



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

Academic Year 2025-2026 Postgraduate Training Bulletin

January 2025

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

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.

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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 Scholarship Program and the Students to Service Loan Repayment Program is to increase access to primary care in underserved communities. The National Health Service Corps Scholarship Program 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 within the United States.

The National Health Service Corps Students to Service Loan Repayment Program provides loan repayment to students in their last year of medical, dental, physician assistant studies or advanced practice nursing school in return for a commitment to provide primary health services in designated Health Professional Shortage Areas. The information supplied by National Health Service Corps Scholarship Program and Students to Service Loan Repayment Program 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 to monitor National Health Service Corps Scholarship Program and Students to Service Loan Repayment Program-related activities. The information may also be disclosed outside of the Department of Health and Human Services, 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.

Postgraduate Training Request Overview

This bulletin describes the terms and conditions for deferring (postponing) the National Health Service Corps service obligation in order to complete postgraduate training, and the types of postgraduate training programs approved by the National Health Service Corps (including internships, chief residency, or fellowships) for Scholarship Program participants and Students to Service Loan Repayment Program participants. For further details on your specific requirements, refer to the Application and Program Guidance for your program.

- [National Health Service Corps Scholarship Application and Program Guidance](#)
- [National Health Service Corps Students to Service Loan Repayment Application and Program Guidance](#)

Scholars in the National Health Service Corps Scholarship Program and Students to Service Loan Repayment Program (from now on referred to as “participants”) who are required, or are electing, to complete a postgraduate training program must submit a request through their My BHW Account and receive approval by the National Health Service Corps. To learn how to submit a postgraduate training request, visit the [NHSC Postgraduate Training Bulletin](#) web page.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN 2025

- Applicants are encouraged to review the instructions in this Postgraduate Training Bulletin, and read the information on the [NHSC Postgraduate Training Bulletin](#) web page.
- Last year, the National Health Service Corps developed a new, modernized process for participants to submit an online Postgraduate Training Request. [Tutorial videos](#) are available on HRSA’s YouTube channel to assist participants in navigating the new, modernized process.

The National Health Service Corps must approve the postgraduate training request **prior to** the start of any postgraduate training programs to ensure continued compliance with National Health Service Corps requirements. In addition, participants will be required to complete a Postgraduate Training 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.***

Requirements While in Postgraduate Training

The National Health Service Corps expects participants to start their postgraduate training after graduation. While in postgraduate training, participants are subject to the following requirements:

1. Pursue postgraduate training that is approved by the National Health Service Corps;
2. Submit the Postgraduate Training Request by the **May 1, 2025 deadline**, and include all required documentation to the National Health Service Corps through My BHW Account.

To submit a Postgraduate Training Request, go to the [NHSC Postgraduate Training Bulletin](#) web page. **Requests must be made annually.**

- a) Submitting an incomplete or late request will delay processing.
- b) Participants must complete an annual Postgraduate Training Request, which must be approved by the National Health Service Corps prior to the start of any postgraduate training programs. This ensures continued compliance with National Health Service Corps requirements.
- c) For physicians who are required to complete a primary care residency, failure to submit a timely and complete Postgraduate Training Request may result in a determination that the participant has breached their National Health Service Corps contract.

- d) Postgraduate Training Requests from other health professionals are optional; however, failure to submit a timely and complete Postgraduate Training Request may result in the participant being assigned for service immediately.
- 3. Make no change to the type or period of training without prior written approval from the National Health Service Corps;
- 4. Do not incur a conflicting service commitment;
- 5. Update any personal contact information on My BHW Account. To update personal contact information, go to the [NHSC Postgraduate Training Bulletin](#) web page; and
- 6. Notify the National Health Service Corps immediately of any changes that affect the participant's approved training and availability for service, such as withdrawal, suspension request, release from training, maternal/paternal leave, failure of board exams, or request for a switch in training that requires prior National Health Service Corps review. If a situation arises in which completion of mandatory postgraduate training is in question, please contact the National Health Service Corps immediately by submitting a question via the "Ask a Question" option through My BHW Account. To submit a question, go to the [NHSC Postgraduate Training Bulletin](#) web page.

