



VA Health Professional and Scholarship Program (HPSP) Recipient Guidebook

FY26

1 Introduction

Welcome to the VA Health Professional Scholarship Program (HPSP). The VA HPSP Scholarship Program began in 2016 to recruit and retain healthcare positions throughout the Veteran Health Administration (VHA). Since 2016, the program has awarded over 2100 scholarships to individuals going to school in certain healthcare occupations that are critical and difficult to recruit throughout VHA.

Benefits of the program include covering tuition for individuals enrolled in school full-time while offering monthly stipends and an annual book stipend. In exchange for covering the financial responsibilities of tuition and stipends, the recipient undergoes a service obligation in the full-time clinical position in which the scholarship was awarded for.

The VA HPSP guidebook was established to help scholarship recipients manage and remain in good academic standing with the VA HPSP scholarship program, while attending their program of study, graduating, attending residency programs (specific to certain occupations), and meeting VA qualification standards prior to serving their obligated service at a VA healthcare facility. ***NOTE: Contents to the student handbook are subject to change at the program's discretion. Updates will be made and published on the HPSP/VIOMPSP/HPSP (Vet Center) Website, emailed to current recipients or discussed at scheduled program town hall meetings or other venues offered. It is the recipient's responsibility to keep up with changes and ask for clarification or questions to the program office at HPSPTeam@va.gov.*

2 Authoritative Sources

The VA HPSP Scholarship Program has several authoritative sources which include and are not limited to federal statutes, regulations, policies and procedures which outline how the program is funded, maintained, and aligns to the agency's mission.

- Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Health Professional Scholarship Program (HPSP), 38 United States Code (U.S.C.), § 7611
- Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) Health Professional Scholarship Program (HPSP), 38 CFR §17.600 through 17.612
- Pub. L. 100-322, May 20, 1988. Veterans' Benefits and Services Act of 1988
- Pub. L. 111-163, May 5, 2010. The Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Service Act of 2010
- Pub. L. 113-146, August 7, 2014. Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014
- Pub. L. 115-182, June 6, 2018. The VA Mission Act of 2018
- Pub. L. 116-171, title V, §502(b)(1)(A), Oct. 17, 2020, 134 Stat. 817. Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act of 2019.
- STRONG Veterans Act of 2022

3 Definitions and Resources

The following definitions will come in handy as you progress through each stage of the program.

- Acceptable level of academic standing - The level at which a participant may continue to attend school under the standards and practices of the school at which a participant is enrolled in a course of study for which an HPSP or VIOMPSP scholarship was awarded.
- Affiliation agreement - A legal document that enables the clinical education of trainees at a VA or non-VA medical facility. An affiliation agreement is required for all education or training that involves direct patient contact, or contact with patient information, by trainees from a non-VA institution.
- Credential - The licensure, registration, certification, required education, relevant training and experience, and current competence necessary to meet VA's qualification standards for employment in certain health care occupations.
- Full-time student – An individual who meets the requirements for full-time attendance as defined by the school in which they are enrolled.
- Obligated service - The period during which the HPSP or VIOMPSP participant must be employed by VA in a full-time clinical occupation for which the degree prepared the participant as a requirement of the acceptance agreement.
- Required fees or mandatory fees - The fees which are charged by the university to all students pursuing similar curriculum in the same school.
- VA health care facility - A VA medical center, independent outpatient clinic, domiciliary, nursing home (community living center), residential treatment program, and any of a variety of community-based clinics (including community-based outpatient clinics, rural health resource centers, primary care telehealth clinics, and Vet Centers), consolidated mail outpatient pharmacies, and research centers.
- Deferment - Used for recipients receiving a degree from a school of medicine, osteopathy, dentistry, optometry, or podiatry, to complete an approved program of advanced clinical training. The program will defer the beginning date of the obligated service to allow the participant to complete the advanced clinical training program. The period of this deferment will be the time designated for the specialty training.
- Suspension - Used to temporarily discontinue scholarship funds or delay enforcement of the agreement. A suspension is good for up to one (1) year and may be extended for one (1) additional year. *NOTE: If the individual does not use up the full year, the remaining time does not rollover if an additional year is approved.*
- Leave of Absence - Used for individual requests due to health, personal, or other reasons. Scholarship payments will pause and resume upon notification with proof of documentation that the recipient has returned and proceed as a full-time student within the program of study the scholarship was awarded
- Breach - Occurs when the participant fails to comply with conditions and terms of VA Form 10-0491F or VA Form 10-0491L.
- Waiver - A permanent release by VA of the obligation either to repay any scholarship funds that have already been paid to or on behalf of the participant, or to fulfill any other acceptance agreement requirement. If a waiver is granted, then the waived amount of scholarship funds may be considered taxable income. *NOTE: Waiver decisions are final and not reconsidered for an appeal.*

The following forms and resources are valuable for progressing through each phase of the program. All forms and official documentation must be uploaded into your individual VA Application Management System (VA AMS) record.

