



**National Health Service Corps  
Scholarship Program &  
Students to Service Loan Repayment Program**

**Academic Year 2021-2022**

**Postgraduate Training Bulletin**

January 2021

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Health Resources and Services Administration  
Bureau of Health Workforce  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Rockville, Maryland 20857

For questions, please call 1-800-221-9393 (TTY: 1-877-897-9910) Monday through Friday (except federal holidays) 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET or submit an inquiry via the [BHW Customer Service Portal](#).

*Authority: Sections 338A-H of the Public Health Service Act (42 USC 254I-q), as amended. Future changes in the governing statute, implementing regulations, and Program Guidance may also be applicable to National Health Service Corps Scholarship Program and Students to Service Loan Repayment Program participants.*

CFDA Number 93.547

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## **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-H of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254I-q), as amended.

### **Purposes and Uses**

The purpose of the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Scholarship Program (SP) and Students to Service (S2S) Loan Repayment Program (LRP) is to increase access to primary care in underserved communities. The NHSC SP accomplishes this by providing scholarships to students pursuing primary care health professions training in return for a commitment to provide primary health care services in Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) within the United States.

The NHSC S2S LRP provides loan repayment to students in their last year of medical, dental, or advanced practice nursing school in return for a commitment to provide primary health services in designated HPSAs. The information supplied by scholars and S2S LRP participants will be used to approve or disapprove requests for postgraduate training and to track the participants' training activities and location during the period of approved postgraduate training.

An individual's information is maintained in a system of records used within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to monitor NHSC SP- and S2S LRP-related activities. The information may also be disclosed outside of HHS, as permitted by the Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Act, to the Congress, the National Archives, the Government Accountability Office, and pursuant to court order and various routine uses as described in the [System of Record Notice 09-15-0037](#).

### **Effects of Nondisclosure**

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

## **Paperwork Reduction Act Public Burden Statement**

The purpose of this information collection is to obtain information through the NHSC SP and the NHSC S2S LRP, which is to assess an applicant's eligibility and qualifications for the NHSC SP and S2S. 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 information collection is 0915-0146 and it is valid until 07/31/2023.

This information collection is required to obtain or retain a benefit (NHSC SP: Section 338A of the PHS Act and Section 338C-H of PHS Act; NHSC S2S LRP: Section 338B of the PHS Act and Section 331(i) of the PHS Act). Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to

average one hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, 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 [paperwork@hrsa.gov](mailto:paperwork@hrsa.gov) or the following mailing address:

HRSA Reports Clearance Officer  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Room 14N136B  
Rockville, Maryland, 20857

**Non-Discrimination Policy Statement**

In accordance with applicable federal laws and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services policy, the Department does not discriminate on the basis of any non-merit factor, including race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability (physical or mental), age, status as a parent, or genetic information.

## Postgraduate Training Request Overview

This bulletin describes the terms and conditions for deferring (postponing) the NHSC service obligation in order to complete postgraduate training, and the types of postgraduate training programs approved by the NHSC (including internships, chief residency, or fellowships) for NHSC Scholarship Program (SP) scholars and Students to Service Loan Repayment Program (S2S LRP) participants.

NHSC SP scholars and S2S LRP participants (from now on referred to as “participants”) who are required, or are electing, to complete a postgraduate training program must submit a request through the [BHW Customer Service Portal](#) to receive approval by the NHSC.

NHSC must approve the postgraduate training request **prior to** the start of any postgraduate training programs to ensure continued compliance with NHSC requirements. In addition, participants will be required to complete a Postgraduate Training (PGT) Request for each year that they will be engaged in postgraduate training.

Required **documentation and deadlines** are outlined for each discipline in the Appendix. ***Please review the Appendix before submitting the request as deadlines and documentation requirements vary for each discipline and program.***

### **Ineligible Postgraduate Training Programs**

Participation in a postgraduate training program (including a fellowship or chief residency) that is not approved by the NHSC may result in a breach of the NHSC contract and lead to default.

