



HEALTH PROFESSIONS EDUCATION | ACADEMIC YEAR 2020-2021

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) operates the largest education and training platform for health professionals in the Nation. During the 2020-2021 academic year, more than 113,000 trainees participated in over 7,000 training programs offered through partnerships between 150 VA health care facilities and over 1,400 academic institutions. Ninety-nine percent of medical schools are affiliated with VA, including 153 of the nation's 155 Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME)-accredited allopathic schools and all 37 Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA)-accredited osteopathic medical schools in the U.S. In addition to physicians, over 60 other clinical disciplines are represented in VA's training programs. Over 15,000 trainees in VA come from Minority Serving Institutions, such as Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs) and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

VA Health Professions Education (HPE) programs play a leading role in creating the health care workforce for VA and the Nation. Over 72% of VA podiatrists and psychologists, over 81% of VA optometrists and over 64% of VA physicians participated in VA training programs prior to employment (2021 All Employee Survey Data). Health Professions Trainees (HPTs) contribute substantially to VA's ability to deliver high-quality patient care to Veterans.

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

	FY2015	FY2016	AY2017**	AY2018**	AY2019**	AY2020***	AY2021****
Advanced Fellows	387	452	303	652	664	653	634
Associated Health	26,135	26,932	25,428	25,370	24,895	21,215	20,463
Dental Residents & Students	986	1,044	849	773	732	863	1,012
Physician Residents	43,013	43,768	44,333	45,296	45,363	47,521	48,049
Medical Students	24,283	25,707	24,763	24,643	26,894	26,652	26,271
Nursing Trainees	28,389	28,845	27,549	23,815	25,194	20,771	16,673
Non-Health Profession	359	463	412	341	448	337	204
Grand Total	123,552	127,211	123,637	120,890	124,190	118,012	113,306

NOTES: *Data collected from each VA facility through the OAA Health Services Training Report. **Beginning in 2017 methodology changed from a Fiscal Year (FY) to an Academic Year (AY) time frame. This results in more accurate data collection and avoids double counting of HPTs. ***New detailed HPT program data collected. ****COVID-19 interrupted training rotations in 2021.

99% 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 up to 1,500 over a ten-year period. To date, 99% of the positions have been awarded and 66% of those positions focus on 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	52.8	621.43
Mental Health	57.8	39.2	40.4	29.15	61.5	84.62	38.35	13.0	364.02
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	65.8	1,490.53
Total Choice Act Positions Approved:									1,490.53

VACAA GME Expansion by Target Area

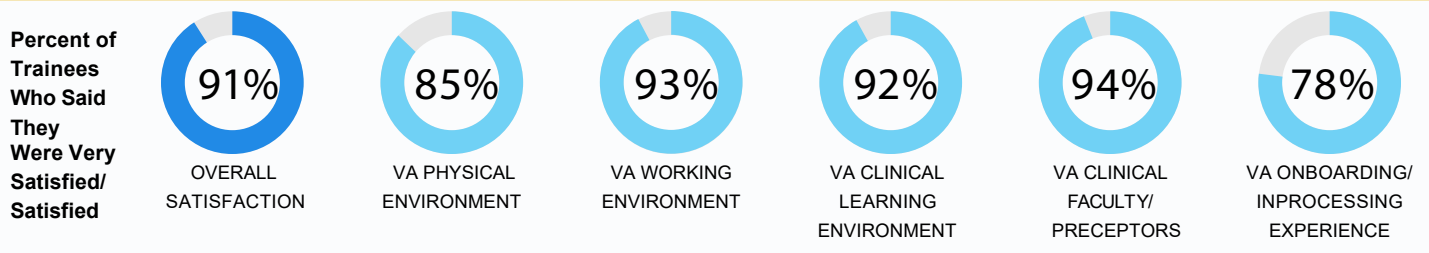
VACAA GME Initiative through 8th Round	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	Round 6	Round 7	Round 8	Cumulative 8-yr Totals
Rural Sites (self-designated sites)	18.7	21.5	15.0	10.6	1.7	8.4	3.55	8.0	87.45
Family Medicine Positions	19.9	7.3	19.5	38.9	16.1	18.5	22.76	7.0	149.96
Osteopathic Programs (AOA) Positions	15.7	1.0	4.3	15.5	20.4	19.3	10.60	1.0	87.80
Total positions by year:	54.3	29.8	38.8	65	38.2	46.2	36.91	16	325.21

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/>.