- VA Form 10-0491C (Annual VA Employment): Used during your obligated service period and requires individuals to complete once a year. Individuals are required to submit the form along with an updated Standard Form 50 (SF50) and recent performance evaluation.
- VA Form 10-0491C (Deferment Verification): Used for individuals currently in a residency program, advanced clinical training or education. Individuals are required to complete them once a year or at mid-point during their deferment period.
- VA Form 10-0491F (HPSP/HPSP (Vet Center) Agreement): Recognized as the legal contract signed by the participant to the agency. The agreement may be adjusted when accrued obligated service time or removal of service time is required. Adjustments must be made in advance and only valid once the participant and the Under Secretary of Health (USH) or their designee sign.
- VA Form 10-0491I (Notice of Change): Used for any change associated with an individual's change of information (i.e., name change, address), change in their enrollment status, academic standing, graduation date, etc. Depending on the type of change requires academic advisor review/concurrence and proof of documentation from the school.
- VA Form 10-0491J (Request for Deferment for Advanced Education): Used when individuals request advanced clinical education, training, or residency programs. Individuals are required to complete them once a year or at mid-point during their deferment period. In some cases, accrued time will be added to the individual's obligated service and require changes and signatures received in advance to VA Form 10-0491F.
- VA Form 10-0491L (VIOMPSP Agreement): Recognized as the legal contract signed by the participant to the agency. The agreement may be adjusted when accrued obligated service time or removal of service time is required. Adjustments must be made in advance and only valid once the participant and the Under Secretary of Health (USH) or their designee sign.
- VA Customer Experience Platform (CEP): The system and form used when you initially set up your bank authorization information and account. The information must be accurate and current throughout the program.
- Standard form (SF50): The agency's official system of records containing information regarding an employee's government service, pay, position, and only official proof of government employment.

4 HPSP: In School

When you begin school, there are a few things to complete and maintain good academic standing, such as:

- Tuition Expenses: VA will pay tuition costs and *Mandatory/Required Fees (minus additional scholarships, grants, and/or gifts) for each academic term within the student's agreement period if the college or university includes them on the invoice. The authorization letter that came with your final award letter is used to inform your school to create and submit tuition invoices to the VA. You are responsible for ensuring your school submits and creates invoices using a third-party system (Tungsten) for tuition to be covered. Failure to communicate with your school for invoicing may delay payments or cause challenges due to financial holds, class registrations, or other issues based on

your school's policies and procedures. Purchase Orders (POs) numbers are provided to your school each academic year and change each fiscal year. The VA HPSP/VIOMPSP PO#s and funding are subject to change based on approved funding per fiscal year. The VA HPSP/VIOMPSP fiscal year is October 1 through September 30, and the scholarship pays up to four years (this is increased to six years for fulltime VA Employees in a Part Time education program) in total for recipients' program of study. Tuition and stipend payments are exempt from taxation, and you will not receive a tax statement from the program office. *NOTE: *The Secretary of the VA or appointed staff reserves the right to limit the payment of any Mandatory/Required Fees. Currently, Health/Life Insurance, Transportation Fees, Union/Association Fees, Board Prep/Testing Fees, Transcript/ID Re-issuance & Maintenance Fees, Late charges/Repeat Coursework/Withdrawal/Penalty Fees, and Others are not covered by the Program. Also, if recipients exceed the four years, they are expected to complete their program of study and still meet the VA HPSP/HPSP (Vet Center)/VIOMPSP program requirements and obligated service. (Vet Center)/VIOMPSP program requirements and obligated service. Fees covered are subject to change and reviewed each semester/quarter. Changes will be sent to your academic institution, updated in the student handbook, website, provided in a program town hall session/venue or emailed to recipients.*