Postgraduate training programs that are **not approved** include the following:

1. Non-primary health care programs (e.g., emergency medicine, surgery, radiology, neurology, anesthesiology, ophthalmology, pathology, oral surgery, endodontics, orthodontics, prosthodontics, palliative care, hospitalists) or other programs that the NHSC determines are not consistent with the needs of the NHSC to provide primary health care services in HPSAs;
2. Postgraduate training conducted by any entity that imposes a service obligation, such as a branch of the United States Armed Forces, if the other service obligation would be performed concurrently or overlap with the NHSC SP or S2S LRP service obligation;
3. Transitional residency training; and
4. Any training program that is not accredited.

### **Postgraduate Training Request (Online) Submission**

Participants should obtain the required documentation from their training program as listed in the Appendix and submit their completed PGT request online through the [BHW Customer Service Portal](#).

Submit all postgraduate training requests to the NHSC via the [BHW Customer Service Portal](#) by **May 1, 2021**. Failure to submit a timely and complete request will delay the processing of the participant's request.

For physicians, who are required to complete a primary care residency, failure to submit a timely and complete PGT request may result in a determination that the participant has breached their NHSC contract.

PGT requests from other health professionals are optional, and failure to submit a timely and complete PGT request may result in the participant being assigned for service immediately.

### **Requirements While in Postgraduate Training**

The NHSC expects participants to start their postgraduate training after graduation but no later than July 1. While in postgraduate training, participants are subject to the following requirements:

1. Pursue postgraduate training that is approved by the NHSC;
2. Submit the postgraduate training request by the stated deadline, May 1, 2021, and with all required documentation to the NHSC annually through the [BHW Customer Service Portal](#);
3. Make no change to the type or period of training without prior written approval from the NHSC;
4. Do not incur a conflicting service commitment;
5. Update any personal contact information on the [BHW Customer Service Portal](#); and
6. Notify the NHSC immediately of any changes that affect his or her approved training and availability for service.

### **Failure to Meet the Requirements While Pursuing, or Engaged in, Postgraduate Training**

**Physicians** should refer to their NHSC contracts and the Application and Program Guidance (APG) for their specific program regarding Breach of Contract. If a situation arises in which completion of mandatory postgraduate training is in question, please contact the NHSC immediately by submitting a question through the [BHW Customer Service Portal](#).

**Dentists, Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs), and Physician Assistants (PAs)** who fail to comply with the terms and conditions of any optional postgraduate training must immediately begin their NHSC service commitment. For questions, please contact the NHSC by submitting a question through the [BHW Customer Service Portal](#).

### **Switching Postgraduate Training Programs**

If a participant plans to switch to another NHSC-approved postgraduate training (residency) program, he or she must obtain prior written approval from the NHSC. In addition, the participant must submit a letter to the NHSC from the new program director through the [BHW Customer Service Portal](#) no later than 30 days before the start of the new training program. The letter from the new program director must indicate the participant's anticipated start and completion dates in the new training program, as well as how much credit, if any, will be given for the prior training program.

The NHSC will grant a maximum of **five (5) years** for postgraduate training from the beginning of the initial postgraduate training to complete all required training specific to the participant's discipline and specialty. The training to be undertaken must be consistent with the needs of the NHSC. See the [Appendix](#).

### **Chief Residencies and Fellowships**

Physicians and dentists are eligible for additional postgraduate training, such as a Chief Residency or Fellowship. The deadline and documentation requirements for such training are stated in the [Appendix](#). Deferment requests for chief residencies or fellowships are approved or disapproved based on the needs of the NHSC, and cannot exceed the total maximum five-year limit. The NHSC's goal is to place well-trained providers in underserved communities as soon as possible.

### **Financial Support from the NHSC While in Postgraduate Training**

**NHSC SP participants do not** receive NHSC financial support (e.g., stipend, payment for training expenses or certifying exams) nor do they incur an additional NHSC service obligation during postgraduate training.

**S2S LRP participants** will receive the first, second, and third annual installments of their award funds while they are in the first, second, and third years of approved postgraduate training, respectively. They will receive the fourth annual installment during their fourth year of postgraduate training or first year of service, as applicable. Disbursement of the S2S LRP funds are subject to compliance with program requirements.

### **No NHSC Service Credit during Postgraduate Training**

The postgraduate training period is **not** credited toward satisfying the NHSC SP or S2S LRP service obligation, even if the training occurs in an NHSC-approved site or a facility located in a HPSA.

