



## Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Residency Program

VA PUGET SOUND HEALTH CARE SYSTEM (VAPSHCS) 2023-24

Center of Education for Interprofessional Collaboration (CoEIPC)

### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:**

- How long is the residency program?
  - The VA PSHCS Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Residency (PC-NPR) program is 12 months long for licensed nurse practitioners with a DNP or MSN degree.
- Is this program accredited?
  - The program is currently preparing for accreditation with the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).
- How much is the stipend?
  - The stipend is reviewed annually and funded by the National VA Office of Academic Affiliations (OAA). For example, the 2022-2023 VA PSHCS Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Residency (PC-NPR) salary is \$82,563.
- Do I receive benefits?
  - Residents are considered full-time VA paid trainees, eligible for trainee benefits, including Federal Employee Health Benefits (FEHB) [Healthcare \(opm.gov\)](https://www.opm.gov) with some plans offering limited Dental coverage, 13 days sick leave, 13 days annual leave, and 11 Federal holidays.
  - Health Profession Trainees are not entitled to the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS), Thrift Savings Plan (TSP), Federal Employee Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP), Federal Employee Group Life Insurance (FEGLI), military leave or Paid Parental Leave.
- What is the application process like?
  - Phase 1 - Each applicant is expected to provide curriculum vitae (CV), a letter of recommendation from academic program director, and a list of professional references and complete three brief essay questions.
  - Phase 2 - After completion of all parts of this application process, applicants will be scheduled an interview as a finalist.
  - Phase 3 - After all the interviews are completed, the selected applicants will be notified of acceptance, and asked to complete additional forms necessary for appointment as a VA Primary Care N Resident.

- All finalists must provide proof of health status, immunization requirements, personal identity, proof of licensure, and obtain a National Provider Identifier number no less than two months prior to start date.
- What is the timeline of the application process?
  - Application Opens: November 1, 2022
  - **Application Due Date: Wednesday, February 1, 2023**
  - Letter(s) of Reference due from Applicant's Program Director to be sent directly to Seattle VA NP Residency Program Director: **February 8, 2023.**
  - Resident Interviews: **March 17, 2023 & March 24, 2023.**
  - Resident Offers: **March 31, 2023, subject to change**
  - Resident Acceptance Due Date: April 1, 2023
  - Residency Dates: August 13, 2023 to August 10, 2024 (first day on Monday August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023; last day on site Friday, August 9, 2024)
- With whom will I interview?
  - You will interview with the Program Director, Program Coordinator and clinical faculty from the Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Residency.
- What are the clinical rotations for the DNP residency?
  - In addition to Primary Care and Women's Health, the VA PSHCS PC-NPR training may include rotations to Deployment Health, Homeless Veteran Care, Dermatology, Home-Based Primary Care, Pulmonary, Neurology, Oncology, Rheumatology, Rehabilitative Musculoskeletal Clinic, Emergency Medicine and leadership opportunities.
- Is any of the program offered online or remotely?
  - Mandatory Training for Trainees (MTT) must be done at the start of the program.
  - VA PSHCS and OAA offers some additional didactic learning online. We utilize online modules to help supplement our clinical curriculum including Talent Management System (TMS), Specialty Care Access Network Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes (SCAN ECHO) and various conference calls and Grand Rounds. The program is based on site and requires being present at the facility.
  - Telework agreements for short term extenuating circumstances may be approved on an individual case by case basis.
- How am I evaluated?
  - Residents are evaluated on multiple levels including clinical knowledge base, adaptability, professionalism and progress through the program. Practitioners involved in the training process of the residents will contribute to the evaluation of the residents. Evaluations include self-evaluations, clinical competencies, and on-line evaluations by Primary Care faculty.

- Does VA Puget Sound have a sufficient quantity of physicians, fellows, and affiliate providers to train an individual taking into consideration his or her level of experience and comprehension? Are they willing to take time to teach at my level of understanding?
  - Yes. We make sure that each rotation gives the resident the best possible learning experience. Our staff is dedicated to high quality education, learning and teaching, and practice excellence. They understand the need for learning at the appropriate level. Our commitment is to develop a competent primary care practitioner.
  
- What leadership and scholarly opportunities are available within VA Puget Sound upon graduation?
  - Leadership and scholarship opportunities are offered throughout the duration of the program.
  - Examples of leadership experiences include participation in leadership meetings for CoEIPC, leading quality improvement projects, co-precepting students and co-teaching in didactic seminars.
  - Examples of scholarly activities include presenting at Trainee Journal Club, presenting at Trainee Quality Improvement meetings, planning for Primary Care Report and options for submissions for publications.
  
- How many hours will I work per week?
  - All work is completed on-site. Approximately 40-50 hours per week will be expected between clinical hours, didactic/learning hours and administration time, Monday to Friday. No weekends or on-call. The schedule will be published in advance.
  
- What characteristics will the ideal candidate possess?
  - The ideal candidate will be self-motivated, devoted to primary care and care of Veterans, have the interpersonal skills necessary to practice in the primary care setting, and work effectively in inter-professional teams.
  
- After I complete the residency, am I hired at the VA?
  - You are eligible to apply for open positions with the VA but are not guaranteed a position. The VA OAA Nurse Residency programs are designed to enhance recruitment and retention of VA nurses by providing a pipeline of the highly qualified nursing workforce.
  
- Do I need to be licensed and certified?
  - Yes. You will need to be licensed in the State of Washington and AGNP or FNP certified by ANCC or AANP prior to the start of the residency.
  
- Do I need to apply for a DEA license?

- No, NP resident trainees will not be prescribing controlled substances. In cases where an NP resident is caring for a Veteran who requires a controlled substance, the NP resident will consult with their assigned clinical supervisor to assist the Veteran.
- The NP resident can handle all other aspects of education of patients, consent and monitoring related to controlled substance use and will receive X waiver training.
- The PC-NPR program supports you to:
  - Safely provide care for patients.
  - Prioritize patient care based on acuity or urgency of patient need.
  - Recognize and respond to emergency situations.
  - Recognize abnormal assessment/data and know when to consult others.
  - Prescribe medications in a safe and timely manner.
  - Access patient education materials and on line resources.
  - Coordinate care with the entire health care team.
  - Communicate effectively with individuals and groups.
  - Be part of a healthcare team caring for patients at a renowned research and teaching medical center.
  - Become competent, confident, practice-ready NPs equipped with the knowledge and skills to address the specific needs of our nation's Veterans in the VHA and community.
- How long until I hear from someone?
  - If there is an opportunity for you to interview, we will contact you. Otherwise, your application remains active in the candidate bank for future openings.
- How many NP Residency positions are available?
  - There are four (4) NP residency positions for 2023-2024 at the VA PSHCS PC-NPR.
- Do I need to include other work experience, even if it was not in a health care position?
  - Please include all work experiences on your resume.
  - Please include other activities such as teaching, publications, volunteer and community service.

Upon completion of the NP Residency program, you will receive a certificate of completion. Residents are expected to complete the entire term of the residency.

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