

Financial Aid Highlights

Financial Aid Highlights is a periodic electronic news update provided by the Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships for the benefit of prospective and continuing CSUB students and parents, high school and community college counselors, faculty, and staff. The electronic publication will contain informational items pertaining to financial aid and scholarships of relevance to the CSUB community. Past issues are archived on the Financial Aid & Scholarships homepage at <http://www.csub.edu/finaid>. Additional information regarding any given topic may be obtained by calling the office at (661) 664-3016.

2006-07 The National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Scholarship Program - FAH (Vol. 7, No. 61)

Students are advised that the United States Congress has charged the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) with the responsibility for alleviating the geographic maldistribution of primary care physicians and other health practitioners in the United States.

The NHSC Scholarship Program is mandated by Congress to supply the NHSC with health care professionals trained in those disciplines and specialties most needed to deliver quality primary health care services in health professional shortage areas (HPSAs) throughout the United States as designated by the Secretary.

The NHSC Scholarship Program is not a general financial assistance program for students of health-related disciplines; rather, it provides the NHSC with the committed health professionals it needs to carry out its mission of providing primary health care to HPSA populations in areas of greatest need.

National Health Service Corps Scholarship Program Profile

The National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Scholarship Program is a competitive Federal program, which awards scholarships to students pursuing primary care health professions training.

The scholarship consists of payment for tuition, fees, other reasonable educational costs, and a monthly support stipend. In return, the students agree to provide 1 year of service in the HPSA of greatest need to which they are assigned for each school year or partial school year of scholarship support received, with a minimum 2-year service commitment, maximum 4-year commitment.

NHSC scholarship recipients MUST be willing and are required to fulfill their NHSC service commitment at HPSA locations selected by the NHSC, anywhere in the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Territory of Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Territory of American Samoa, the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, or the Federated States of Micronesia.

For the 2006-07 academic year, scholarships will be available for students pursuing primary health care training leading to a degree in allopathic medicine, osteopathic medicine, or dentistry, and education leading to a degree as a family nurse practitioner, nurse-midwife or physician assistant.

The scholarship recipient's service commitment will be fulfilled either as a non-Federal employee, as a commissioned officer of the Regular or Reserve Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service (PHS), or as a civilian employee of the U.S. Government. It should be noted that approximately 92% of scholars fulfill their commitments as non-Federal employees of public or private entities such as community and migrant health centers, health departments, and other non-Federal entities. Also note that the remaining 8% of scholars serve as Federal employees at HPSA sites in the Indian Health Service, the medical facilities of the Department of Justice's Federal Bureau of Prisons and the Department of Homeland Security's Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Students who are uncertain of their commitment to primary health care practice in HPSAs throughout the United States, or who are unable to relocate based on the needs of the NHSC, are advised not to participate in this program. Medical students (osteopathic and allopathic) who are unsure about their future specialty interests, or who are unable to commit themselves to complete specialty training in one of the approvable primary care residencies specified in this Bulletin, are advised not to apply for the NHSC scholarship.

Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs)

A HPSA is a geographic area, a facility, or a population group, which has been determined by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services to have a shortage of health professionals. HPSAs are identified on the basis of agency or individual requests for designation. Information considered when designating a primary care HPSA includes health practitioner-to-population ratios, rates of poverty, and access to available primary health services. Service commitments to the NHSC may be satisfied ONLY in those HPSAs with the greatest need at the time of assignment, as determined by the Division of National Health Service Corps.

Application Information

For inquiries specific to the application process for the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Scholarship Program, visit the following web site: <http://nhsc.bhpr.hrsa.gov/>

Deadlines

The NHSC deadlines follow:

- NHSC Scholarship Application for Participation - *March 31, 2006*.
- Verification of Acceptance/Verification of Good Standing Report or Letter:
 - For allopathic, osteopathic and dental students - *March 31, 2006*
 - For family nurse practitioner, nurse-midwife, and physician assistant students - *July 1, 2006*
- Authorization to Release Information Letter for all NHSC scholarship applicants - *March 31, 2006*

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