### **Training Completion and Site Search for Service Obligation**

HRSA's Division of Regional Operations (DRO) coordinates the site search process to assist participants as they complete approved postgraduate training and prepare to begin fulfilling their service commitment. During the final year of their postgraduate training, participants will be contacted by an NHSC Regional Advisor to assist with the site search process. Please note that for NHSC SP participants, **the applicable HPSA requirement will be determined by their postgraduate training completion date**. The [Health Workforce Connector](#) is a useful tool to begin a site search.

## Postgraduate Training for Physicians

Allopathic and osteopathic physicians are required to complete accredited primary medical care postgraduate training in an NHSC-approved primary care specialty before commencing service.<sup>1</sup> Physicians may complete any combination of NHSC-approved postgraduate training listed below, in addition to a Chief Residency or Fellowship as long as the total postgraduate training duration does not exceed five years. Physicians are required to begin an approved residency program **by July 1** of their graduation year, either through the residency match process or outside the match process.

| Approved Postgraduate Training Specialties for Medical Students   | Duration     |
|---|--------------|
| Family Medicine   | 3 or 4 years |
| General Internal Medicine   | 3 years      |
| General Pediatrics  | 3 years      |
| Obstetrics/Gynecology   | 4 years      |
| General Psychiatry (including Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists; Substance Use Disorder Psychiatrists)                           | 4 years      |
| Internal Medicine/Family Medicine   | 4 years      |
| Internal Medicine/Pediatrics  | 4 years      |
| Family Medicine/Psychiatry  | 5 years      |
| Internal Medicine/Psychiatry  | 5 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       |

Allopathic and osteopathic medical students who are obligated under the NHSC SP or S2S LRP **MUST** complete one of the NHSC-approved residencies described above prior to beginning service or be subject to the damages provision described in the Breach section of the applicable APG and in their NHSC SP or S2S LRP Contract.

### **Osteopathic Internship (DOs Only)**

One-year osteopathic internships are approved for postgraduate training as some state Osteopathic Boards require a traditional rotating internship prior to entering a standard residency program. If a participant plans to pursue a one-year osteopathic internship, please provide a letter from the program director confirming 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 approved specialties listed above.** The total period of postgraduate training (including internship) cannot exceed 5 years.

### **Chief Residency (Optional)**

The NHSC may approve, on a case-by-case basis, consistent with the needs of the NHSC, requests submitted by physicians in their last year of postgraduate training to complete a one-year Chief Residency program.

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<sup>1</sup> The accreditation status of an allopathic residency or fellowship program can be verified through the [Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education](#).

The NHSC's decision to postpone a participant's NHSC site search to allow for completion of a Chief Residency will be based largely on the demand for that participant's specialty for that year. **Participants are advised not to sign a Chief Residency contract before requesting and receiving approval from the NHSC for an additional year of training.**

If a participant plans to pursue a Chief Residency in an NHSC-approved specialty, a **Notice of Intent** must be submitted to the NHSC through the [BHW Customer Service Portal](#) by **February 1 of their final year of residency.**

### **Fellowship Program (Optional)**

The NHSC may approve, on a case-by-case basis, consistent with the needs of the NHSC, Fellowship or Chief Residency requests by physician participants in their last year of postgraduate training. The following are currently approved by the NHSC:

- A 2-year Child Psychiatry fellowship following the completion of residency training in General Psychiatry;
- A 1-to-2-year Addiction Medicine fellowship following the completion of residency training in Family Medicine or General Internal Medicine or dual residency in Internal Medicine/Family Medicine;
- A 1-year Obstetrics/Gynecology fellowship following the completion of residency training in Family Medicine; and
- A 1-year Geriatrics fellowship following the completion of residency training in Family Medicine or General Internal Medicine or dual residency in Internal Medicine/Family Medicine.

If a participant plans to pursue fellowship training in any of the above listed specialties, a **Notice of Intent** must be submitted to the NHSC through the [BHW Customer Service Portal](#) by **February 1 of their final year of residency.**

The NHSC's decision to postpone a participant's NHSC site search to allow for completion of a fellowship will be based largely on the demand for his or her specialty for that year. **Participants are advised not to sign a fellowship contract before requesting and receiving approval from the NHSC for additional fellowship training.**

### **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 postgraduate training to ensure that the participant's NHSC service obligation will begin immediately upon completion of the approved postgraduate training.