Ineligible Postgraduate Training Programs

Postgraduate training programs that are not approved include the following:

- (1) Non-primary health care programs (for example, emergency medicine, surgery, radiology, neurology, anesthesiology, ophthalmology, pathology, oral surgery, endodontics, sports medicine, global health, cardiology) or other programs that the National Health Service Corps determines are not consistent with the needs of the National Health Service Corps to provide primary health care services in Health Professional Shortage Areas;
- (2) Postgraduate health professions education conducted by a branch of the Armed Forces of the United States. Scholars in such programs incur military service obligations that conflict with the service obligation required under the National Health Service Corps Scholarship Program; and
- (3) Transitional residency training (except as specified for Doctors of Osteopathic Medicine).

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

Physicians should refer to their National Health Service Corps contract and the associated Application and Program Guidance 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 National Health Service Corps immediately by submitting a question via the "Ask a Question" option through My BHW Account. To submit a question, go to [NHSC Postgraduate Training Bulletin](#) web page.

Dentists, Advanced Practice Registered Nurses, and Physician Assistants who fail to comply with the terms and conditions of any optional postgraduate training must immediately begin their National Health Service Corps service commitment. For questions, please contact the National Health Service Corps by submitting a question via the "Ask a Question" option through My BHW Account. To submit a question, go to the [NHSC Postgraduate Training Bulletin](#) web page.

Switching Postgraduate Training Programs

If a participant plans to switch to another National Health Service Corps-approved postgraduate training (residency) program, he or she must obtain prior written approval from the National Health Service Corps. The participant must submit a letter to the National Health Service Corps discussing the reasons for planning to switch residency programs. In addition, if the participant has already been accepted into a new training program, a letter from the new program director indicating the participant's acceptance into the new training program will need to be submitted to the National Health Service Corps. The letter from the new program director must indicate the participant's overall postgraduate training anticipated start and completion dates in the new training program, Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education program ID (if applicable), as well as how much credit, if any, will be given for the prior training program. The notification must be sent through the Bureau of Health Workforce Customer Service Portal via the "Ask a Question" option no later than 60 days before the start of the new training program.

The National Health Service Corps 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 National Health Service Corps. See the [Appendix](#).

Chief Residencies and Fellowships

Physicians and dentists are eligible for additional postgraduate training, such as a chief residency or fellowship. Prior to the online Postgraduate Training Request, an electronic Notice of Intent must be submitted by **February 7, 2025**. Deferment requests for chief residencies or fellowships are approved or disapproved based on the needs of the National Health Service Corps and cannot exceed the total maximum five (5)-year limit. The National Health Service Corps' goal is to place well-trained providers in underserved communities as soon as possible.

Financial Support from the National Health Service Corps While in Postgraduate Training

National Health Service Corps Scholarship Program participants do not receive financial support from the National Health Service Corps (for example, stipend, payment for training expenses or certifying exams), nor do they incur an additional National Health Service Corps service obligation during postgraduate training.

National Health Service Corps Students to Service Loan Repayment Program participants who pursue postgraduate training

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 National Health Service Corps Students to Service Loan Repayment Program funds are subject to compliance with program requirements. Any delay in the submission of an annual Postgraduate Training Verification may result in a delay in the annual installment payment.

No National Health Service Corps Service Commitment Credit During Postgraduate Training

The postgraduate training period is **not** credited toward satisfying the National Health Service Corps Scholarship Program or National Health Service Corps Students to Service Loan Repayment Program service obligation, even if the training occurs in a National Health Service Corps-approved site or a facility located in a Health Professional Shortage Area.

Training Completion and Site Search for Service Obligation

The Health Resources and Services Administration's Division of Regional Operations 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 a Division of Regional Operations analyst to assist with the site search process. Please note that for National Health Service Corps Scholarship Program participants, **the applicable Health Professional Shortage Area score requirement will be determined by their postgraduate training completion date.** The [Health Workforce Connector](#) is a free and useful tool to begin a site search.

Key Dates for Postgraduate Training Request for Submission

Key Dates	
Notice of Intent Open/Close Period:	January 20, 2025, to February 7, 2025
Postgraduate Training Application Cycle Open/Close Date:	March 3, 2025, to May 1, 2025
Students to Service Loan Repayment Program Participant Contract Termination Deadline:	Spring 2025 Request to terminate the contract within 60 days following the execution of the contract (which means the signature of both parties) OR at any time if the participant has not received funds due under the contract.