- Transcripts: For each academic term/semester/quarter, you must upload an unofficial transcript at the end of each term/semester/quarter with final grades published. Transcripts are used to verify the credit, courses, and associated fees tied to your tuition. *NOTE: There are certain fees and expenses the scholarship program does not cover. Additionally, if you are receiving other financial assistance such as Pell grants, scholarships, gifts, donations used to support your overall tuition costs, they will be deducted when your school submits an invoice and the remaining balance (if the program covers) will be paid for by the HPSP/HPSP (Vet Center)/VIOMPSP Scholarship Program.*
- Monthly Stipends and Annual Book Stipends: Monthly stipends are issued within the first 10 business days each month or 12 months in an academic year for recipients who maintain full-time enrollment. Annual book stipends are issued between the months of July-September each academic year. The amount of monthly stipends and annual book stipends are set based on the federal cost of living allowance (COLA). Monthly stipends are not available for students who remain less than full-time enrollment at any point in their program of study, take a leave of absence, approved deferment or suspension during school. Monthly stipends will stop for students who remain less than full-time enrollment at any point in their program of study, take a leave of absence, and/or have an approved deferment or suspension during school. Monthly stipends are only available for full-time recipients enrolled in their program of study and provided while in school. Additionally, recipients who participate in any residency programs, fellowships, research years, internships or clinical practicums are not eligible to receive monthly stipends. Tuition and stipend payments are exempt from taxation, and you will not receive a tax statement from the program office. *NOTE: Failure to notify the VA HPSP/HPSP (Vet Center)/VIOMPSP scholarship program of changes that impact receiving monthly stipends will result in a bill of collection in which the recipient will be issued and expected to repay the erroneous payments of monthly stipends issued. The recipient will continue to remain in good standing; however, expected to repay the number of overpayments made during any period they were considered ineligible to receive monthly stipends. Waivers are not an option for overpayment of stipends.*

- Monthly Check-ins and Completing VA 10-04911 Form, Notice of Change. You'll need to complete the form and annotate the type of change submitted each month. You are required to conduct monthly checks while in school. Monthly check-ins are completed through the Application Management System (AMS) and notice of changes may include but are not limited to change in name, address, telephone, number, enrollment status, plan of study, or academic standing.
 - No changes - For no changes, you'll need to complete a monthly check-in and complete a notice of change form.
 - Minor changes - Minor changes may include updates to your name, address, telephone number or tuition costs. *NOTE: For changes to your physical home address, you'll need to also update your VA-Customer Experience Platform (CEP) form which is tied to your bank authorization information and account (refer to Definition and Resource Section)*
 - Major Changes - Major changes might include a repeated course, change in enrollment status, taking a leave of absence, academic probation, or other significant changes that will impact your graduation date and course schedule. These types of changes require an academic advisor to review/concur along with proof of documentation from the school.
 - Leave of Absence Status - You'll need to annotate the dates taken and check-in with the program at least 30 days prior to returning to your program of study to allow the program to restore our status in the program and reinstate financial assistance (i.e. tuition and stipends).
 - Deferment Status - If a student is on a deferment (advanced clinical education/training), the student needs to check in at least 60 days during the deferment before beginning their obligated service.
 - Suspension Status - If a student is on suspension status, the student needs to check in at least 180 days before resuming in their next phase in the program (i.e. completing their program of study/degree, matching for residency program, or beginning their obligated service).
- Scholarship recipients may not change school or program without prior approval from the HPSP Program Office. Exceptions for the program office include:
 - Academic Institution Closures
 - Academic Institution Accreditation Status
- Examples that would not be approved:
 - Lower tuition costs
 - Better academic program of study
 - Better student acceptance/pass rate
 - Geographic location closer to recipient
- *Applicable to VA Employees Only:* Maintain an acceptable level of work performance and conduct prior to beginning their service obligation period (only VA employees). When VA employees are categorized as an active student in the program, they are required to submit their most recent performance evaluation and upload into their AMS record.

