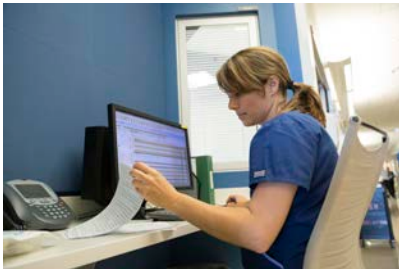


## Health Professional Shortage Areas and NURSE Corps Scholars

NURSE Corps scholars are required to fulfill their service obligation at a Critical Shortage Facility. A Critical Shortage Facility is a health care site located in a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) that provides primary medical care or mental health care to underserved populations. Health Professional Shortage Areas are designated by the Health Resources and Services Administration and are used to identify areas, population groups, or facilities within the United States that are experiencing a shortage of health professionals.

Here is a quick guide to HPSAs and your future service site.



- **Designations.** There are three different categories of HPSAs based on health discipline: 1) Primary Care; 2) Mental Health; and 3) Dental. For each discipline category, there are three different types of HPSA designations: 1) geographic (a county or service area); 2) population group (e.g., low income population, migrant farm workers); and 3) facility (e.g. rural health clinic, community health center). For the purpose of selecting a site, NURSE Corps scholars are required to go to a site with a geographic area, population group, or health care facility with a primary care or mental health HPSA designation.
- **Disciplines.** NURSE Corps scholars are required to serve at a Critical Shortage Facility with a primary care or mental HPSA score of 14 or above. A site may have a different HPSA score for different disciplines. For example, a site may have a mental health HPSA score of 18, but a primary care HPSA score of 6. In this example, since the facility has more than one HPSA designation with different scores for each discipline, you will use the score that is higher than 14 to justify eligibility. When you begin to search for a position, make sure you look at the site's HPSA scores closely.
- **Your Future Service Site.** With a better understanding of HPSAs, you can begin your search for a Critical Shortage Facility. Start by visiting the following HPSA websites:
  - <http://www.hrsa.gov/shortage/index.html>: Find out more information on HPSAs.
  - <http://datawarehouse.hrsa.gov/GeoAdvisor/ShortageDesignationAdvisor.aspx>: Find out if the address is located in a Geographic or Population Group HPSA.
  - <http://hpsafind.hrsa.gov>: Find HPSAs by state, county, and discipline (select only primary medical care or mental health).