

VA Learning Opportunities Residency (VALOR) Program

Welcome BSN Nursing Students!

For more than 20 years, the VA Health Care System has offered this exciting clinical residency for BSN students between their junior and senior years. VALOR is designed to increase participants' clinical skills, clinical judgment, and critical thinking while caring for our nation's Veterans. This program provides opportunities for learning including didactic or classroom experiences and clinical practice with a qualified RN (Registered Nurse) preceptor. Students recruited for the program must have completed the final semester or quarter of the junior year in an accredited baccalaureate nursing program. Students are appointed during the summer months for 400 hours and continues during their senior academic year on a part-time basis. VALOR students also sign an intent for employment with MGVAMC at the beginning of their residency, allowing them a salary rate above the minimum, based on their qualifications demonstrated in the program.

Program Overview

The VALOR program at Mann-Grandstaff VAMC begins with ten weeks of paid, full-time work during the summer months (June – August). Applicants should be available to work 40 hours per week during this time.

The summer program includes:

- New Nurse Orientation
- Clinical practice with a preceptor on an assigned unit
- Opportunities to rotate to other units/specialties for observation experiences
- Weekly meetings with the program coordinator and VALOR student peers
- Other planned educational experiences

After completing the initial ten weeks of full-time work, VALOR students will continue to work part-time through the academic year, until graduation.

Program Eligibility

Eligible students will:

- Be currently enrolled in an accredited BSN program;
- Have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, with no grade lower than a B in any nursing course;
- Have completed the final semester/quarter of junior year prior to the program start date;
- Be eligible to graduate by the following June;
- Have had at least one clinical experience in a medical center or hospital;
- Be a U.S. Citizen;

- Provide documentation of immunization status and current Health Care Provider BLS training;
- Submit all application materials by the deadline;
- Not have a service obligation to any Federal, state, or private institution or be a recipient of any Federal scholarship that incurs a service obligation;
- Be able to work full-time during the summer months and part-time during the academic year.

Application Process

Application process at MGVAMC for the VALOR program:

Application opens: March 8th, 2021

Application Deadline: March 26th, 2021

Interviews: April 5th- 14th, 2021

Selection Notification: April 23rd, 2021

Program Starts: June 2021

Mail application to:

MGVAMC

Attn: Reba Boyd, VALOR Coordinator

4815 Assembly St.

Spokane, WA 99205

EMAIL: [Reba.Boyd](mailto:Reba.Boyd@mgvamc.org) **FAX:** 509-434-7134

Application materials will include:

- Government forms 10-2850a and OP-306
- Letter of interest in the VALOR program & Resume
- Evidence of BLS (expiring within no less than 60 days of program start)
- Official transcript
- Two letters of reference;
 - One from Dean/Director of the school of nursing, on school letterhead, including a nomination of the student to the program, verification of enrollment as a full-time student, and anticipated graduation date.
 - One from a clinical or faculty advisor on school letterhead, recommending the student for the program.

Applications missing any of these materials will not be considered.

Students with the most competitive applications will be invited to interview with a panel of VA nurses. If selected for the program, students may be required to complete a physical exam and a drug screen.

Frequently Asked Questions

Are VALOR students paid?

Yes. VALOR students are paid as hourly, intermittent employees. VALOR students are not eligible for overtime pay, holiday pay, or shift differentials. The rate of pay changes each year.

Can VALOR students choose the unit where they work?

No. VALOR students may express a preference for a unit, but they will be placed according to preceptor availability and unit needs. VALOR students may rotate to other units for observational experiences.

I am in an accelerated BSN program. Can I apply for the VALOR program?

Students in an accelerated BSN program can apply for the VALOR program IF they meet the program requirements and are available to work full time from June – August of the program start year.

How can I make my application competitive?

First, assure you have submitted all the required materials. Seek recommendations from faculty or instructors who will give positive feedback about your performance in nursing school. Assure your resume reflects not only your clinical and health care experience, but also other paid employment, volunteer work, and extracurricular activities.

I still have questions. Who can I speak to about the program?

For questions about the VALOR program at VA Puget Sound, email Reba Boyd at Rebecca.boyd3@va.gov