



What is VANAP?

The Oregon Veteran Affairs Nursing Academic Partnership (VANAP) is an innovative education and practice collaboration between VA facilities and the OHSU School of nursing that will ensure quality Veteran care now and in the future. Participating Oregon VA sites include Portland, White City, and Roseburg facilities. These facilities will partner with OHSU School of Nursing campuses located in both Portland and Ashland, Oregon. Through strengthened academic and clinical relationships and opportunities, VANAP seeks to address a growing population of Veterans with unique and complex care needs who are served within multiple, diverse care settings. Specifically, VANAP intends to promote the safe and effective care of Veterans within and across community healthcare settings by expanding the workforce of BSN-prepared nurses able to provide quality Veteran-centric care that improves patient outcomes and reduces cost of care.

What does the program mean for students?

Students selected to participate in VANAP will experience the following:

1. Honor and prestige of VANAP affiliation and participation in a select student cohort
2. Unique clinical experiences with significant time in residence in VA settings throughout the 3 year nursing program
3. Learning opportunities within dedicated education units (DEUs) or inter-professional Patient Aligned Care Teams (PACTS) in specific VA settings where available
4. Deep immersion in Veteran-centric topics with a focus on the unique health care needs of Veterans
5. Guided instruction by clinical content experts, experienced faculty, and VA nursing staff
6. Exposure to a variety of newly emerging nursing roles, including those in transitional care and care coordination
7. Special recognitions, celebrations, events and educational offerings exclusive to VANAP students
8. Opportunity to apply for VA Student Nurse Technician (SNT) positions as available including the VALOR program where offered within the VA. To learn more about the VALOR program, see <http://www.vacareers.va.gov/VACAREERS/students-trainees/nurses.asp>.
9. With unique knowledge and expertise of Veteran care, VANAP graduates will be more marketable in terms of employment when applying to any VA or non-VA healthcare facility. Specifically within VA facilities, SNTs and VANAP cohort graduates will have priority for hire into open nursing positions.
10. If hired by the VA post-licensure, VANAP graduates will also become eligible to apply and participate in several VA-specific programs (as applicable/where available) including, but not limited to: VA Post-Baccalaureate Nurse Residency Pilot; Employee Debt Reduction Program (EDRP); VHA Registered Nursing (RN) Transition-to-Practice Program (on-site or virtual programs), VA Scholarship programs for advanced nursing degrees.

Expectations of a VANAP Student:

It is expected that successful applicants commit to their school of nursing campus and the VANAP program for the duration of their nursing education and comply with the vision, mission and values of VA Medical Centers and facilities.

What do students say about their clinical experiences in VA settings?

Prior to this official VANAP partnership, OHSU nursing students participated in varied clinical activities within Oregon VA facilities. Students have consistently reported positive learning experiences in these settings. Here are a few student comments:

I felt supported in my work... the VA was sure to let us know how important we were in the healing process... I felt like I had boundless opportunities at the VA, with so many activities to do and programs to observe. Overall I felt appreciated and valued at the VA.

Every staff member I worked with was kind and supportive... even the busiest providers often extended invitations for me to shadow them or observe meetings.

One thing I learned that I did not expect was about the wars that the clients had served in... I gained a greater respect for our men and women in the service past and present... I have now an understanding of not only the physical but also the mental and emotional effects war has on an individual.

How do I apply for selection into the VANAP Program?

Applications are currently being accepted from baccalaureate nursing students entering their programs in either Portland or Ashland fall 2013. Deadline for application is August 9, 2013. If you are entering the program this fall 2013 and did not receive an application via email, please contact Laura Mood @ moodl@ohsu.edu.

Applications to the VANAP program for future baccalaureate nursing student cohorts will be made available during the general school of nursing application process.

For more information, please contact:

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