

**VOLUME 7A, CHAPTER 60: “HEALTH PROFESSIONS SCHOLARSHIP
PROGRAM FOR ACTIVE SERVICE”**

SUMMARY OF MAJOR CHANGES

Changes are identified in this table and also denoted by [blue font](#).

Substantive revisions are denoted by an asterisk (*) symbol preceding the section, paragraph, table, or figure that includes the revision.

Unless otherwise noted, chapters referenced are contained in this volume.

Hyperlinks are denoted by [bold, italic, blue, and underlined font](#).

The previous version dated [November 2017](#) is archived.

PARAGRAPH	EXPLANATION OF CHANGE/REVISION	PURPOSE
1.1 (600101)	Updated in accordance with the DoD Instruction 6000.13.	Revision
1.2 (600102)	Updated the “Authoritative Guidance” paragraph to comply with current administrative instructions.	Revision
2.2 (600202)	Updated in accordance with Title 10, United States Code, section 2121(a)(2).	Revision
4.3 (600403)	Increased the stipend amount to \$2,391.60 effective July 1, 2019 in accordance with the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense Health Affairs Memo, dated April 4, 2019.	Revision
References	Renamed “Bibliography” to “References” and updated statutes and supporting references.	Revision

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CHAPTER 60

HEALTH PROFESSIONS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR ACTIVE SERVICE

1.0 GENERAL (6001)

*1.1 Purpose (600101)

The purpose of this chapter is to establish policy pertaining to the Health Professions Scholarship Program for Active Service. The Secretary of the Military Department concerned may provide for the payment of all educational expenses incurred by a member of the Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship Program (AFHPSP), including tuition, fees, books, and laboratory expenses. Such payments, however, will be limited to those educational expenses normally incurred by students at the institution and in the health profession concerned. **An educational institution cannot charge the government for educational costs that it does not charge to ALL students attending their University in pursuit of the degree in question.**

*1.2 Authoritative Guidance (600102)

The pay policies and requirements established by the Department of Defense (DoD) in this chapter are derived primarily from, and prepared in accordance with the United States Code (U.S.C.), including Titles 10, 26, 37, and 38. Due to the subject matter in this chapter, the list of authoritative sources is extensive. The specific statutes, regulations, and other applicable guidance that govern each individual section are listed in a reference section at the end of the chapter.

2.0 AFHPSP (6002)

2.1 Purpose (600201)

The purpose of the AFHPSP is to obtain adequate numbers of commissioned officers on active duty who are qualified in the various health professions, including health professionals with specific skills to assist in providing mental health care to members of the Armed Forces.

*2.2 Responsibility (600202)

The Secretary of the Military Department concerned, under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense, may establish and maintain a Health Professions Scholarship and Financial Assistance Program (FAP) for their department. The Secretary of the Military Department concerned will allocate a portion of the total number of scholarships available in their department to **health professionals with specific skills in mental health care. This is to assist such members in pursuing** a degree at the master and doctoral level, with obligatory periods of military training, in any of the following disciplines:

2.2.1. Social work;

2.2.2. Clinical psychology;

2.2.3. Psychiatry; or

2.2.4. Other disciplines that contribute to mental health care programs in that Military Department.

2.3 Eligibility (600203)

To be eligible for participation in the AFHPSP, a person must be a citizen of the United States and must:

2.3.1. Be accepted for admission to, or enrolled in, an institution in a course of study or selected to receive specialized training, or, if offered, agree to accept residency training in a health profession skill which has been designated by the Secretary of the Military Department concerned as a critically needed wartime skill;

2.3.2. Sign an agreement to:

2.3.2.1. Complete the educational phase of AFHPSP;

2.3.2.2. Accept an appropriate reappointment or designation within his or her military service, if tendered, based upon his or her health profession, following satisfactory completion of AFHPSP;

2.3.2.3. Participate in the intern program of his or her service, if selected for such participation;

2.3.2.4. Participate in the residency program of his or her service, if selected, or be released from active duty for the period required to undergo civilian residency, if selected for such training; or

2.3.2.5. Participate in military training while in AFHPSP, under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense; and

2.3.3. Meet the requirements for appointment as a commissioned officer.

2.4 Active Duty Obligation (600204)

A member of AFHPSP incurs an active duty obligation based upon the following conditions:

2.4.1. The period of obligation, as prescribed under regulations by the Secretary of Defense, may not be less than 1 year for each year of participation in AFHPSP.