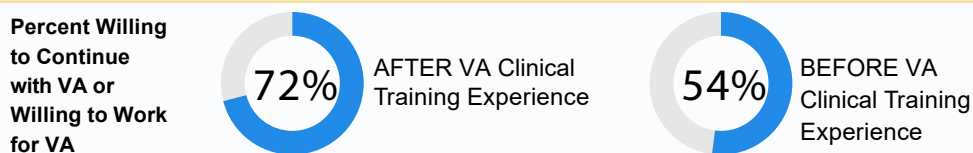
91% OF TRAINEES SATISFIED OR VERY SATISFIED WITH VA EXPERIENCE

The Trainee Satisfaction Survey (TSS) provides trainees the opportunity to rate their VA clinical training experience. Survey data is collected using integrated quantitative and qualitative methods. Results help VA identify areas for improvement and provide the basis for a national performance measure. Highlights from the 2020-2021 academic year include:

Satisfaction with VA Training Experience | n=14,873



Willingness to Continue with VA



EXPANDING ACROSS HEALTH CARE DISCIPLINES

Interprofessional training is an essential strategy for the future of VA's HPE programs. HPTs gain understanding for other professions' contributions while developing skills to lead and work in interprofessional care teams to address the whole health needs of Veterans. In 2021, VA continued to be at the forefront of championing interprofessional teams, expanding training programs across several disciplines.

- The 2021 Occupational Therapy Fellowship and Physical Therapy Resident Education Expansion that is adding 42 programs at 24 VAMC sites over three years is the largest expansion of these fellowship/residency positions in the history of VA.
- In Academic Year 2021-2022, OAA added 28 new nurse residency programs to help address critical health care occupation shortages. The new programs include:
 - 14 new Post-Baccalaureate Registered Nurse Residency (PB-RNR) programs
 - 10 Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Residency (NPR) programs
 - 4 Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Residency programs
- In 2021, OAA expanded Pharmacy Post Graduate Year 1 (PGY1) residencies by 16 first-year positions at 8 VA Medical Centers to focus on rural site education enhancement to respond to the needs in remote communities; HPTs in these programs will begin in Academic Year 2022-2023.
- To meet national mental health workforce needs, VA's Mental Health Education Expansion (MHEE) initiative has added more than 780 funded training slots across 10 disciplines since 2013; HPTs were added in core mental health disciplines such as Psychology, Marriage and Family Therapy, Professional Mental Health Counseling, Nursing, and Psychiatry, as well as other disciplines such as Pharmacy and Occupational Therapy. MHEE has provided opportunities for interprofessional education and team based care.
- Since 1992, VA has trained 3,582 Advanced Fellows from multiple professions to assume health care leadership roles. 45% of Advanced Fellows enter VA employment immediately upon graduation. An additional 13% maintain affiliation with the VA through additional training or formalized uncompensated appointments. In total, 58% of program graduates continue service to Veterans in VA.

About VA's Office of Academic Affiliations

As one of four statutory missions, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) educates and trains health professionals to enhance the quality of and timely access to care provided to Veterans within the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) health care system. Health professions education is conducted in partnership with affiliated U.S. academic institutions in accordance with Policy Memorandum No. 2. In addition, Title 38 U.S.C. Section 7302 mandates that VA assist in carrying out a "program of education and training of health personnel" for both its own needs and those of the Nation. Overseen by the Office of Academic Affiliations (OAA), these training programs make the VA the largest provider of health professions education and training and second largest funder of graduate medical education in the United States. To learn more about OAA, visit www.va.gov/oaa/.