP can be reached at 1-800-221-9393.

a. **Medical and Personal Reasons**

A suspension may be granted for up to 1 year if the scholar provides independent medical documentation of a physical or mental health disability or a terminal illness of an immediate family member resulting in the participant's temporary inability to participate in postgraduate training. Upon receipt of a suspension request, further instructions will be provided that describe the documentation required to fully evaluate the suspension request.

b. **Failure to Pass Licensure Examination**

A scholar who fails to pass the licensure examination **may** be granted a suspension for up to 1 year to retake the USMLE, COMLEX, or a National Board of Dental Examination and obtain results only if failure to pass the exams prevents the scholar from continuing in the postgraduate training program. In addition to a written request for a suspension, the scholar must submit to the NHSC SP: (1) a copy of his/her examination results within 15 days of receipt and (2) a letter from the residency program director verifying the scholar's inability to progress further in the training program. The scholar is required to apply for and retake the examination at least twice (or until the scholar passes) during the suspension year. Further, the scholar should take the necessary steps to maintain his/her knowledge and skills while waiting to pass the licensure examination.

c. **Call to Active Duty in the Armed Forces**

Scholar reservists who are called to active duty will be granted a suspension for up to 1 year beginning on the activation date described in the order. In addition to the written request for a suspension, the scholar must submit to the NHSC SP a copy of the order to active duty. The suspension will be extended if the applicable Armed Forces entity continues the period of active duty. A suspension request and a copy of the extension orders must be submitted to the NHSC SP. The period of active duty will not be credited toward the NHSC service obligation.

d. **Parental (Maternity, Paternity or Adoption) Leave**

If the scholar's parental leave from the residency training program causes a change in the residency graduation date, the scholar must request a suspension. Scholars are allowed up to 12 weeks of leave, unless the state permits additional time. In addition to the written request for a suspension, the scholar must submit to the NHSC SP appropriate documentation confirming the need for parental leave. If the scholar's parental leave will exceed 12 weeks due to a documented medical reason, a longer suspension of up to 1 year may be granted.

VI. SUMMARY OF DEFERMENT DEADLINE DATES

Applicable to physicians and dentists graduating in 2012 from schools of medicine (allopathic and osteopathic) or dentistry:

Deadline	Documentation	Dentists	Physicians
February 1, 2012	Notice of Intent Form	✓	
April 15, 2012	Deferment Request Form and Program Director Letter (Match Intent Letter)	✓	✓
April 15, 2012	1 Year Osteopathic Internship: Letter from the Program Director		✓ DOs Only

Applicable to physicians and dentists continuing postgraduate training in 2012-13:

Deadline	Documentation	Dentists	Physicians
February 1, 2012	Fellowship: Deferment Request Form, Letter from the Program Director, AND Brief Description – Impact on NHSC career (Letter of Intent)	✓	✓
February 1, 2012	Chief Residency: Deferment Request Form, Letter from the Program Director, AND Brief Description – Impact on NHSC career (Letter of Intent)		✓
April 15, 2012	Continuing Postgraduate Training: Deferment Request Form AND Letter from the Program Director	✓	✓
At least 30 days prior to anticipated start date	Switching Residency Programs: Deferment Request Form AND Letter from the Program Director, AND a Letter of Intent	✓	✓

VII. DEFINITIONS

Approved Postgraduate Training: postgraduate training in a primary care program that is approved by the NHSC and is consistent with the needs of the NHSC. See Sections III and IV.

Deferment: a delay in an NHSC scholar's service obligation granted upon a scholar's request by the Director of NHSC for a specified period of time to enter and complete approved postgraduate training, in accordance with the NHSC's Federal statute and regulations and the administrative guidelines set forth in this Bulletin. Requests for deferment are reviewed annually and are granted in 1-year increments.

Postgraduate Training: the postgraduate clinical training accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (MD programs), approved by the Board of Trustees of the American Osteopathic Association (DO programs), or approved by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association (DDS and DMD programs).

Suspension: a delay in an NHSC scholar's service obligation, in intervals of up to 1 year, which may be granted for reasons other than approved postgraduate training (e.g., illness, maternity, etc.). Requests for suspensions must be submitted in writing to the NHSC SP as set forth in Section V of this Bulletin.



Instructions for Completing the Deferment Request Form (to be completed through the BCRS Participant Portal at <https://programportal.hrsa.gov>)

A. General Information:

- 1) Review the Deferment Information Bulletin for the 2012-13 Training Year for guidance on requesting a deferment.
- 2) Complete the online Deferment Request Form and upload all supporting documentations (e.g., Letter from the Program Director, Brief Description – Impact on NHSC career (Letter of Intent)) through the BCRS Participant Portal at <https://programportal.hrsa.gov>.