2.4.2. A period spent as a military intern or in residency training will not be creditable in satisfying the active duty obligation.

2.4.3. A member of AFHPSP, who is dropped from AFHPSP for deficiency in conduct or studies or for other reasons, may be required to perform active duty in an appropriate military capacity in accordance with the active duty obligation imposed in this program.

2.4.4. The Secretary of the Military Department concerned may relieve a member of AFHPSP, who is dropped from AFHPSP, from an active duty obligation, but such relief will not relieve the member from any military obligation imposed by any other law.

2.4.5. A member of AFHPSP, who is relieved of the member's active duty obligation before the completion of that active duty obligation, may be given, with or without the consent of the member, any of the following alternative obligations, as determined by the Secretary of the Military Department concerned:

2.4.5.1. A service obligation in another Armed Force for a period of time not less than the member's remaining active duty service obligation;

2.4.5.2. A service obligation in a component of the Selected Reserve for a period not less than twice as long as the member's remaining active duty service obligation; or

2.4.5.3. Repayment of a percentage of the total cost incurred pursuant to the repayment provisions of Chapter 2.

2.4.6. If a member is relieved of an active duty obligation by reason of separation because of a physical disability, then the Secretary of the Military Department concerned may give the member a service obligation as a civilian employee. The member may be employed as a health care professional, in a facility of the uniformed services, for a period equal to the member's remaining active duty service obligation.

3.0 ACCESSION BONUS (AB) (6003)

3.1 Eligibility (600301)

To be eligible for AFHPSP, an individual must meet the requirements of paragraph 2.3.

3.2 Amount (600302)

The Secretary of Defense may offer a member, who enters into an agreement under subparagraph 2.3.2, an AB not to exceed \$20,000.

3.3 Relationship to Other Payments (600303)

An AB paid to a member is in addition to any other amounts payable under the AFHPSP.

3.4 Repayment (600304)

A member who receives an AB under this section, but fails to comply with the agreement under subparagraph 2.3.2, or fails to commence or complete the active duty obligation discussed in paragraph 2.4, will be subject to the repayment provisions of Chapter 2.

4.0 PAY ENTITLEMENTS (6004)

4.1 Active Duty (600401)

4.1.1. Members participating in AFHPSP will be commissioned officers in the Reserve Component of the Armed Forces and will be ordered to active duty for a period of 45 days during each year of participation.

4.1.2. Members pursuing a course of study will serve on active duty in pay grade O-1 with full pay and allowances of that grade.

4.1.3. Members pursuing specialized training will serve on active duty in a pay grade commensurate with their educational level, as determined by appointment, with full pay and allowances of that grade for a period of 14 days during each year of participation in AFHPSP.

4.1.4. Members will be detailed as students at accredited civilian institutions, located in the United States or Puerto Rico, for the purpose of acquiring knowledge or training in a designated health profession. This active duty period may be served at the location where the member is receiving specialized training, if it would otherwise interrupt the member's residency or fellowship training to serve elsewhere on active duty.

4.2 Prior Active Service (600402)

Effective January 28, 2008, a member, who has been selected as a medical student and who has prior military service at a pay grade with years of service credited for pay, will be paid basic pay at such prior pay grade and years of service, if this rate of basic pay exceeds the rate of basic pay to which he would be entitled as a medical student. The amount of the basic pay will be increased on January 1 of each year by [the percentage of increase established by executive order](#). The member will continue to receive the higher basic pay of his or her prior pay grade until the basic pay for the member's actual grade and years of service credited for pay exceeds the basic pay he or she is receiving, regardless of whether this occurs before or after the conclusion of his or her participation as a medical student.