It is the participant's responsibility to select a residency program that will adequately prepare him or her to sit for the USMLE or COMLEX and obtain the appropriate license to practice in the United States. **Participants must notify the NHSC when they have successfully completed all three parts of**

the medical licensing examinations, and are required to submit documentation of a passing score for each part of the exam through the [BHW Customer Service Portal](#).

**Documentation and Deadlines**

See the [Appendix](#) for program specific required documentation and deadlines.

## Postgraduate Training for Dentists

Dentists may request to defer (i.e., postpone) their NHSC service commitment to complete a NHSC-approved postgraduate training program if the NHSC determines that the training is consistent with the needs of the NHSC to deliver primary health care services in a HPSA. NHSC highly encourages dental students to complete **one** of the following postgraduate clinical training programs approved by the NHSC prior to starting their service obligation. Please note dental students are not required to complete a postgraduate training program.

| Approved Postgraduate Training for Dental Students | Duration |
|--|----------|
| General Practice Dentistry                         | 1 year   |
| Advanced Education in General Dentistry            | 1 year   |
| Pediatric Dentistry                                | 2 years  |
| Public Health Dentistry                            | 2 years  |
| Geriatrics Dentistry Fellowship                    | 2 years  |

If a participant plans to request postgraduate training in any of the above listed specialties, an electronic **Notice of Intent** must be submitted to the NHSC through the [BHW Customer Service Portal](#) by **February 1, 2021**.

The total duration of postgraduate training for dentists is limited to **two** years including a Chief Residency and/or Fellowship program.

The NHSC will not approve any other postgraduate training programs. Dental students who wish to pursue postgraduate training other than the postgraduate training programs listed above are advised not to apply for participation in the NHSC SP or NHSC S2S LRP.

Please note that once a dentist begins their service obligation, the dentist will **not** be able to pursue a postgraduate training program.

### **Dental Fellowship (Optional)**

Requests from participants in their last year of residency training to complete a one-year Geriatric Dentistry fellowship following the completion of postgraduate training may be approved. Other fellowship requests may be approved on a case-by-case basis, consistent with the needs of the NHSC.

Dentists not pursuing postgraduate training must begin their NHSC service commitment within six months of graduating from dental school. **Dental participants are not allowed to pursue postgraduate training after starting their NHSC service obligation.**

### **Licensure Examination**

Dental participants 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 will begin immediately upon completion of education or

approved postgraduate training.

**Documentation and Deadlines**

See the [Appendix](#) for program specific required documentation and deadlines.

## **Postgraduate Training for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses and Physician Assistants**

Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) and Physician Assistants (PAs) are not required to complete a postgraduate training program. However, they may request to defer (i.e., postpone) their NHSC service commitment to complete an NHSC-approved postgraduate training program if the NHSC determines that the training is consistent with the needs of the NHSC to deliver primary health care services in a HPSA.

If an APRN or PA plans to pursue postgraduate training in primary care, an electronic **Notice of Intent** must be submitted to the NHSC through the [BHW Customer Service Portal](#) by **February 1, 2021**.

APRNs and PAs who are **not** planning to complete postgraduate training must begin their NHSC service obligation within six months of graduating from their respective health professions program.

### **Documentation and Deadlines**

See the [Appendix](#) for program specific required documentation and deadlines.

## **Suspension of the Postgraduate Training Obligation**

A participant's obligation to complete approved postgraduate training may be suspended only for the reasons listed below. Requests for suspension and all required supporting documentation must be submitted via the [BHW Customer Service Portal](#). For further information, contact the Customer Care Center at 1-800-221-9393 (TTY: 1-877-897-9910) Monday through Friday (except federal holidays) 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. ET.

### **Medical and Personal Reasons**

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

### **Failure of Licensure Examination**

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

### **Call to Active Duty in the Armed Forces**

NHSC SP or S2S LRP reservists who are called to active duty will be granted a suspension for up to one year beginning on the activation date described in the order. In addition to the written request for a suspension, the participant must submit to the NHSC 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. The period of active duty will not be credited toward the NHSC service obligation.