Postgraduate Training for Physicians

Allopathic and osteopathic physicians are required to complete accredited primary medical care postgraduate training in a National Health Service Corps-approved primary care specialty before commencing service.¹ Physicians may complete any combination of National Health Service Corps-approved postgraduate training listed in the following table, in addition to a chief residency or fellowship as long as the total postgraduate training duration does not exceed five (5) 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.

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

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 National Health Service Corps Scholarship Program or National Health Service Corps Students to Service Loan Repayment Program **MUST** complete one of the National Health Service Corps-approved residencies described in the Approved Postgraduate Training Specialties for Medical Students table prior to beginning service or be subject to the damages provision described in the Breach section of their applicable Application and Program Guidance and in their National Health Service Corps Scholarship Program or National Health Service Corps Students to Service Loan Repayment Program 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, they must provide a letter from the program director confirming that the internship is for one year and is a prerequisite to entering residency training. The letter can be submitted through the Postgraduate Training Verification for the year they are entering the internship for the National Health Service Corps' review. **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 in the Approved Postgraduate Training Specialties for Medical Students table.** The total period of postgraduate training (including internship) cannot exceed five (5) years.

Chief Residency (Optional)

The National Health Service Corps may approve, on a case-by-case basis, consistent with the needs of the National Health Service Corps, requests submitted by physicians in their last year of postgraduate training to complete a one-year chief residency program. The total period of deferment (including a chief residency) cannot exceed five (5) years.

If a participant plans to pursue a chief residency in a National Health Service Corps-approved specialty, an electronic **Notice of Intent** must be submitted to the National Health Service Corps through their My BHW Account by **February 7 of their final year of residency**. To submit a Notice of Intent, go to the [NHSC Postgraduate Training Bulletin](#) web page.

The National Health Service Corps' decision to postpone a participant's National Health Service Corps 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 National Health Service Corps for an additional year of training.**

The National Health Service Corps will send an email with a link in early 2025 to eligible participants to complete an electronic Notice of Intent. Participants must ensure that their contact information is up to date in the portal as the National Health Service Corps will send status notifications and reminders to the contact information on file.

Fellowship Program (Optional)

The National Health Service Corps may approve, on a case-by-case basis, consistent with the needs of the National Health Service Corps, fellowship or chief residency requests by physician participants in their last year of postgraduate training. The following fellowship programs are currently approved by the National Health Service Corps:

- Two-year child psychiatry fellowship following the completion of residency training in general psychiatry;
- One- to two-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;
- One-year obstetrics/gynecology fellowship following the completion of residency training in family medicine; and
- One-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, an electronic **Notice of Intent** must be submitted to the National Health Service Corps through My BHW Account by **February 7 of their final year of residency**. To submit a Notice of Intent, go to the [NHSC Postgraduate Training Bulletin](#) web page. See instructions in the How to Submit a Notice of Intent for Physicians [section](#) under How to Submit a Notice of Intent and online Postgraduate Training Request [section](#) of this bulletin.

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

Licensure Examination

The National Health Service Corps requires physicians to pass **all three parts** of the medical licensing examination (the United States Medical Licensing Examination or The Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Licensing Examination) prior to completing their last year of postgraduate training to ensure that the participant's National Health Service Corps 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 the participant to sit for the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) or Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Licensing Examination (COMLEX) and obtain the appropriate license to practice in the United States. **Participants must notify the National Health Service Corps 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 their My BHW Account.** To submit score documentation, go to the [NHSC Postgraduate Training Bulletin](#) web page.

How to Submit a Notice of Intent for Physicians (If Applicable)

Physicians (MD/DO) currently in their final year of residency who plan to pursue a chief residency or fellowship must submit an electronic Notice of Intent by **February 7, 2025**, before they submit an online Postgraduate Training Request:

1. The National Health Service Corps will send an email communication with a link in early 2024 to eligible participants to complete an electronic Notice of Intent. Participants must ensure that their contact information is up to date in the portal, as the National Health Service Corps will send status notifications and reminders to the contact information on file.
2. Once you respond to the Notice of Intent and inform the National Health Service Corps you "Will not Defer", you will not be able to change the response. However, if you decide to pursue a residency or fellowship thereafter, you must notify the National Health Service Corps by submitting an inquiry through My BHW Account. To submit an inquiry, go to the [NHSC Postgraduate Training Bulletin](#) web page. In your inquiry, please note that you are seeking to pursue a residency or fellowship and had initially responded to the Notice of Intent and want to change your decision. In addition, you should indicate the type of residency or fellowship you are interested in and provide the required documentation.

