



The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) operates the largest education and training platform for health professionals in the Nation. Over 60 clinical disciplines are represented in VA's health professions education (HPE) programs. During the 2021-2022 academic year (AY), more than 118,000 health professions trainees (HPTs) participated in over 7,700 training programs offered through partnerships between 150 VA medical facilities and over 1,400 academic institutions. Over 34,000 trainees in VA come from Minority Serving Institutions, such as Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs) and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). Ninety six percent of the nation's medical schools including 151 of 157 Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME)-accredited allopathic schools and 35 of 37 Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA)-accredited osteopathic medical schools are affiliated with VA.

VA's HPT workforce is critical to maintaining timely Veteran access to care. VA HPE programs also play a leading role in creating the health care workforce for VA and the Nation. An estimated 70% of VA podiatrists and psychologists, 82% of VA optometrists and 64% of VA physicians participated in VA HPE programs prior to recruitment into staff positions.

Official 7-Year Statistics Paid and Without Compensation Health Professions Trainees (HPTs)*

	FY2016	AY2017	AY2018	AY2019	AY2020	AY2021	AY2022
Advanced Fellows	452	303	652	664	653	634	621
Associated Health	26,932	25,428	25,370	24,895	21,215	20,463	22,059
Dental Residents & Students	1,044	849	773	732	863	1,012	1,025
Physician Residents	43,768	44,333	45,296	45,363	47,521	48,049	49,940
Medical Students	25,707	24,763	24,643	26,894	26,652	26,271	26,802
Nursing Trainees	28,845	27,549	23,815	25,194	20,771	16,673	17,829
Non-Health Profession	463	412	341	448	337	204	179
Grand Total	127,211	123,637	120,890	124,190	118,012	113,306	118,455

COVID-19 interrupted training rotations in 2020, 2021 and 2022.

100% OF CHOICE ACT RESIDENCY POSITIONS AWARDED

The Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (VACAA) provided VA with the ability to increase the number of graduate medical education (GME) physician residency positions by 1,500 over a ten-year period. All of the positions have been awarded; 66% were awarded in primary care (internal medicine, family medicine and geriatrics) and mental health (psychiatry and sub-specialties).

VACAA GME Expansion by Specialty

VACAA GME Initiative through 8th Round	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	Round 6	Round 7	Round 8*	Cumulative 8-yr Totals
Primary Care	102.42	61.15	70.72	116.1	94.78	68.1	55.36	54.27	622.90
Mental Health	57.8	39.2	40.4	29.15	61.5	84.62	38.35	21.0	372.02
Critical Needs—other Specialties	44.0	67.64	64.08	80.79	126.45	94.37	27.75	0.0	505.08
Total positions by year:	204.22	167.99	175.2	226.04	282.73	247.09	121.46	75.27	1,500.00
Total Choice Act Positions Approved:									1,500.00

VACAA GME Expansion by Target Area

VACAA GME Initiative through 8th Round	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	Round 6	Round 7	Round 8*	Cumulative 8-yr Totals
Rural Sites (self-designated sites)	18.7	21.5	15.0	10.6	1.7	8.4	3.55	9.0	88.45
Family Medicine Positions	19.9	7.3	19.5	38.9	16.1	18.5	22.76	8.47	151.43
Osteopathic Programs (AOA) Positions	15.7	1.0	4.3	15.5	20.4	19.3	10.6	1.0	87.80
Total positions by year:	54.3	29.8	38.8	65	38.2	46.2	36.91	18.47	327.68

The listing of allopathic medical schools is from the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) [see: <http://lcme.org/directory>]. For the American Osteopathic Associate (AOA) listing of osteopathic medical schools, see: <https://osteopathic.org/about/affiliated-organizations/osteopathic-medical-schools/>. *Round 8 includes 1.47 primary care and 8 mental health positions awarded after publication of the AY 2020-2021 OAA fact sheet.

HEALTH PROFESSIONS TRAINEES' SATISFACTION SURVEY: ACADEMIC YEAR 2021-2022

91% of HPTs were satisfied or very satisfied with their VA training experience. Before their VA training experience, 50% of HPTs indicated they were interested in working for VA; after their VA training experience, 69% indicated they were interested in working for VA.

HIGHLIGHTS OF ACADEMIC YEAR 2021-2022

- VA established eight new Geriatric and Extended Care Nurse Practitioner Residency programs to help address the nursing shortage and meet the demands of the aging Veteran population. VA has 116 nurse residency programs, including 48 Post-Baccalaureate Registered Nurse Residency programs and 68 Nurse Practitioner Residency programs (34 Primary Care, 26 Mental Health and 8 Geriatric and Extended Care) with over 600 nursing HPT positions.
- Since 2013, VA's Mental Health Education Expansion initiative added more than 780 funded training slots across 10 disciplines, including Psychology, Marriage and Family Therapy, Professional Mental Health Counseling, Nursing, and Psychiatry.
- VA has expanded affiliations to Minority Serving Institutions with HPE programs, including 62% of Asian American, Native American, and Pacific Islander Serving Institutions, 57% of Historically Black Colleges and Universities, 34% of Hispanic Serving Institutions, and 20% of Predominantly Black Institutions.
- 72% of VA physicians, 30% of nursing staff, 41% of other clinical staff, and 18% of VHA administrative staff teach or supervise HPTs at VA.

ABOUT THE OFFICE OF ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS

As one of four statutory missions and as authorized in Title 38 Section 7302, VA assists the Nation in training health professionals in over 60 professions. Health professions education is conducted in partnership with U.S. academic institutions in accordance with VA's 1946 Policy Memorandum No. 2. Overseen by the Office of Academic Affiliations (OAA), these training programs make the VA the largest platform for health professions education in the country and the second largest funder of graduate medical education in the United States. To learn more about OAA, visit www.va.gov/oa/.