5 HPSP: Graduation and Residency Programs

Within three to six months before your planned graduation, you'll need to complete VA Form 10-0491H, provide an updated resume, and location preferences to the HPSP/VIOMPSP Program office. *NOTE: For HPSP (Vet Center) recipients, individuals will need to complete VA Form 10-0491H along with an updated resume and location preferences are managed by the VA Readjustment Counseling Service Program Office or their designee. For HPSP/VIOMPSP recipients, preferences are managed by the program office and based on availability, vacancy, and critical needs of the agency.*

- For physician recipients, matching for a residency program is part of the criteria needed and meet VA qualification standards. For other clinical disciplines, matching for residency programs are optional and may accrue additional time if a scholarship recipient chooses to participate in a residency program. *NOTE: Recommended for scholarship recipients to become familiar with VA qualifications standards as part of the requirements before an obligation service period begins. For example, the service obligation for social work recipients begins only after the individual is hired into a full-time clinical social work position (0185 series) within VHA and meets all VA social work qualification standards, including but not limited to independent licensure. Additionally, no period of advanced clinical training/education will be credited towards satisfying the period of obligated service incurred.*
- Nursing Recipients: Optional and not required. For individuals who select to apply for and match into a residency program, an additional six months is added to their total obligated service period and an updated HPSP agreement must be signed/dated to reflect the added time before the recipient begins the program. *NOTE: Locations are subject to change and contingent upon funding with VHACO program offices.*
 - Registered Nursing Transition to Practice (RNTTP) Residency Program: Residency period does account for the total obligation period.
 - Post-Baccalaureate Registered Nursing Residency (PB-RNR) Residency Program: Residency period does account for the total obligation period.
 - Nurse Practitioner (NP) Residency Program (Geriatrics): Residency period does account for the total obligation period.
 - NP Residency Program (Mental Health): Residency period does account for the total obligation period.
 - NP Residency Program (Primary Care): Residency period does account for the total obligation period.
- Physician Recipients: Required and part of VA qualification standards. The residency period does not account toward the obligation period.

6 HPSP: Placement (Employment) and Obligated Service

Placement or securing employment is part of the office program's obligation for you to complete the obligatory service period. The placement is initiated 90 days after graduation or when you become licensed. *NOTE: Time extensions may be permitted at the USH discretion when unforeseen and extenuating circumstances such as agency hiring freezes, reduction-in-force*

(RIFs), fundings, or other agency executive orders may impact on the program office's ability to secure employment.

- Three to six months prior to graduation, the HPSP Program Office will contact recipients requesting preferences based on locations provided. *NOTE: To prepare for relocation expenses, the program office recommends the recipient to get their financial affairs in order and prepare to relocate (at their own expense) based on the final location to complete their obligated service within six to 12 months before the student completes their program of study.*
- Depending on the healthcare occupation, the required credential must be attained prior to securing employment in which the scholarship was initially awarded for. In some disciplines, clinical licensed supervised hours are required before an individual is eligible to take the required tests or examination prior to achieving their credential and the program office will secure initial employment for those individuals to attain supervised hours. *NOTE: For HPSP Social Work recipients, working under clinical supervised hours at the initial employment and location does not count towards the individual's service obligation period. For HPSP (Vet Center) Social Work recipients, working under clinical supervised hours at the initial employment and location does count towards the service obligation period.*
- Incentive or Monetary Programs: All HPSP/HPSP (Vet Center)/VIOMPSP recipients are not entitled to or eligible for any incentive or monetary program offered by the agency while fulfilling their obligated period. Should an individual not comply and accept incentives, the individual will incur a bill of collection and be required to repay the debt to the agency.
- Transfers: Individuals may request a transfer to another department, unit, or VA healthcare facility. Before transferring, you must contact and receive approval from the HPSP/VIOMPSP Program Office with the following to remain in good standing and not breach the agreement.
 - Submit the tentative job offer and HR Specialist Point of contact (POC). The position must be like the one they are transferring out of, be full-time, and be in a direct patient care clinical position in which the scholarship originally awarded the individual for. Failure not to continue serving in a full-time, direct patient care clinical position will result in a breach of the agreement.
 - Not entitled or eligible to accept any incentive or monetary program associated with the transfer position. Accepting the incentive will result in the individual incurring a debt by the agency.
 - SF50 Personnel Record: The receiving HR specialist POC must ensure the recipient is coded correctly to reflect the obligation period and status of being an HPSP recipient. Incorrect codes will result in HR having to complete corrective actions.
- Service Obligation Period Completion: Once you have completed your obligated period, you should receive notification via email from the HPSP/HPSP (Vet Center)/VIOMPSP along with a memorandum confirming your completion. The completion memorandum will be stored in your individual VA Application Management System (VA AMS) record.
- Failure to Complete Service Obligation Period: If you end up not completing your service obligation period at a VA healthcare facility, you'll be considered "not in good standing" and the program office will initiate a breach. Individuals who breach during their service

obligation (for any reason) are liable to repay the amount of all scholarship funds paid to them, the school, plus interest, multiplied by three, minus any month of service obligation satisfied.