### **Parental (Maternity, Paternity or Adoption) Leave**

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

## Appendix

### Deadlines and Required Documentation

**For NHSC SP Participants:**

| Due Date  | Required Documentation  |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
|   | Medical Students  | Dental Students   | APRNs, PAs   |
| February 1, 2021  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notice of Intent for Chief Residency or Fellowship</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notice of Intent for PGT, Chief Residency or Fellowship</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notice of Intent for PGT</li> </ul>   |
| May 1, 2021<br><b>(End of the final year of school)</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online Postgraduate Training Verification (PGTV)</li> <li>• Acceptance Letter from Program Director</li> <li>• Step/Level 2 USMLE/COMLEX Scores</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online PGTV</li> <li>• Acceptance Letter from Program Director <i>(required if postgraduate training is pursued)</i></li> <li>• Part II NBDE Scores</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online PGTV</li> <li>• Acceptance Letter from Program Director <i>(required if postgraduate training is pursued)</i></li> </ul> |
| May 1, 2022<br><b>(End of PGT Year 1)</b>               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online PGTV</li> <li>• Verification of Good Standing Letter from Program Director</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online PGTV <i>(if applicable)</i></li> <li>• Verification of Good Standing Letter from Program Director</li> </ul>  | N/A  |
| May 1, 2023<br><b>(End of PGT Year 2)</b>               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online PGTV</li> <li>• Verification of Good Standing Letter from Program Director</li> <li>• Step/Level 3 USMLE/COMLEX Scores</li> </ul>                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online PGTV <i>(if applicable)</i></li> <li>• Acceptance or Verification of Good Standing Letter from Program Director*</li> </ul>                             | N/A  |
| May 1, 2024<br><b>(End of PGT Year 3)</b>               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online PGTV</li> <li>• Verification of Good Standing Letter from Program Director</li> </ul>   | N/A   | N/A  |
| May 1, 2025<br><b>(End of PGT Year 4)</b>               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online PGTV <i>(if applicable)</i></li> <li>• Verification of Good Standing Letter from Program Director</li> </ul>  | N/A   | N/A  |
| May 1, 2026<br><b>(End of PGT Year 5)</b>               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online PGTV <i>(if applicable)</i></li> <li>• Verification of Good Standing Letter from Program Director</li> </ul>  | N/A   | N/A  |

\*Chief Residency or Fellowship Requests – See pages 7 through 10 for instructions.

**For NHSC S2S LRP Participants:**

| Due Date   | Required Documentation   |   |   |
|--|--|---|---|
|  | Medical Students   | Dental Students   | Advance Practice Nursing Students   |
| February 1, 2021                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notice of Intent for Chief Residency or Fellowship</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notice of Intent for Chief Residency or Fellowship</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notice of Intent PGT</li> </ul>  |
| May 1, 2021<br>(End of the Final Year of School) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proof of Expected Graduation by July 1, 2021</li> <li>• Step/Level 2 USMLE/COMLEX Scores</li> <li>• Online PGTV</li> <li>• Acceptance Letter from Program Director</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proof of Expected Graduation by July 1, 2021</li> <li>• Part II NBDE Scores</li> <li>• Online PGTV</li> <li>• Acceptance Letter from Program Director (<i>required if postgraduate training is pursued</i>)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proof of Expected Graduation by August 31, 2021</li> <li>• PGTV &amp; Acceptance Letter from Program Director (if applicable)</li> </ul> |
| May 1, 2022<br>(End of PGT Year 1)               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online PGTV</li> <li>• Loan Payment Verification</li> <li>• Verification of Good Standing Letter from Program Director</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online PGTV (<i>if applicable</i>)</li> <li>• Loan Payment Verification</li> <li>• Verification of Good Standing Letter from Program Director</li> </ul>   | N/A   |
| May 1, 2023<br>(End of PGT Year 2)               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online PGTV</li> <li>• Step/Level 3 USMLE/COMLEX Scores</li> <li>• Loan Payment Verification</li> <li>• Verification of Good Standing Letter from Program Director</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online PGTV (<i>if applicable</i>)</li> <li>• Loan Payment Verification</li> <li>• Acceptance or Verification of Good Standing Letter from Program Director*</li> </ul>  | N/A   |
| May 1, 2024<br>(End of PGT Year 3)               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online PGTV</li> <li>• Loan Payment Verification</li> <li>• Verification of Good Standing Letter from Program Director</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online PGTV (<i>if applicable</i>)</li> <li>• Loan Payment Verification</li> </ul>   | N/A   |