How to Submit an Online Postgraduate Training Request for Physicians (MD/DO)

Medical Students (MD/DO) in their final year of school must submit a complete online Postgraduate Training Request by **May 1, 2025**. Additionally, **Physicians (MD/DO)** currently enrolled in postgraduate training must submit an online Postgraduate Training Request by **May 1** annually for verification.

The National Health Service Corps will send an email communication with a link in early 2025 to eligible participants to complete an electronic Notice of Intent. Participants must ensure that their contact information is up to date in the portal, as the National Health Service Corps will send status notifications and reminders to the contact information on file.

The program has developed a new, modernized process for participants to submit an online Postgraduate Training Request. The National Health Service Corps will provide participants with a user tutorial guide to assist in navigating the new modernized process. Once participants receive the link, they should follow the prompts to submit the following documents:

1. Required Documentation

- a. **Proof of Expected Graduation by July 1, 2025 (Applicable only to Students to Service Loan Repayment Program participants in their last year of medical school):** Participants must submit a letter from an appropriate school official on official letterhead confirming that the student is expected to graduate prior to **July 1, 2025**.
- b. **A Current Year Postgraduate Training Verification Letter:**
 - The letter must
 - Be on official letterhead.
 - Be signed and dated by the program director.
 - Include the program start and end dates; must be in a MM/DD/YYYY format.
 - Include the [Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education](#) (ACGME) Program ID number.
 - Indicate whether the participant is in good standing with the program (for continuing participants).
- c. **Official Passing Scores of Step 2 and Step 3 of the United States Medical Licensing Examination or the Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Licensing Examination.**
 - Provide official proof of scheduling of Step 3 examination if you have not taken the test prior to submitting your third year postgraduate verification.
 - Notify the National Health Service Corps if you have failed and need to retake the exam and provide any documentation of your intent to retake the exam. Provide documentation of your intent to retake the exam such as official rescheduling notification from the board organization. Also, provide your updated score report once they are attained.

See the [Appendix](#) for a complete list of required documentation and submission deadlines for each professional program organized by year in school and/or postgraduate training.

Postgraduate Training for Dentists

Dentists may request to defer (that means, postpone) their National Health Service Corps service commitment to complete a National Health Service Corps-approved postgraduate training program if the National Health Service Corps determines that the training is consistent with the needs of the National Health Service Corps to deliver primary health care services in a Health Professional Shortage Area. The National Health Service Corps highly encourages dental students to complete **one** of the following postgraduate clinical training programs approved by the National Health Service Corps prior to starting their service obligation. Please note that dental students are encouraged but **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 specialties listed in the Approved Postgraduate Training for Dental Students table, an electronic **Notice of Intent** must be submitted to the National Health Service Corps through their My BHW Account by **February 7, 2025**. To submit a Notice of Intent, go to the [NHSC Postgraduate Training Bulletin](#) web page. See instructions on how to submit a Notice of Intent and online Postgraduate Training Request under the How to Submit a Notice of Intent for Dentists section.

The total duration of postgraduate training for dentists is limited to **two** years including a chief residency and/or fellowship program.

The National Health Service Corps 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 National Health Service Corps Scholarship Program or the National Health Service Corps Students to Service Loan Repayment 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 if they are consistent with the needs of the National Health Service Corps.

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

Licensure Examination

Dental participants are expected to take the appropriate licensure exams at the earliest possible date. The National Health Service Corps requires dentists to pass the Integrated National Board Dental Examination prior to completing their last year of dental school or approved postgraduate training to ensure that the National Health Service Corps service obligation will begin immediately upon completion of education or approved postgraduate training.

