



Health Professions Education Statistics, AY 2023-2024

OVERVIEW: ACADEMIC YEAR (AY) 2023-2024

As one of its four statutory missions, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) operates the largest education and training platform for health professionals in the nation. More than 60 clinical disciplines are represented in VA's health professions education (HPE) programs, which are overseen by the Office of Academic Affiliations (OAA). During the 2023-2024 academic year (AY), more than 122,000 health professions trainees (HPTs) participated in programs offered through partnerships between 153 VA medical facilities and more than 1,450 academic institutions.

Ninety-five percent of the nation's medical schools, including 151 of 159 Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME)-accredited allopathic schools and 39 of 42 Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA)-accredited osteopathic medical schools, are affiliated with VA.

VA's HPT workforce is critical to maintaining timely Veteran access to care. HPE programs also play a leading role in creating the health care workforce for VA and the nation. An estimated 69% of VA podiatrists, 75% of VA psychologists, 85% of VA optometrists, and 65% of VA physicians participated in VA HPE programs prior to recruitment into VA staff positions.

70% of the physicians in the U.S. have received training at VA

OFFICIAL 7-YEAR STATISTICS: HEALTH PROFESSIONS TRAINEES (HPTs)*

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Advanced Fellows	652	664	653	634	621	571	523
Associated Health	25,370	24,895	21,215	20,463	22,059	21,496	21,108
Dental Residents and Students	773	732	863	1,012	1,025	1,014	1,002
Physician Residents	45,296	45,363	47,521	48,049	49,940	50,620	51,540
Medical Students	24,643	26,894	26,652	26,271	26,802	29,701	29,439
Nursing Trainees	23,815	25,194	20,771	16,673	17,829	16,718	18,465
Non-Health Profession	341	448	337	204	179	169	128
GRAND TOTAL	120,890	124,190	118,012	113,306	118,455	120,289	122,205

*Includes PAID and Without Compensation HPTs

HEALTH PROFESSIONS TRAINEE SATISFACTION SURVEY: AY 2023-2024

OAA takes pride in ensuring trainees receive high quality training experiences. The survey showed that 91% of HPTs were satisfied or very satisfied with their VA training experience.

Before their VA training, 54% of HPTs indicated they were interested in working for VA; after their VA training, 73% indicated they were interested in working for VA.



ABOUT OAA

As authorized in Title 38 Section 7302, VA assists the nation in training health professionals in over 60 professions. VA health professions education is conducted in partnership with U.S. academic institutions in accordance with VA's 1946 Policy Memorandum No. 2. Overseen by OAA, these training programs make the VA the largest platform for health professions education in the United States. To learn more about OAA, visit www.va.gov/oaa/.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-2024

MEDICAL AND DENTAL EDUCATION:

- Medical and Dental Education collaborated with VHA Workforce Management and Consulting (WMC) to develop and implement standardized organizational charts, staffing benchmarks, position descriptions, functional statements, and performance standards for VA Health Professions Education (HPE) offices to ensure growth, consistency, sustained superior performance, and compliance within VA medical facility HPE offices.

NURSING EDUCATION:

- VA established 14 new Nurse Residency programs to help address the nursing shortage and meet the demands of the aging Veteran population. VA has 156 nurse residency programs, including 60 Post Baccalaureate Registered Nurse Residency programs and 96 Nurse Practitioner Residency programs (50 Primary Care, 39 Mental Health, and seven Geriatric and Extended Care) with over 810 nursing HPT positions.

ASSOCIATED HEALTH EDUCATION:

- Associated Health Education (AHE) now includes 19 funded professions and more than 60 unfunded professions with approximately 21,000 AHE trainees rotating through our VA facilities annually.
- AHE also supported Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for six professions to expand funded positions for AY 2025-2026/Fiscal Year 2026.
- AHE has continued to expand Mental Health trainee positions through the recent Support The Resiliency of Our Nation's Great Veterans (STRONG) I and STRONG II Veterans Act with adding an additional 99 allocations in the professions of Social Work, Counseling, and Marriage Family Therapy.

ADVANCED FELLOWSHIPS & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

- The Advanced Fellowship in Geriatrics was expanded to include all 20 Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Centers (GRECCs) and organized under a new Coordinating Center supported by the VHA Office of Geriatrics and Extended Care. This new Coordinating Center produced a unified curriculum, integrating the 20 sites around the central mission of developing leaders in the innovation of geriatric care, research, and education to serve the aging Veteran population.
- The Advanced Fellowship and Professional Development section launched an effort to review and approve national curricula for each of the fellowship programs. This serves the goal of classifying the educational objectives and learning activities for each fellowship and specifying the competencies that each program graduate should possess. This process has been completed for over half of the fellowships, with several others close to completion.

MEDICAL INFORMATICS UNIT:

- The Account Provisioning and Deprovisioning System (APDS) became a required tool for onboarding HPTs in April 2024. This online tool streamlined the onboarding process, allowing HPTs to care for Veterans much sooner. For AY 2023-2024, APDS onboarded 58,934 HPTs. Since its inception in late 2022, APDS has onboarded over 106,000 HPTs.
- Per APDS, physician recruitment of HPTs to VA employment increased by 31% in AY 2023-2024.

OTHER INITIATIVES:

- The Rural Interprofessional Faculty Development Initiative (RIFDI) continued its mission of promoting health professions education in rural areas. A total of 215 participants have been enrolled in the first five cohorts. Four cohorts have graduated from the program. The program has facilitated multiple new training programs, enhanced educational infrastructure, and facilitated participants' career progression into educational leadership roles.

