

Be a Public Health Officer

in the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps



➤ About the Commissioned Corps

The U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps protects, promotes, and advances the health and safety of the Nation. With more than 6,000 officers, the Commissioned Corps is one of the Nation's seven uniformed services and resides in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. As the world's foremost public health service, it is composed entirely of officers who have been commissioned on the basis of their health-related training.

Commissioned officers deliver ongoing health promotion and disease prevention programs and are called on to provide onsite clinical and public health expertise in times of national emergencies and disasters. A career in the Commissioned Corps offers unlimited opportunities to serve your country while improving the quality of people's lives and making a real difference in public health.

➤ What It Means To Be a Public Health Officer in the Commissioned Corps

Public health officers in the Commissioned Corps work throughout the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and in other Federal government agencies and programs. These officers join the Corps at many different levels. Some join at the start of their careers, while others are experienced in their field and may have had training in public health, management, or research methodology. Public health officers serve in a wide range of professional categories, including:

- Dietitian
- Engineer
- Environmental health officer

- Optometrist
- Physician assistant
- Scientist/researcher
- Therapist (includes occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech-language pathology, and audiology)
- Other health-related disciplines

Public health officers have the opportunity to advance their careers while performing much-needed public health services for underserved populations. The focus is on improving the health of entire communities.

➤ Pay

Starting base pay and potential bonuses vary depending on the number of years of training and experience, specialty training received, credentials and certifications, geographic location of duty station, and number of dependents, if any. Base pay increases with promotions and years of service. Tax-free compensation is provided for housing and meals. More information comparing compensation in the Corps to pay in the private sector is available at www.usphs.gov.

› Benefits

As an officer in the Commissioned Corps, you will enjoy a camaraderie and sense of common purpose unlike anything you will experience in the private sector, and Commissioned Corps benefits are generous. They include:

- Health care and dental care at no cost
- Thirty days of paid vacation per year
- Paid sick leave
- Paid maternity leave
- Malpractice insurance coverage
- A retirement plan with benefits eligibility beginning after 20 years of service

Many additional benefits are listed at www.usphs.gov. Officers in the Commissioned Corps have opportunities for mobility among government agencies and career advancement in diverse work settings, allowing for varied experiences and promotions. The Commissioned Corps encourages you to expand your knowledge base and grow professionally so that you can effectively deal with the challenges of improving public health. Tuition and long-term training opportunities may be available.

› Special Degree and License Requirements

All Commissioned Corps officers must meet certain basic qualifications. Degree and training requirements for public health officers will vary depending on the area of practice. To be a public health officer, you must have at least a bachelor's degree from an accredited program in your field. In some cases, you may need a master's or doctorate degree. You also will need a valid professional license if one is required to practice in your specialty. If you just graduated from school and do not yet have a license, you may still apply to the Commissioned Corps, and you may be appointed for a limited tour of duty while you pursue your license.

› Join America's Public Health Team

If you are interested in joining the fight for public health, or if you have questions about what we do and how you can make a difference with the Commissioned Corps, we would like to talk to you. For more information, call us at 800-279-1605 or visit our Web site at www.usphs.gov.