How to Submit a Notice of Intent for Dentists

Dental students currently in their final year of school who plan to pursue a residency or fellowship must submit an electronic Notice of Intent by **February 7, 2025**, before they submit an online Postgraduate Training Request.

Dentists currently in residency who plan to pursue a chief residency or fellowship must submit a Notice of Intent by **February 7, 2025**, before they submit an online Postgraduate Training Request.

The National Health Service Corps will send an email communication with a link in early 2025 directing eligible participants to complete an electronic Notice of Intent. Please ensure that your contact information is up to date in your My BHW Account, as the National Health Service Corps will send status notifications and reminders to the contact information on file. To verify your contact information, go to the [NHSC Postgraduate Training Bulletin](#) web page.

How to Submit an Online Postgraduate Training Request for Dentists

Dental Students in their final year of school must submit a complete online Postgraduate Training Request by **May 1, 2025**. Additionally, **dentists** currently enrolled in Postgraduate training must submit an Online Postgraduate Training Request by **May 1** annually for verification.

The National Health Service Corps will send a communication with a link in early 2025 to eligible participants to complete an electronic Notice of Intent. Please ensure that your contact information is up to date in your My BHW Account <https://programportal.hrsa.gov/extranet/public>, as the National Health Service Corps will send status notifications and reminders to the contact information on file. To verify your contact information, go to the [NHSC Postgraduate Training Bulletin](#) web page.

The National Health Service Corps has developed a new, modernized process for participants to submit an online Postgraduate Training Request and has a [How-to User Tutorial video](#) on the HRSA YouTube page to assist in navigating the new, modernized process.

Once you receive the link, please follow the prompts to submit the following documents:

- a. **Proof of Expected Graduation by July 1, 2025 (Applicable only to Students to Service Loan Repayment Program participants in their last year of dental school):** Participants must submit a letter from an appropriate school official on official letterhead confirming that the student is expected to graduate prior to July 1, 2025.
- b. **A Current Year Postgraduate Training Verification Letter:**
 - The letter must:
 - Be on official letterhead.
 - Signed and dated by the program director.
 - Include the program start and end dates must be in a MM/DD/YYYY format.
 - Indicate whether the participant is in good standing with the program (for continuing participants).
- c. **Official Passing Scores of the Integrated National Board Dental Examination (INBDE)**

See the [Appendix](#) for a complete list of required documentation and submission deadlines for each professional program organized by year in school and/or postgraduate training.

Postgraduate Training for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses and Physician Assistants

Advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants are encouraged but **not** required to complete a postgraduate training program. However, they may request to defer (that means, postpone) their National Health Service Corps service commitment to complete a National Health Service Corps-approved postgraduate training program if the National Health Service Corps determines that the training is consistent with the needs of the National Health Service Corps to deliver primary health care services in a Health Professional Shortage Area. For advanced practice registered nurse scholars entering postgraduate training in 2025-2026, the National Health Service Corps Scholarship Program approves a one-year residency in a primary care specialty.

If an advanced practice registered nurse or physician assistant plans to pursue postgraduate training in primary care, an electronic **Notice of Intent** must be submitted to the National Health Service Corps through their My BHW Account by **February 7, 2025**. To submit a Notice of Intent, go to the [NHSC Postgraduate Training Bulletin](#) web page. See instructions on how to submit a Notice of Intent and online Postgraduate Training Request section.

Advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants who are **not** planning to complete postgraduate training must begin their National Health Service Corps service obligation within six months of graduating from their respective health professions program.

How to Submit a Notice of Intent for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses and Physician Assistants

Advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants currently in their final year of school who plan to pursue a residency or fellowship must submit a Notice of Intent by **February 7, 2025**, before they submit an online Postgraduate Training Request.

The National Health Service Corps will send an email communication with a link in early 2025 to eligible participants to complete an electronic Notice of Intent. Please ensure that your contact information is up to date in your My BHW Account, as the National Health Service Corps will send status notifications and reminders to the contact information on file. To verify your contact information, go to the [NHSC Postgraduate Training Bulletin](#) web page.

How to Submit an Online Postgraduate Training Request for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses and Physician Assistants

Advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants in their final year of school must submit a complete online Postgraduate Training Request by **May 1, 2025**.