B. Name, Home Address, Home/Cell Phone Number, and E-mail Address: Complete the required fields to reflect your current information. If your name has changed, fax or upload a copy of the legal documentation certifying your name change to the NHSC SP with your Deferment Request Form. The home address should be the address where you receive your mail. We will use this address to contact you. Enter your home phone number and e-mail address where you can be reached if there are any questions. If you have a cell phone that is the optimum number to reach you, please provide this as well.

C. Postgraduate Residency Program: Please refer to the Deferment Information Bulletin for the 2012-13 Training Year for the primary care postgraduate training for which we may grant deferments. The Bulletin can be downloaded on the NHSC website at:
<http://nhsc.hrsa.gov/currentmembers/scholars/formsdocuments/index.html>.

D. Program ID Number: For all allopathic residency/fellowship programs, please include the 10-digit program ID # that is listed in the American Medical Association Graduate Medical Education Yearbook and Directory. For osteopathic internship/residency/fellowship programs, please include the 6-digit program ID # that is listed by the American Osteopathic Association.

E. Length of Program: Enter the number of years required to complete the postgraduate training you are entering or for which you have already been deferred. This number should not exceed the approved length of program located in the current Deferment Bulletin.

F. Postgraduate Training Program Director's Name and Telephone Number: Enter name of the residency program director and his/her telephone number.

G. Name, Address, Phone Number, and E-mail Address of Residency Program: Enter the program's name, address, phone number, and an e-mail address for your residency program.

H. Update Emergency Contact Information: Provide the name of a person, address and telephone number, other than at your own address or clinic address, through which we can contact you. This can be updated

in the 'My Contact Information' section in the BCRS Participant Portal.

- I. **Scholar's Signature:** Selecting the radio button certifies that the information given in this request is accurate and complete to the best of your knowledge and belief. You understand that it may be investigated and that any false statement herein may be punished as a felony under U.S. code Title 18, Section 21001 and subject you to civil penalties under the Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act of 1986 (46 CFR 79). You also understand that submitting your request does not guarantee its approval, and that it requires review for compliance with your NHSC SP obligation and program policies.

DEADLINES:

Physicians: Your Deferment Request Form and Letter from the Program Director (and other applicable supporting documentation as listed in the Deferment Bulletin) must be received by April 15, 2012. Failure to submit a complete deferment request on time will cause a delay in the processing of your request and may result in noncompliance with your NHSC scholarship contract.

Dentists: Dentists are not required to participate in postgraduate training. However, if you decide to pursue postgraduate training, you must submit a "Notice of Intent" Form to request a deferment by February 1, 2012 and a Deferment Request Form and other applicable supporting documentation as listed in the Deferment Bulletin by April 15, 2012 through the BCRS Participant Portal at <https://programportal.hrsa.gov>. If you decide not to request postgraduate training, you will begin your NHSC service obligation as a general practice dentist upon your graduation from dental school. If you fail to accept your assignment, you will be placed in default and will be liable for payment of the liquidated damages prescribed by Federal law.

Fellowships: Your Deferment Request, Letter from Program Director, and Brief Description discussing how this training will impact your NHSC career (Letter of Intent) must be received by February 1, 2012

Chief Residency: Your Deferment Request, Letter from Program Director and Brief Description discussing how advanced training will impact your NHSC career (Letter of Intent) must be received by February 1, 2012.

Should you require any assistance, the NHSC Scholarship Support Branch is available at 1-800-221-9393, 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday.



Notice of Intent to Request a Deferment for Dentists

(Deadline: February 1, 2012: Refer to the Deferment Information Bulletin for more detail. Upload the completed 'Notice of Intent' form to the BCRS Participant Portal Home Page using the 'Ask a Question' feature. Please enter 'NHSC SP Notice of Intent to Defer for Dental Scholars' in the Description field at the bottom of the Upload Document section of the BCRS Participant Portal at <https://programportal.hrsa.gov>)

I am a National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Scholarship Program participant graduating from dental school in 2012. I hereby certify my intent to request a deferment to complete postgraduate training in one of the primary care dental specialties set forth in the Deferment Information Bulletin for the 2012-13 Training Year. I understand that the NHSC will not provide any financial support while I am in a dental residency program. I also understand that if I do not proceed with approved postgraduate training, I will begin my NHSC service obligation as a general dentist upon my graduation from dental school.

(Name of NHSC Scholar)

(Address)

(City, State, Zip Code)

(E-mail Address)

(Telephone Number)

(Signature of NHSC Scholar)

(Date)