*4.3 Stipend (600403)

Except during periods of active duty (see paragraph 4.1), members enrolled in this program are entitled to a monthly stipend of \$2,391.60 per month, effective July 1, 2019. These rates are payable during periods of absence. [For the most current rates, see the Armed Forces Health Professions Stipend and Financial Assistance Program Grant table on DFAS.MIL.](#)

4.3.1. Payment. Payment starts on the date of execution of the oath of office, the date of execution of AFHPSP contract, or the date of commencement of the academic curriculum, whichever is latest. Payment normally continues until the date of graduation or completion of specialized training. The stipend is payable during the course of study and during vacation periods when members are not on active duty. The stipend is prorated for portions of a month at the beginning and end of the course of study, and the beginning and end of any active duty period.

4.3.2. Termination. If a member of AFHPSP is suspended or disenrolled from the designated course of training, stipend payments terminate on that date. Some students complete their professional degree requirements several months before the formal graduation ceremony and conferral of the professional degree. In those cases, where the actual award of a professional degree is a prerequisite to re-commissioning into a professional corps or utilization in the profession, and a lapse of time occurs for administrative reasons, the payment of the stipend should be terminated. The date for termination of the stipend should be the completion of the academic training, if this date precedes the date of graduation by more than 45 days.

4.3.3. Recoupment. Educational costs of AFHPSP and stipends are subject to recoupment when members of AFHPSP are dropped for deficiency in conduct or studies, or when members, for other reasons, fail to fulfill their contractual agreement as a result of action not initiated by the government. [Recoupment is subject to the repayment provisions of Chapter 2.](#)

4.4 Advance Pay (600404)

Members may be paid an advance pay when reporting for the 45-day active duty tour. (See Chapter 32, paragraph [320208](#).)

4.5 Travel Time (600405)

During the active duty period, including allowable travel time under Chapter 1, Table 1-6, members serve in pay grade O-1 and are normally entitled to full pay and allowances (see Chapter 57) for that grade.

4.6 Officer's Initial Uniform Allowance (600406)

A member of the AFHPSP is entitled to an initial uniform allowance upon reporting for the first period of active duty. (See Chapter 30, section [3002](#).)

4.7 Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) (600407)

Members, while under this program, are entitled to SGLI coverage for the 45-day active duty tour. For deductions during active duty periods, see Chapter 47, section [4705](#).

4.8 Tax Withholding (600408)

4.8.1. Active duty pay paid under this program is subject to federal income tax withholding (FITW), state income tax withholding (SITW) (if applicable), and federal insurance contribution act (FICA) withholding in the same manner as prescribed in Chapters 44 and 45.

4.8.2. Monthly stipends paid to students entering AFHPSP are subject to FITW and SITW.

4.8.3. Monthly stipends are not subject to FICA.

4.8.4. Amounts paid directly to schools on behalf of students for tuition, books, fees, laboratory expenses, and any reimbursements for such items paid to students participating at any time in AFHPSP are not subject to withholding for FITW, SITW, or FICA.

4.9 Settlement of Deceased Member's Accounts (600409)

See Chapter 36, section **3603** for authority for payment of any unpaid pay and allowances (includes the amount of unpaid stipend).

4.10 Creditable Service (600410)

4.10.1. Except as provided in subparagraph 4.10.2, service performed while a member of AFHPSP will not be counted **in**:

4.10.1.1. **D**etermining eligibility for retirement, other than by reason of physical disability incurred while on active duty as a member of AFHPSP; or

4.10.1.2. **C**omputing years of service creditable.

4.10.2. The Secretary of the Military Department concerned may authorize service performed by a member of AFHPSP, in pursuit of a course of study under this section, to be counted as creditable service, if the member:

4.10.2.1. Completes the course of study;

4.10.2.2. Completes the active duty obligation; and

4.10.2.3. Possesses a specialty designated by the Secretary of the Military Department concerned as critically needed in wartime.

4.10.3. Service credited under subparagraph 4.10.2 counts only for the award of retirement points for the computation of years of service and retired pay.