The National Health Service Corps will send an email communication with a link in early 2025 to eligible participants to complete an electronic Notice of Intent. Please ensure that your contact information is up to date in your My BHW Account, as the National Health Service Corps will send status notifications and reminders to the contact information on file. To verify your contact information, go to the [NHSC Postgraduate Training Bulletin](#) web page.

National Health Service Corps has developed a new, modernized process for participants to submit an online Postgraduate Training Request. The National Health Service Corps has posted a [How-to User Tutorial video](#) on the HRSA YouTube page to assist in navigating the new modernized process.

Once you receive the link, please follow the prompts to submit the following documents:

- a. **Proof of Expected Graduation by August 31, 2025** (Applicable only to Students to Service Loan Repayment Program participants in their last year of health professional program). Participants must submit a letter from an appropriate school official on official letterhead confirming that the student is expected to graduate prior to August 31, 2025.
- b. **A Current Year Postgraduate Training Verification Letter:**
 - The letter must:
 - Be on official letterhead.
 - Signed and dated by the program director.
 - Include the program start and end dates must be in a MM/DD/YYYY format.
 - Indicate whether the participant is in good standing with the program (for continuing participants).

See the [Appendix](#) for a complete list of required documentation and submission deadlines for each professional program organized by year in school/postgraduate training.

Suspension of the Postgraduate Training

A participant's obligation to complete approved postgraduate training may be suspended only for the reasons listed in this section. Requests for suspension and all required supporting documentation must be submitted via the My BHW Account. To request a suspension, please go to the [NHSC Postgraduate Training Bulletin](#) web page. For more 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 (for example, child or spouse) resulting in the participant's temporary inability to participate in postgraduate training. Upon receipt of a suspension request, the National Health Service Corps 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 United States Medical Licensing Examination, the Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Licensing Examination, or the Integrated National Board 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 National Health Service Corps: (1) a copy of the participant's 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 the participant's knowledge and skills while waiting to pass the licensure examination.

Call to Active Duty in the Armed Forces

National Health Service Corps Scholarship Program scholars or Students to Service Loan Repayment Program participants who are military reservists and who are called to active duty will be granted a suspension for up to one year beginning on the activation date described in their orders. In addition to the written request for a suspension, the participant must submit to the National Health Service Corps a copy of the orders 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 National Health Service Corps. The period of active duty will not be credited toward the National Health Service Corps 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 National Health Service Corps 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.

Breaching the National Health Service Corps Contract

Failure to complete a postgraduate training for applicable disciplines for any reason is a breach of the National Health Service Corps contract. The National Health Service Corps will work with participants to assist them, to the extent possible, in avoiding a breach. A participant should immediately contact the National Health Service Corps if a situation arises in which they are potentially unable to fulfill their postgraduate training.

Guidelines for Completing the Online Postgraduate Training Request

The modernized online postgraduate training platform requires the completion of several sections to submit a request. Please review each section below carefully to enter or verify your details on the request. Please also refer to the [Postgraduate Training Request videos](#) on HRSA's YouTube channel for details on navigating the process.

1. Personal Detail. Upon logging into the portal, ensure that your contact details below are up to date.
 - Name
 - Mailing Address
 - Phone Number
 - Email

2. Program Information (for new/initial submission of a postgraduate training)

Answer the question - *Will you begin a postgraduate training program in the current year?*
Yes/No

If the response is **Yes**, then proceed to sections **4-6**.
3. Verification Information (for participants continuing in their postgraduate training from prior years)

Answer the following questions.

Will you fulfill the requirements of the current year in previously approved program?
Yes/No

Will you begin your next year in a previously approved training program on or before July 1st of the current calendar year? Yes/No

If the response is **Yes** to either question, then proceed to the below sections.
4. Approved Training Program Details
 - Program ID - The Program ID column reflects the unique training program ID assigned by the accreditation agency (ACGME, CODA, etc.)
MD or DO - [ACGME link](#)
 - **Program Name** – Select the name of the program that correlates to the program ID in the portal search.
 - **Residency Types** - The Training Type column reflects the training program type.
 - Internship
 - Residency
 - Fellowship
 - Chief Residency
 - **Specialty** - The Specialty column reflects the training program specialty.
 - Family Medicine
 - General Internal Medicine
 - General Pediatrics
 - Obstetrics/Gynecology
 - General Psychiatry
 - Internal Medicine/Family Medicine
 - Internal Medicine/Pediatrics
 - Family Medicine/Psychiatry
 - Internal Medicine/Psychiatry
 - General Practice Dentistry
 - Advanced Education in General Dentistry
 - Pediatric Dentistry
 - Public Health Dentistry
 - Geriatrics Dentistry
 - Addiction Medicine
 - Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
 - Geriatrics
 - **Year in Training** – Select or verify for which year the PGT is being submitted (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, etc.)

