

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN A VA NURSING CAREER?

PURPOSE

To provide a nursing residency for distinguished honor students interested in a nursing career at the Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System (SLVHCS).

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Nursing VA-STEP Program is designed for outstanding students who are completing their junior year in a Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) or Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) accredited Baccalaureate programs.

VA-STEP students develop clinical competencies in a selected nursing specialty area, under the guidance of VA Registered Nurse (RN) preceptors.

Learning opportunities will be enhanced by structured clinical experiences including competency-based clinical practice and participation in interdisciplinary clinical conferences. Continuing Education programs held by the medical center are often open to VA-STEP students.

LENGTH OF PROGRAM

The program is designed as a one-year residency, with a minimum of 400 consecutive hours, ten 40-hour weeks, worked during the summer months. The program ends either after the 10 weeks of 40-hour full time summer work (400 hours) or the VA-STEP student may elect to convert during the academic year to an intermittent status. Work schedules will be coordinated with the program coordinator and the nurse manager of assigned area(s). Before graduation, a VA-STEP student may apply to continue employment after graduation as a graduate nurse. Upon successfully passing the state board of nursing exam, a VA-STEP student will become eligible to apply for appointment as a Registered Nurse at SLVHCS

PROGRAM BENEFITS

VA-STEP students have the opportunity to enhance their clinical skills and gain valuable experiences while working with professional nurses. This residency program gives the student an opportunity to develop competence in nursing, as well as, explore the world of VA nursing excellence to start their VA Career. Participation in this program does not guarantee placement upon graduation, but students who complete the program will be given the highest consideration. Students also have the honor of caring for our nations heroes.



Nicole Downey
Holy Cross c/o 2020



Sabrina Smith
LSU c/o 2020



Kayla Biskupovich
LSU c/o 2021

“ Serving
Those Who
Have
Served ”

VA-STEP PROGRAM



RESIDENCY PAY

The pay is at a rate equal to 80% of the salary rate for an Entry Grade Nurse, Nurse 1, Level 1, Step 1. In addition, time worked as a VA-STEP student will be creditable federal service for future career options.

ELIGIBILITY

To become a VA-STEP student, an applicant must:

- Be a United States citizen.
- Be a current nursing student who has completed or are within one semester of completing the junior year of their bachelor's degree program from a nationally accredited school for Nursing Sciences with a CCNE or ACEN Accreditation.
- Be willing to undergo a background/suitability investigation.
- Be willing to come work for the VA after graduation.
- Students must be available to work 400 hours prior to graduation from their education program.
- Have a minimum Cumulative GPA of 3.00 on 4.00 scale.
- Must not be obligated to work somewhere outside of the VA after graduation.
- Be in Good Academic Standing (as defined by the school the student attends) leading to graduation and NCLEX certification.

Note: Students with a service obligation to any facility or entity outside of the VA are ineligible for the Nursing VA-STEP Program. Also, please identify if you are working for the VA currently (you cannot be in two paid systems at the same time).

APPLICATION PROCESS

Students interested in this program can apply here:

<https://va-ams.intelliworx.com/webapp/register/va-step/facility-applicant.view>

Required Documents to be submitted when applying:

- A) Resume
- B) Official transcript
- C) Two Recommendation letters (Dean/Director or school of nursing and Academic faculty/Employer/ Manager/ Other
- D) Other documents as deemed necessary (EX. DD214 for Veterans).



Madcyn Batiste and Aloha Taylor
Dillard University c/o 2022



Diamond Muse
Holy Cross c/o 2022



Charity Williams
Chamberlain c/o 2022

Application Must be submitted via website by January 26, 2024



**VA-STEP
Website
QRC**

For any questions please reach out to VA-STEP Program Coordinator.

VA-STEP Program Coordinator
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