4.10.4. The number of points credited to a member under subparagraph 4.10.2.1 for a year of participation in the course of study is 50. The points will be credited to the member at the end

of each year after the completion of the course of study, when the member serves in the Selected Reserve and is credited with at least 50 points.

4.10.5. Service may not be counted under subparagraph 4.10.2 for more than 4 years of participation in the course of study as a member of AFHPSP.

4.10.6. A member is not entitled to any retroactive award of, or increase in, pay or allowances by reason of an award of service credit under subparagraph 4.10.2.

5.0 FAP (6005)

5.1 Grant (600501)

Effective July 1, 2008, a member participating in the AFHPSP specialized training will be paid an annual grant in an amount not to exceed \$45,000, in addition to the stipend under paragraph 4.3. [For the most current rates, see the Armed Forces Health Professions Stipend & Financial Assistance Program Grant table on DFAS.MIL.](#)

5.1.1. A grant is paid annually based on the rate in effect on the date of entitlement.

5.1.2. A grant is prorated only for partial years of participation, to include the final payment. Subsequent installments are to be issued on the anniversary date of the initial payment.

5.1.3. The amount of the grant is reviewed and increased as appropriate in the same manner as provided for the stipend.

5.1.4. Payment starts on the date of execution of the oath of office, the date of execution of the FAP contract, or the date of commencement of the academic curriculum, whichever is latest.

5.1.5. Payment will continue until the date of graduation or completion of specialized training, unless the program participant is suspended or disenrolled from the designated course of study or specialized training or fails to comply with terms of the program agreement, Service policy, or regulation.

5.1.6. The authority to make the grant and stipend payments is not affected by any payments made to the member by the civilian training institution.

5.2 Recoupment (600502)

A member of the FAP who fails to complete specialty training because of a deficiency in conduct or studies, or who, for other reasons, fails to fulfill the contractual agreement as a result of action not initiated by the government, may be required to reimburse the government for all or a portion of payments received during participation in FAP. Recoupment is subject to the repayment provisions of Chapter 2.

REFERENCES*CHAPTER 60 – HEALTH PROFESSIONS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR ACTIVE SERVICE****2.0 – AFHPSP (6002)**

2.1	10 U.S.C. § 2121(a)(1)
2.2	10 U.S.C. § 2121(a)(2)
2.3	10 U.S.C. § 2122
2.4	10 U.S.C. § 2123

3.0 – ACCESSION BONUS (AB) (6003)

3.1	Assistant Secretary of Defense Health Affairs (ASD (HA)) Memo, April 25, 2011
3.2	10 U.S.C. § 2128(a)
3.3	10 U.S.C. § 2128(b)
3.4	10 U.S.C. § 2128(c)

4.0 – PAY ENTITLEMENTS (6004)

4.1	10 U.S.C. § 2121(c)(1)
4.1.3.	10 U.S.C. § 12207
4.2	10 U.S.C. § 2121(c)(2) 37 U.S.C. § 1009
4.3	10 U.S.C. § 2121(d) Office of the ASD (OASD) (HA) Memo, April 4, 2019
4.4	37 U.S.C. § 1006(i)
4.6	37 U.S.C. § 415 10 U.S.C. § 2121(c)
4.7	38 U.S.C. §§ 1965-1976
4.8	26 U.S.C. § 117
4.9	10 U.S.C. § 2771
4.10	10 U.S.C. § 2126
4.10.1.2.	37 U.S.C. § 205
4.10.2.1.2.	10 U.S.C. § 2123(a)
4.10.2.2.	10 U.S.C. §§ 12732 and 12733
4.10.2.3.	10 U.S.C. § 12732(a)(2)
4.10.2.5.	10 U.S.C. §§ 12732(a) and 12733

5.0 – FAP (6005)

5.1

DoD Instruction 6000.13 December 30, 2015,
Incorporating Change 1, May 3, 2016
10 U.S.C. § 2127(e)
OASD (HA) Memo, April 4, 2019