

Psych NP Scholarship Service Commitment and Job Search Guidance

Psych NP Service Commitment

Virginia Health Care Foundation (VHCF) Psych NP Scholarship participants must fulfill a 2-year Service Commitment (*equivalent of 4,000 hours full-time*) as part of the scholarship requirements. Upon graduating from an accredited post-Master's Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Certificate Program, a scholarship recipient must work as a Psych NP in an eligible practice serving medically-underserved Virginians. Eligible practice sites include:

- Federally qualified health centers
- Free, charitable or hybrid clinics
- Publicly-supported agencies (*community services board, state hospital, military or Veterans Affairs facility or other government entities*)
- A practice located in one of Virginia's federally-designated mental health professional shortage areas (MHPSAs), preferably a practice where $\geq 50\%$ of patients have Medicaid and/or Medicare (*combined*). See the attached list of Virginia MHPSAs. VHCF updates this list twice a year (*winter/summer*) to reflect designation changes.

Scholarship recipients should stay in regular communication with VHCF during the job search process. Before accepting an offer of employment, scholarship recipients must confirm that a potential employer meets the Service Commitment criteria.

Looking for a Psych NP Job

It is the scholar's responsibility to seek employment and apply for Psych NP positions. Foundation staff are available to consult on potential job opportunities and the job search, overall. VHCF encourages scholars look for job by networking with personal and professional connections and looking for positions online.

Job posting websites like Indeed.com are a great general resource to look for positions to fulfill the Service Commitment. Job announcements are often posted on individual organization and association websites, as well as individual city or county agency websites. VHCF also encourages scholarship recipients to refer to the following websites to look for job postings:

Virginia Association of Free & Charitable Clinics	https://www.vafreeclinics.org/clinics-in-virginia
Virginia Community Healthcare Association	https://vacommunityhealth.org/about-the-association/about-chcs/locations/
State/local government jobs	http://jobs.virginia.gov/
Veterans Affairs	https://www.vacareers.va.gov/
Virginia Association of Community Services Boards	https://vacsb.org/career-center/

Additional Service Commitment Policies

A VHCF Psych NP Scholarship recipient should keep the following policies in mind in thinking about post-graduation scholarship requirements:

- S/he must be employable to fulfill the Service Commitment within four (4) months after completing the post-Master's Certificate program (*passed ANCC exam, applied to update license with the Virginia Board of Nursing*). Scholars must begin a job search no later than 4 months after graduating.
- A graduated and credentialed scholarship recipient must work full-time as a Psych NP for 2-years (*4,000 hours*) serving medically-underserved Virginians.
 - In limited circumstances, a scholarship recipient may work less than 40 hours/week to fulfill the Service Commitment (*a minimum of 20 hours/week*). The 4,000 hours may be worked over a period of up to, but no longer than, 48 months. A scholarship recipient must make this request in writing to the Program Manager, and include justification for the proposed work schedule.
- Once employed as a Psych NP, a scholarship recipient may be absent from work no more than 35 full-time days (*280 hours*) per year for vacation, sick, personal, or professional leave without obtaining a Temporary Suspension of the Service Commitment from VHCF.
- VHCF forms must be completed to document employment to fulfill the Service Commitment semi-annually, to track hours worked.

If a scholarship recipient does not complete the Service Commitment in compliance with Foundation policy, s/he must re-pay VHCF all tuition and fees paid to the college/university within three years, with interest set at the prime rate on the date of default, IN ADDITION liquidated damages must be paid, which are equal to 50% of the total amount of the tuition and fees paid by the Foundation on his/her behalf.

Mental Health Professional Shortage Areas (MHPSA) in Virginia July 2022

Accomack	Gloucester	Portsmouth City
Albemarle	Goochland	Powhatan
Alleghany	Grayson	Prince Edward
Amelia	Greene	Prince George
Amherst	Greensville	Pulaski
Appomattox	Halifax	Radford City
Augusta	Hampton City	Rappahannock
Bath	Harrisonburg City	Richmond
Bedford	Henrico	Richmond City
Bland	Henry	Roanoke
Botetourt	Highland	Roanoke City
Bristol City	Hopewell City	Rockbridge
Brunswick	Isle of Wight	Rockingham
Buchanan	James City	Russell
Buckingham	King and Queen	Salem City
Buena Vista City	King George	Scott
Campbell	King William	Shenandoah
Caroline	Lancaster	Smyth
Carroll	Lee	Southampton
Charles City	Lexington City	Spotsylvania
Charlotte	Louisa	Stafford
Charlottesville City	Lunenburg	Staunton City
Chesterfield	Lynchburg City	Suffolk City
Clarke	Madison	Surry
Colonial Heights City	Martinsville City	Sussex
Covington City	Mathews	Tazewell
Craig	Mecklenburg	Warren
Culpeper	Middlesex	Washington
Cumberland	Montgomery	Waynesboro City
Danville City	Nelson	Westmoreland
Dickenson	New Kent	Williamsburg City
Dinwiddie	Newport News City	Winchester City
Emporia City	Norfolk City	Wise
Essex	Northampton	Wythe
Fauquier	Northumberland	York
Floyd	Norton City	
Fluvanna	Nottoway	
Franklin	Orange	
Franklin City	Page	
Frederick	Patrick	
Fredericksburg City	Petersburg City	
Galax City	Pittsylvania	
Giles	Poquoson City	