Frequently Asked Questions regarding the VA Nursing Academic Partnership for Graduate Education Program (VANAP-GE)

Who is eligible for VANAP-GE?
Students in the Adult-Gerontology Primary Care NP program (AGPCNP) or in the combination AGPCNP/Adult Gerontology Acute Care NP (AGACNP) program (Dual program) are eligible for the VANAP program.

What is the difference between the primary and dual care programs?
The curriculum and programs of study for Adult Gerontology Primary Care NP (AGPCNP) and Adult Gerontology Acute Care NP (AGACNP) are specified on the Emory School of Nursing website inclusive of the dual tract program of study.

What are the financial benefits of VANAP-GE?
VANAP-GE Scholars will receive a stipend, set by VA Office of Academic Affiliation, for clinical hours during their primary care clinical rotations in the VA system. These benefits are exempt from federal taxation. In the past, the stipend was set at $13.00 per clinical hour.

VANAP-GE Scholars enrolled in the dual tract often have their acute care clinical rotations outside of the VA based on clinical site availability. All primary care clinical hours in the dual tract program of study will be covered under the stipend since they are held within the VA Health System. Only acute care clinical rotations that are held at the VA are covered under the stipend. The clinical rotation for the acute care part of the dual program (AGPCNP/AGACNP) are arranged, based on available sites, by the Adult Gerontology Acute Care NP Coordinator.

Will all my clinical rotations occur within the Atlanta VA Health System?
If you are in the Primary Care (AGPCNP) program, all of your clinical rotations will occur within the Atlanta VA Health System, which offers premier programs, numerous community based outpatient clinics (CBOCs), and specialty clinics.
If you are enrolled in the Dual Adult Gerontology Primary–Acute Care program, your primary care hours will be in the VA system, but acute care clinical hours may be offered at other institutions.

What does the VA Scholar Program clinical rotation look like?
Your clinical rotation will be the same as other students in the nurse practitioner program of study, however additional Veteran centric opportunities will be provided.

What are the typical work hours during my clinical rotations?
The clinical rotations hours align with the tour of duty of preceptors and outpatient clinical operations. These rotations occur Monday through Friday, and last for eight hours each day. A typical start time may range from 7:00 - 8:30am depending on the clinic site. Each clinical week consist of 40 hours.

**Will participation in this program require additional work outside of my studies for the Nurse Practitioner Program?**
All course assignments will be the same for students enrolled in their respective program of study. However, Veteran-centric concepts will be introduced throughout the MSN curriculum and conditions and issues unique to Veterans will be presented. All VANAP-GE Nurse Scholars will have expanded opportunities (Grand Rounds, Seminars, Meetings) that will enhance their clinical education.

Annually, VANAP-GE Scholars will have the opportunity to disseminate a best practice product that is derived from their work throughout the program.

VANAP-GE scholars may enroll in a course elective: On the Frontlines: Caring for our Veterans. This 2- hour course elective will be offered in the fall semester and open to all students.

**What happens if I decide that I am no longer interested in the program after it begins?**
While we strongly encourage each VANAP Nurse Scholar to complete the program with his or her cohort (group of students that are enrolled in the program at the same time), students may petition to withdraw due to extenuating circumstances. Withdrawal will result in loss of VANAP scholarship funds.

**Does this program guarantee a job working as a nurse with the VA when I complete my MSN?**
A VANAP Nurse Scholar graduate is highly valued and well positioned for employment within the VA Health System. One of the main goals of VANAP is to enhance recruitment and retention of VA Nurses. However, like many programs, employment is not guaranteed. The Atlanta VAMC is one of the few VA sites that offer a VANAP Nurse Practitioner Residency program. As a VANAP scholar, you are given special consideration and well positioned to compete for these salaried positions.

**Does this mean that I must work at the VA when I complete the MSN Nurse Practitioner program?**
While you will receive many opportunities to enhance clinical competencies for Veteran related care, and a goal of VANAP is to enhance recruitment and retention of VA Nurses, you are not obligated to VA employment unless you are a recipient of another VA scholarship that requires an obligation.