- Breach (Obligated Service): The program office will send via email notification of a breach occurring along with a bill of collection and next steps. Once you receive a VA Financial Service Center (VA FSC) Notice of Indebtedness Letter through mail, you are entitled and eligible to submit a waiver. Additional information on waivers is in Section 8. Waivers and Suspension.

7 VA Form 10-0491F HPSP/HPSP (Vet Center) Agreement

The VA Form 10-0491F, HPSP/HPSP (Vet Center) acceptance agreement means a signed legal document between VA and you as the participant under the HPSP/HPSP (Vet Center) or VIOMPSP. Additionally, the agreement specifies the obligations of VA and you as the recipient of the scholarship program. Further information and explanation within each section is listed below so you have a good understanding of what's required to maintain good standing throughout the various stages of the program (i.e. in school, securing employment and completing the obligated service).

- Section B: Obligation of the Under Secretary for Health (USH)
 - Per the agreement, the program covers the payments of tuition, reasonable educational expenses, monthly stipends and an annual stipend. For education expenses and fees not required, reasonable or associated with your program of study, the program will not pay for, and you will be expected to pay for these types of expenses. *NOTE: Per the authorization letter issued to you and your school, the list of fees not covered under the program is provided and may be subject to change at the discretion of the program office.*
 - We need to ensure you are enrolled in a program of study leading up to graduation and degree in the field of education as outlined in your initial scholarship award letter. *NOTE: Recipients cannot change majors/degrees or programs of study. Changes made without completing the program of study/degree will result in a breach.*
 - Upon completing all licensure/credentials/registration and meeting VA qualification standards, we are responsible for securing your initial employment at a VA healthcare facility. The position must be a full-time clinical position in which the scholarship awarded you for and within 90 days after completing the program of study and meeting all VA qualification standards; at least 60 days prior to the initial appointment start date, the program will notify you regarding potential locations and start date to begin the obligation service. *NOTE: The time periods listed for notifications and appointments may be extended at USH's discretion due to extenuating circumstances beyond the HPSP/VIOMPSP Scholarship Program's control.*
 - Mentor: The HPSP Program may coordinate as a liaison between you and the local VA healthcare facility upon securing your initial employment.
- Section C: In exchange for receiving the scholarship program, you as the HPSP/VIOMPSP participant agree and complete the following:
 - Accepts the HPSP award provided by USH. *NOTE: Failure to accept the award will result in a breach.*

- Pursues in the program of study leading up to a degree in a qualifying field of education or training designated by the USH for participation in the program. *NOTE: Failure to complete the program of study/obtain a degree will result in a breach.*
- Maintains enrollment as specified in the scholarship application until completion of the course of study for which the scholarship was awarded for.
- Maintains an acceptable level of academic standing, as defined by the academic institution, while enrolled in the program of study for which the scholarship was awarded for.
- Submit required documentation to the HPSP Scholarship Program according to their established policies and procedures to remain in good standing and receive the scholarship award. Notify the HPSP Scholarship Program of any changes (minor or major) outlined in the Notice of Change Form.
- Complete all coursework within the time frame indicated on the application or any changes in dates approved by the academic institution and HPSP Scholarship Program
- Ensure HPSP Scholarship Program has access to any educational or training documentation such as transcripts or other information required to assess academic standing, status, and progress of the scholarship recipient.
- Sign a mobility agreement in which the HPSP Scholarship Recipient agrees to relocate to complete a clinical rotation/tour, residency program, or employment to begin their service obligation period. *NOTE: Failure to relocate for an assignment location will result in a breach.*
- Applicable to certain healthcare occupations: Perform a clinical rotation/tour in a VA assignment or location determined by USH while enrolled during study for which the scholarship was awarded for. *NOTE: The HPSP Scholarship Program may serve as a liaison to HPSP Scholarship Recipients in connecting them to the Office of Academic Affiliations (OAA) or other VA representatives who oversee local affiliated agreements and availability at a VA healthcare facility.*
- Applicable to HPSP Physician Recipients: Recipient must successfully complete postgraduate training leading to eligibility for board certification in a specialty identified by the Secretary.
- Applicable to VA employees only: Maintain employment while enrolled during education or training for which the scholarship is provided as a full-time VA employee. *NOTE: Full-time VA employees are not eligible to receive the monthly stipends.*
- Applicable to VA employees only: Maintain an acceptable level of work performance and conduct (behavior) prior to starting the service obligation period. *NOTE: Recipient is responsible for disclosing current performance appraisal and memorandum with supervisor review and signature attesting to recipient as a VA employee meeting an acceptable level of work performance and behavior.*
- Serve a period of obligated service: All HPSP/HPSP (Vet Center)/VIOMPSP Scholarship Recipients must serve a period of obligated service as a full-time employee working in a direct patient care or clinical capacity position within Veteran Health Administration (VA) in an assignment and location determined by the USH. At a minimum, service obligation periods are set for a two-year period. For the HPSP (Vet Center) scholarship program, service obligation periods are set at a minimum for six-year period. *NOTE: While serving in an obligated service, HPSP Scholarship Recipients are not eligible to receive any incentive programs offered when completing their obligated service. Accepting any*