- **Length** - The Length column reflects the training program length *in months*.
- **Start Date** - The Start Date column reflects the start date of the training program (not annual term). Please ensure you select the Exact date in your selection, No estimate of start date.
- **End Date** - The End Date column reflects the end date of the training program (not annual term). Please ensure you select the Exact date in your selection, No estimates of end date.

5. Documents

Upload the required documents below.

- **Verification of Good Standing Letter from the Program Director** (The letter must be signed and dated by the program director; be on official letterhead, include the program start and end dates, ACGME program ID number, and indicate whether the participant is in good standing with the program (for continuing participants).
- **Step 2/Level 2 of USMLE or COMLEX Board Exam Score Report** – 1st year MD/DO participants.
- **Step 3/Level 3 of USMLE or COMLEX Board Exam Score Report** – 3rd year MD/DO participants.
- **Passing Scores of the Integrated National Board Dental Examination (INBDE)** – 1st year Dental participants
- **Proof of Expected Graduation from School** (Only applicable to Students to Service Loan Repayment Program participants entering their first year of postgraduate training)

6. Review and Submit

- Review your responses in each section carefully to ensure accuracy before submitting the Postgraduate Training request.
- Click on the checkbox in the Electronic Signature card and enter portal password.

Click the “Submit” button at the bottom of the page.

Appendix A

Annual Postgraduate Training Required Documentation

For National Health Service Corps Scholarship Program (SP) and Students to Service Loan Repayment (Students to Service Loan Repayment Program) Participants
Refer to the “How to Submit an Online Postgraduate Training Request” for your designated Discipline.

Discipline	1 st Year 2025	2 nd Year 2026	3 rd Year 2027	4 th Year 2028	5 th Year 2029
Physician	<p>Proof of Expected Graduation by July 1, 2025 (applicable only to Students to Service Loan Repayment Program participants)</p> <p>Postgraduate Training Verification Letter from the Program Director</p> <p>Step 2/Level 2 of United States Medical Licensing Examination/Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Licensing Examination Score</p>	<p>Updated Postgraduate Training Verification Letter from the Program Director</p>	<p>Updated Postgraduate Training Verification Letter from the Program Director</p> <p>Step 3/Level 3 of United States Medical Licensing Examination/Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Licensing Examination Score</p> <p>Required: If you have not taken the exam by the 3rd year, provide official proof of your scheduled exam.</p>	<p>Updated Postgraduate Training Verification Letter from the Program Director (as applicable for continuing residency, entry into Chief Residency or Fellowship* training)</p>	<p>Updated Postgraduate Training Verification Letter from the Program Director (as applicable for continuing residency, entry into Chief Residency* or Fellowship* training)</p>
Dentist	<p>Proof of Expected Graduation by July 1, 2025 (applicable only to Students to Service Loan Repayment Program participants)</p> <p>Postgraduate Training Verification Letter from the Program Director</p> <p>Integrated National Board Dental Examination (INBDE) Score Report</p>	<p>Updated Postgraduate Training Verification Letter from the Program Director (as applicable for continuing residency, entry into Chief Residency or Fellowship* training)</p>	N/A	N/A	N/A
Advanced Practice Registered Nurse, Physician Assistant	<p>Proof of Expected Graduation by August 31, 2025 (applicable only to Students to Service Loan Repayment Program participants)</p> <p>Postgraduate Training Verification Letter from the Program Director</p>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

*Chief Residency or Fellowship Requests – See pages 6 through 12 for further information

