



HEALTH PROFESSIONS EDUCATION | ACADEMIC YEAR 2019-2020

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) operates the largest education and training platform for health professionals in the Nation. During the 2019-2020 academic year nearly 118,000 trainees participated in over 7,000 training programs offered through partnerships between 170 VA Medical Centers (VAMCs) and over 1,800 academic institutions. Ninety-seven percent of medical schools are affiliated with VA, including 149 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 40 other clinical disciplines are represented in VA's training programs. Nearly 20,000 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 70% of VA podiatrists and psychologists, over 80% of VA optometrists and over 60% of VA physicians participated in VA training programs prior to employment (2020 All Employee Survey Data). Health Professions Trainees (HPTs) contribute substantially to VA's ability to deliver cost-effective, high-quality patient care to Veterans.

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

	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	AY2017**	AY2018**	AY2019**	AY2020***
Advanced Fellows	311	387	452	303	652	664	653
Associated Health	26,445	26,135	26,932	25,428	25,370	24,895	21,215
Dental Residents & Students	1,398	986	1,044	849	773	732	863
Physician Residents	41,698	43,013	43,768	44,333	45,296	45,363	47,489
Medical Students	23,037	24,283	25,707	24,763	24,643	26,894	26,652
Nursing Trainees	28,088	28,389	28,845	27,549	23,815	25,194	20,771
Non-Health Profession	368	359	463	412	341	448	337
Grand Total	121,345	123,552	127,211	123,637	120,890	124,190	117,980

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 from March-June 2020.

95% 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, 95% of the positions have been awarded and 65% 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 7th Round	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	Round 6	Round 7	Cumulative 6-yr Totals
Primary Care	102.4	62.2	70.7	114.1	93.8	68.1	49.36	576.91
Mental Health	57.8	38.2	40.4	31.2	61.5	84.6	40.35	352.99
Critical Needs—other Specialties	44.0	67.6	64.1	80.8	126.5	94.4	31.75	494.83
Total positions by year:	204.2	168.0	175.2	226.1	281.8	247.1	121.46	1,424.73
Total Choice Act Positions Approved:								1,424.73

VACAA GME Expansion by Target Area

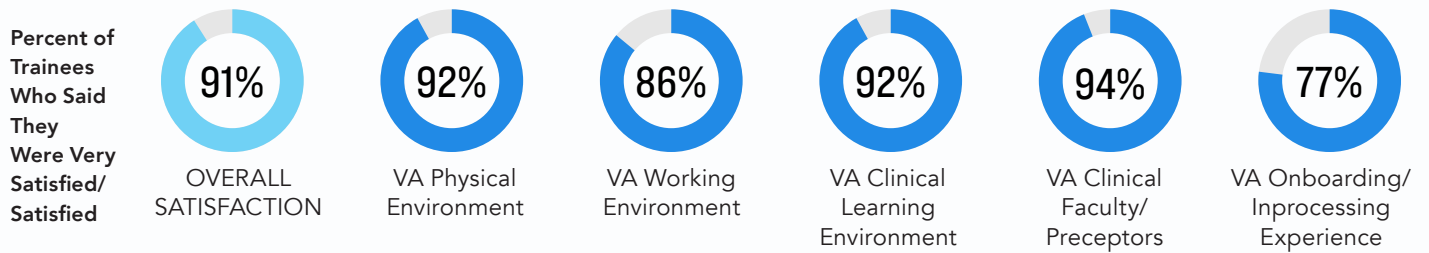
VACAA GME Initiative through 7th Round	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	Round 6	Round 7	Cumulative 6-yr Totals
Rural Sites (self-designated sites)	18.7	21.5	15.0	10.6	1.7	8.4	3.55	79.45
Family Medicine Positions	19.9	7.3	19.5	38.9	16.1	18.5	22.76	142.96
Osteopathic Programs (AOA) Positions	15.7	1.0	4.3	15.5	20.4	19.3	10.60	86.80
Total positions by year:	54.3	29.8	38.8	65	38.2	46.2	36.91	309.21

¹ 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/>.

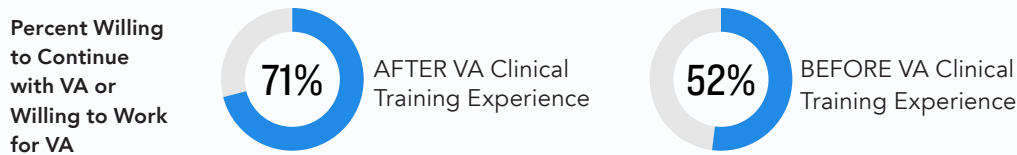
91% OF TRAINEES SATISFIED OR VERY SATISFIED WITH VA EXPERIENCE

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 2019-2020 academic year include:

Satisfaction with VA Training Experience | n=16,752



Willingness to Continue With VA



20 MENTAL HEALTH POSITIONS ADDED

OAA, in partnership with the Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, supports a multi-year, phased expansion of mental health training positions in VA. Since 2012 mental health training has expanded by over 750 positions and several VA facilities have initiated new programs.

Mental Health Education Expansion

Year Funding Awarded	AY 2013-2014	AY 2014-2015	AY 2015-2016	AY 2016-2017	AY 2017-2018	AY 2018-2019	AY 2019-2020	AY 2020-2021	Total
Clinical Pastoral Education		10	10		21	2			43
Licensed Professional of Mental Health (LPMH) Counselor				18	3	1		19	41
Marriage and Family Counseling				3	5	5		1	14
Nursing (MH)*	12	20							32
Occupational Therapy		1				1			2
Pharmacy	43	15	5		11		8		82
Physician Assistant					7		3		10
Psychiatry **	34.6	17.9	39.3						91.8
Psychology	62	66	139	42	25	20			354
Social Work	51	17	36		8				112
Total	202.6	146.9	229.3	63	80	29	11	20	781.8

NOTES: * Starting AY2014/2015 Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner resident positions were funded through the OAA Nurse Residency Initiative. ** Starting AY2015/2016 Psychiatry resident positions were funded through the VACAA GME expansion. ***Some expanded positions were awarded from initiatives outside of the Mental Health Education Expansion during this timeframe and were in the emphasis areas of mental health.

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/oa/