



**Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)  
Response to the National Academic Affiliations Council (NAAC)  
September 27-28, 2023, Recommendations**

**Recommendation 1:** The NAAC supports the adherence to the Department of Veterans Affairs' Program Guide for Space Planning Criteria, PG-18-9, Chapter 402: Educational Facilities. This document addresses education space for a centralized education function and the administrative needs for providing educational infrastructure in a VA medical facility and incorporates appropriately designed education space into all newly constructed or renovated healthcare facilities. This includes the Veterans Hospital in Tulsa (VHiT), which will be one of the first hospitals to be built under the Communities Helping Invest through Property and Improvements Needed for Veterans Act of 2016 (CHIP-IN Act). Appropriately designed education space should include health professions trainee workrooms, call rooms, conference meeting space, simulation training centers and allocated space at inpatient nursing stations.

**VA Response:** Concur. VA's Program Guide for Space Planning Criteria, PG-18-9, Chapter 402: Educational Facilities, outlines Space Planning Criteria that applies to all VA medical facilities, including Communities Helping Invest through Property and Improvements Needed (CHIP-IN) for Veterans Act of 2016 facilities. In addition, all Program Guides for clinical services within VA medical facilities also include space planning criteria for education functions pertinent to each service. There are approximately 25 clinical services with individual Space Criteria Chapters that contain spaces for education within the clinical area. The Program Guide should be followed to ensure education space is included in all new construction or re-designed health care facilities. With over 120,000 health professions trainees (HPT) completing all or part of their clinical training in the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) each year, appropriately designed education space is essential for continued academic and training success. VHA Directive 1400.03, Educational Relationships, states that VA medical facilities should ensure newly constructed or renovated clinical space provides adequate physical infrastructure for health professions education training programs, including exam rooms, training, and conference space, team rooms, and space for study and other scholarly activities.

**Recommendation 2:** The NAAC recommends that physicians, nurses, and other healthcare professional stakeholder(s) be included in local facility space planning and designing activities to provide clinical expertise in the designing and layout of newly constructed or renovated clinical space. This is necessary to ensure full functionality and optimal usage of space for clinicians and health professions trainees (HPTs).

**VA Response:** Concur. Health care professionals can provide valuable, practical input regarding the design of clinical space because they are the subject matter experts in medical care and can offer suggestions to optimize patient safety, workflow, and efficiency. They are especially knowledgeable in understanding the requirements for education and teaching space, which is necessary to accommodate the over 120,000 HPTs who complete all or part of their clinical training in VHA each year.

**Actions to Implement:**

<b>VA Action Plan – Recommendation 1, Education Space Planning</b>						
<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Lead Office</b>	<b>Other Offices</b>	<b>Tasks</b>	<b>Due Dates</b>	<b>Current Status</b>	<b>Contact Persons</b>
Support adherence to Department of Veterans Affairs’ Program Guides for Space Planning Criteria, PG-18-9, Chapter 402 Educational Facilities and other Program Guides, where space for educational needs have been identified including the Veterans Hospital in Tulsa (VHiT).	VA Office of Construction and Facilities Management (CFM) Office of Facilities Planning for Major Construction projects  VA CFM Office of Real Property (ORP) for CHIP-IN projects	Office of Academic Affiliations (OAA)	Include OAA and field educational representatives in the annual Strategic Capital Investment Planning (SCIP) business case review process to ensure educational needs for space are included.	Fiscal Year (FY) 2024, Quarter 2	Ongoing	Gary Fischer, Senior Architect, CFM  Don Myers, Director, Facility Standards Service

VHA Office of  
Healthcare  
Environmental and  
Facilities Planning  
(HEFP) for all projects

John Bulick,  
Director,  
Federal  
Procurement  
Data System  
(FPDS), OFP,  
CFM

Glenn Elliott,  
Director, Project  
Development  
Services  
Division  
(PDSD), CFM  
OFP  
Brandi Stockstill,

						<p>Director, Policy &amp; Programs, ORP, CFM</p> <p>Brian Melewski, Director, Capital Asset Management (CAM), HEFP, VHA</p>
<p>Support advanced notifications of planned VA construction projects (including new CHIP-IN facilities) to support future health professions education expansion efforts.</p>	<p>VA Office of CFM OFP for approved Major Construction projects.</p> <p>CFM ORP for CHIP-IN projects</p> <p>VHA Office of Capital Asset Management (CAM), HEFP for non- Major Construction and CHIP-IN projects</p>	<p>Office of Academic Affiliations (OAA)</p>	<p>Include OAA and field educational representatives in the annual SCIP business case review process to ensure educational needs for space are included.</p>	<p>FY 2024, Quarter 2</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Brandi Stockstill, Director, Policy and Programs, ORP, CFM</p> <p>John Bulick, Director, FPDS, OFP, CFM</p> <p>Glenn Elliott, Director, PDS, OFP, CFM</p> <p>Brian Melewski, Director, CAM, HEFP, VHA</p>

<b>VA Action Plan – Recommendation 2, Health Professional stakeholder involvement in space</b>						
<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Lead Office</b>	<b>Other Offices</b>	<b>Tasks</b>	<b>Due Dates</b>	<b>Current Status</b>	<b>Contact Persons</b>
That physicians, nurses and other health professional stakeholder(s) be involved in local facility space planning and design processes.	VA CFM OFP PDSD for Major Construction Projects  VHA HEFP CAM for all projects	Office of Academic Affiliations (OAA)	Include OAA and field educational representatives in the annual SCIP business case review process, joint engagements and the sharing of active project data to create a mechanism to allow health care professionals to be involved in local space planning and design, especially for education-related space.	FY24Q2	Ongoing	John Bulick, Director, FPDS, OFP, CFM  Glenn Elliott, Director, PDSD, OFP, CFM  Brian Melewski, Director, CAM, HEFP, VHA  Gary Fischer, Senior Architect, VHA Office of Construction and Facilities Management  Don Myers, Director, Facility Standards Service