| Due Date                           | Required Documentation   |                 |                                   |
|------------------------------------|--|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
|                                    | Medical Students   | Dental Students | Advance Practice Nursing Students |
| May 1, 2025<br>(End of PGT Year 4) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online PGTV (if applicable)</li> <li>• Loan Payment Verification</li> <li>• Acceptance or Verification of Good Standing Letter from Program Director</li> </ul> | N/A             | N/A                               |
| May 1, 2026<br>(End of PGT Year 5) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online PGTV (if applicable)</li> <li>• Acceptance or Verification of Good Standing Letter from Program Director</li> </ul>                                      | N/A             | N/A                               |

\*Chief Residency or Fellowship Requests – See pages 7 through 10 for instructions.

## Additional Information

### RESOURCES FOR APPLICANTS

#### Provider's Clinical Support System for Medication-Assisted Treatment (PCSS-MAT)

The [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration](#) (SAMHSA) is the agency within the HHS whose primary aim is to improve the behavioral health of the nation while reducing the impact of mental illness and substance abuse in communities.

PCSS-MAT is a national training and clinical mentoring project developed in response to the prescription opioid misuse epidemic and the availability of pharmacotherapies to treat opioid use disorder. PCSS-MAT trains health professionals to provide effective, evidence-based, medication-assisted treatments to patients with opioid use disorder in primary care, psychiatric care, substance use disorder treatment, and pain management settings. For MAT training information, visit the [PCSS-MAT website](#).

#### Health Workforce Connector

[Health Workforce Connector](#) contains a searchable database for all NHSC-approved service sites, including those with current job openings.

#### HPSA Find

All NHSC scholars must serve in a federally designated HPSA. The websites below provide an understanding of where HPSAs are currently located.

- [Use HPSA Find](#)
- [Find Shortage Areas by Address](#)

#### Customer Care Center

Any individual with questions about the NHSC SP or NHSC S2S LRP may contact the Customer Care Center at 1-800-221-9393 (TTY – 1-877-897-9910) Monday through Friday (except federal holidays) from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET.

#### BHW Customer Service Portal

This web-based system allows NHSC SP scholars and S2S LRP participants to communicate with the NHSC, to make certain requests (e.g., suspensions, transfers, waivers), and to access the 6-month In-Service Verification Form.

#### NHSC Online Resources

- [NHSC Facebook](#)
- [NHSC Twitter](#)
- [NHSC LinkedIn](#)
- [NHSC Website](#)

## Definitions

**Advanced Practice Registered Nursing Degrees:** Include Nurse Practitioner and Certified Nurse Midwife Degrees

**Approved Postgraduate Training:** Postgraduate training programs approved by the NHSC for deferment of the service obligation.

**Deferment:** The status of a NHSC participant who is either required or has elected and obtained approval from the NHSC to postpone the NHSC service obligation in order to complete an NHSC approved postgraduate training to include an internship, chief residency, or fellowship.

**Letter from the Program Director:** A signed and dated letter from the postgraduate training Program Director on official letterhead stating acceptance/continuance in the residency program to include the start and end dates of the entire length of training.

**Loan Payment Verification Documents:** S2S LRP participants must provide documentation showing that all previous S2S LRP award funds were applied to reduce qualifying education loans approved by the NHSC. The payment history must be on official document, which includes the lenders name, accounts holder's name, account number, and identification of all payments made during the contract period.

**Notice of Intent:** Required for physicians requesting approval for a Chief Residency or Fellowship and all dentists, advanced practice registered nurses, and physician assistants requesting approval for postgraduate training.

**Postgraduate Training:** Additional training that a health professions student may participate in after they graduate from a health professions education program (e.g., internship, residency, chief residency, or fellowship).

**Suspension:** A delay in fulfilling training obligations, in intervals of up to one year. Requests for suspensions must be submitted in writing to the NHSC, with supporting documentation, as set forth in the "[Suspension of the NHSC Service Obligation during Postgraduate Training](#)" section of this Bulletin.