incentive programs will result incurring a debt that the HPSP Scholarship Recipient will be obligated to repay the full amount.

- Service obligation period is validated by an SF-50 (Standard Form 50) Notification of Personnel Action. HPSP Scholarship Recipients incur one year for each school year or part thereof, but not less than two years at a minimum regardless of the length of time the scholarship was awarded for. HPSP Physician recipients will incur an 18-month service obligation for each school year or part thereof.
 - Employment begins within 90 days after the recipient completes the HPSP-supported education or training and meets all VA qualification requirements for appointment to the position. Employment may be delayed or extended and at the discretion of the USH or due to extenuating circumstances beyond the HPSP Scholarship Program's control. *NOTE: Appointments may occur while the recipient is working under licensed supervised hours leading up to eligibility/passing for a licensure/certification/registration or other requirement as outlined in the VA qualification standard for the specific healthcare occupation. Service obligation period becomes effective once a recipient has met the VA qualification standards, which may include licensure, credentialing & privileging, or other qualification requirements that require approval for the recipient to work independently in a full-time direct patient care or clinical capacity position in which scholarship was awarded for.*
 - If a recipient requests a deferment, an additional period of service obligation may be required, at the discretion of USH. No credit of time for any advanced clinical training or residency will be counted towards satisfying the obligated service period and the additional time will be reflected when the HPSP agreement is updated and signed by the recipient and signature of USH or, authorized representative.
 - Applicable to HPSP Readjustment Counseling Service (RCS) Vet Center Scholarship Recipient: Recipients who are under the HPSP Vet Center Scholarship Recipient obligation period of service is six years to which includes licensed supervised hours leading up to eligibility/passing for a licensure/certification/registration or other requirements as outlined in the VA qualification standards for the specific healthcare occupation.
 - Applicable to VA employees only. Per 38 U.S.C. §7672, "In the case of a participant who is a part-time student, the period of obligated service shall be reduced in accordance with the proportion that the number of credit hours carried by such participant in any such school year to the number of credit hours required to be carried by a full-time student in the course of study, but not less than one year".
 - Fulfillment of obligation service period: Recipients may request a transfer to another department, unit, or another facility and require pre-authorization from the HSP Scholarship Program. Failure to receive approval will result in the HPSP Scholarship Recipient breaching the contract due to not completing their service obligation period or following established policies and procedures under the HPSP Scholarship Program.
- Section D: Breach of HPSP Agreement. When a HPSP recipient, defined as a participant/applicant/student has been selected for and accepted, the HPSP scholarship award fails one or more of the following:

