

Paying for your Health Professional Degree with the NHSC

Program and Application Tips

Let the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) help you pay for your health profession degree.

- **Review the program's Application and Program Guidance** in its entirety:
 - [NHSC Scholarship Program Application and Program Guidance](#)
 - [NHSC Students to Service Loan Repayment Program Application and Program Guidance](#)
- **Start early** to gather all required supporting documentation for your application, such as a U.S. birth certificate or passport to prove citizenship.
- **Know which documents are not acceptable** for proof, such as a driver's license or social security number card.
 - For a complete list of supporting documents review the Documents section of the appropriate Application and Program Guidance or visit our website.
- **Ensure all your documents are complete.**
- **Confirm all signatures are applied**, where required.
- **Follow up with your recommender** to submit their letter by the deadline.
- **Be aware of our funding priorities.** We consider these applicants first:
 - Current or former NHSC Scholarship Program participants.
 - Applicants who demonstrate characteristics they are likely to remain in a health professional shortage area after completing their NHSC obligation.
 - Applicants who verify they are from a disadvantaged background (eligible for Pell Grant for school, etc.).

Get more information:

- [Sign up](#) for updates and open application alerts.
- nhsc.hrsa.gov



While in High School and During Undergraduate Education

- Keep up your grades to be competitive when applying for health professions degree programs (medical, dental, nursing school, etc.).
- Look for opportunities to gain service experience that prepares you to serve in a Health Professional Shortage Area, such as:
 - Volunteering for community service in an underserved community.
 - Participating in a summer internship program.
 - Seeking out mentorship from local health care providers.
 - Participating in a health career training program focused on primary care, available in some parts of the United States.
- Networking with preceptors, academic advisors, and faculty. Consider professionals who would be willing to write you a letter of recommendation.

NHSC Financial Support Opportunities for Graduate-level Health Profession Students

[NHSC Scholarship Program](#)

- *Financial Support:* Provides **tax-free tuition payments**, required fees, other reasonable education costs and a monthly living stipend (which is taxable) for up to four years.
- *Service Commitment:* 2-4 years' full-time service in a Health Professional Shortage Area.
- *When to Apply:* As early as when you receive your letter of acceptance into a graduate-level health professions degree program or during any academic year of the program.

[NHSC Students to Service Loan Repayment Program](#)

- *Financial Support:* Offers **\$120,000** paid via four equal installments. You can start receiving loan repayment as early as while in residency or upon commencing the NHSC service obligation.
- *Service Commitment:* 3 years' full-time service in a Health Professional Shortage Area.
- *When to Apply:* During the final year of your graduate-level health professions degree program.

Eligible Health Professions Disciplines for NHSC School-based Programs

For the NHSC Scholarship Program and the NHSC Students to Service Loan Repayment Program, eligible disciplines include allopathic and osteopathic physicians, doctors of medicine in dentistry, doctors of dental surgery, nurse practitioners, certified nurse midwives, and physician assistants.

NHSC Financial Support Opportunities for Working Health Professionals

Apply to a loan repayment program when the application cycle opens:

- [NHSC Original Loan Repayment Program](#) - **\$50,000** for a 2-year full-time service obligation or **\$25,000** for a 2-year half-time service obligation.
- [NHSC Substance Use Disorder Workforce Loan Repayment Program](#) - **\$75,000** for a 3-year full-time service obligation or **\$37,500** for a 3-year half-time service obligation.
- [NHSC Rural Community Loan Repayment Program](#) - **\$100,000** for a 3-year full-time service obligation or **\$50,000** for a 3-year half-time service obligation.