Appendix B

Notice of Intent for Postgraduate Training

**For National Health Service Corps Scholarship Program and
Students to Service Loan Repayment Participants**

Discipline	Open Date	Due Date
Physician	January 20, 2025	February 7, 2025
Dentist	January 20, 2025	February 7, 2025
Advanced Practice Registered Nurse and Physician Assistant	January 20, 2025	February 7, 2025

Key Dates for Postgraduate Training Request Submission

	Open Date	Due Date
Postgraduate Training Application Cycle	March 3 3, 2025	May 1, 2025
Students to Service Loan Repayment Program Contract Termination Deadline	Spring 2025 Request for a contract termination within 60 days following the execution of the contract which means the signature of both parties) OR at any time if the participant has not received funds due under the contract.	The Secretary may terminate a National Health Service Corps Students to Service Loan Repayment Program contract if: (1) The participant submits a signed written request to terminate the contract within 60 days following the execution of the contract, and repays all funds paid to, or on behalf of, the participant under that contract within the 60-day time period; OR (2) The participant submits a signed written request to terminate the contract at any time before the participant receives the funds due under the participant's contract.

Paperwork Reduction Act Public Burden Statement

The purpose of this information collection is to obtain information through the National Health Service Corps Scholarship Program and the National Health Service Corps Students to Service Loan Repayment Program, that is used to assess an applicant's eligibility, qualifications as well as monitor program participants' enrollment in school, postgraduate training, and compliance with program requirements. 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 07/31/2026. This information collection is mandatory/voluntary (Sections 338A-H of the Public Health Service Act [42 USC 254l-q], as amended.) Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.79 hours 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 Health Resources and Services Administration Reports Clearance Officer, 5600 Fishers Lane, Room 14N136B, Rockville, Maryland, 20857.

Additional Information

RESOURCES FOR APPLICANTS

Provider's Clinical Support System for Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (PCSS-MOUD)

Provider's Clinical Support System for Medications for Opioid Use Disorder 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. Provider's Clinical Support System for Medications for Opioid Use Disorder trains health professionals to provide effective, evidence-based medications for opioid use disorder to patients with opioid use disorder in primary care, psychiatric care, substance use disorder treatment, and pain management settings. For Medications for Opioid Use Disorder training information, visit the [National Health Service Corps Provider's Clinical Support System for Medications for Opioid Use Disorder](#) web page.

Health Workforce Connector

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

HPSA Find

All National Health Service Corps scholars must serve in a federally designated Health Professional Shortage Area. The websites below provide an understanding of where Health Professional Shortage Areas are currently located.

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

Customer Care Center

Any individual with questions about the National Health Service Corps Scholarship Program or the

Students to Service Loan Repayment Program 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.

My BHW Account

The web-based My BHW Account allows National Health Service Corps Scholarship Program scholars and Students to Service Loan Repayment Program participants to communicate with the National Health Service Corps, to make certain requests (for example, suspensions, transfers, waivers), and to access the six (6)-month In-Service Verification Form.

National Health Service Corps Online Resources

- [National Health Service Corps Website](#)
- [National Health Service Corps Facebook](#)
- [National Health Service Corps Twitter](#)
- [National Health Service Corps LinkedIn](#)
- [National Health Service Corps Instagram](#)

Definitions

Advanced Practice Registered Nursing Degrees: Include nurse practitioner and certified nurse midwife degrees.

Approved Postgraduate Training: Postgraduate training programs approved by the National Health Service Corps for deferment of the service obligation.

Deferment: The status of a National Health Service Corps participant who is either required or has elected and obtained approval from the National Health Service Corps to postpone the National Health Service Corps service obligation in order to complete a National Health Service Corps-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.

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 (for example, internship, residency, chief residency, or fellowship).

Internship: the position of a student or trainee who works in an organization, sometimes without pay, to gain work experience or satisfy requirements for a qualification.

Residency: a period of specialized medical training in a health care facility; the position of a resident.

Chief Residency: A chief resident is the leader of a group of resident doctors in a residency program. The chief resident can supervise clinical duties, administrative functions and other activities determined by the program director and other senior doctors at a health care facility.

Fellowship: the training a medical provider receives after completing their residency and/or educational training to become a specialist in their chosen field of medicine. During a fellowship, the practitioner (or “fellow”) works closely with a specialist to deepen their experience and knowledge of their specialty.

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