- Fails to accept payment or instructs the academic institution in which the scholarship payments are to be made to not accept payments under this agreement. *NOTE: Not applicable when recipients are receiving Pell grants, other public/private scholarship awards/grants, gifts, post-9/11 GI Bill, VR&E (Chapter 31) or other forms of financial assistance programs.* The participant shall, in addition to the service or other obligations incurred under this agreement, pay to the United States, the sum of \$1,500 as liquidated damages. Payment of this amount must be made within one year of the date on which the recipient is found to be in breach of the agreement.
- Fails to maintain an acceptable level of academic standing during study for which the scholarship is awarded for. If the recipient is placed on academic probation, the recipient must provide a remedial action plan and updates once the recipient has been removed on academic probation and status is restored to an acceptable level of academic standing. Failure to notify the HPSP scholarship program will result in a breach of the agreement. The participant shall, in addition to the service or other obligation incurred under this agreement, pay to the United States, the sum of \$1,500 as liquidated damages in addition to any other tuition expenses, monthly stipends and annual book stipends received by the recipient. Payment of this amount must be made within one year of the date on which the recipient is found to be in breach of the agreement.
- Recipient is dismissed from the academic institution or program of study for disciplinary reasons or failing to maintain good academic standing or other reasons as outlined by the academic institution's policy and procedures. The participant shall, in addition the service or other obligation incurred under this agreement, pay to the United States, the sum of \$1,500 as liquidated damages in addition to any other tuition expenses, monthly stipends and annual book stipends received by the recipient. Payment of this amount must be made within one year of the date on which the recipient is found to be in breach of the agreement.
- Recipient voluntarily terminates or withdraws (for any reason) from the course of study or program for which the award was granted including a reduction of course load from full-time to part time before completing the course of study. The participant shall, in addition the service or other obligation incurred under this agreement, pay to the United States, the sum of \$1,500 as liquidated damages in addition to any other tuition expenses, monthly stipends and annual book stipends received by the recipient. Payment of this amount must be made within one year of the date on which the recipient is found to be in breach of the agreement.
- Recipient fails to become licensed and/or certified in the occupation for which the education and training was provided within one year from the date such person becomes eligible to apply for the licensure. The participant shall, in addition the service or other obligation incurred under this agreement, pay to the United States, the sum of \$1,500 as liquidated damages in addition to any other tuition expenses, monthly stipends and annual book stipends received by the recipient. Payment of this amount must be made within one year of the date on which the recipient is found to be in breach of the agreement.
- Recipient fails to meet any applicable licensure requirement in the case of any other healthcare personnel who provide either direct patient-care services or services incident to direct patient-care services, during a period determined under regulations prescribed by the USH. The participant shall, in addition the service or other obligation incurred under this agreement, pay to the United

States, the sum of \$1,500 as liquidated damages in addition to any other tuition expenses, monthly stipends and annual book stipends received by the recipient. Payment of this amount must be made within one year of the date on which the recipient is found to be in breach of the agreement.

- Recipients fail to maintain employment while enrolled as a part-time student while training being pursued under the HPSP as a Department employee. In such cases, the participant shall, instead of performing the service obligation incurred under this agreement, repay to the United States all funds paid to the participant under this agreement. The participant shall, in addition to the service or other obligation incurred under this agreement, pay to the United States, the sum of \$1,500 as liquidated damages in addition to any other tuition expenses, monthly stipends and annual book stipends received by the recipient. Payment of this amount must be made within one year of the date on which the recipient is found to be in breach of the agreement.
- Recipient fails for any reason to begin or complete such participant's period of obligated service or fails to comply with the terms and conditions of deferment.
- Section E: Cancellation, Suspension, and Waiver of Obligation
 - Any service or payment obligation incurred under this agreement will be cancelled upon the death of the participant
 - The USH, or their designee, may waive or suspend the participant's service or payment obligation incurred under this agreement if:
 - Compliance by the participant with the terms and conditions of the agreement is impossible due to circumstances beyond the control of the participant, or
 - When it is considered in the best interest of the VA. Such decisions will be made by USH, or their designee, on an individual basis.
 - Requests for waivers of obligation must be submitted to within one year of the date you are notified and determined to be in breach of the agreement. Requests for waivers for the HPSP/HPSP (Vet Center)/VIOMPSP Program must be submitted in the VA Application Management System (VA AMS).
 - Recipients who submit for a waiver to dispute the obligation will continue to accrue waiver admin, interest, and penalties each month on the outstanding balance until a final determination of the dispute or waiver is determined. Upon final determination, admin, interest, and penalties will be adjusted based on the final decision.
 - Recipients should expect to repay the debt or establish a repayment plan until a final determination has been made.
 - Once a waiver decision is made, it is final and not reconsidered for an appeal.