



Senior Commissioned Officer Student Training and Extern Program (SRCOSTEP) Overview

In the SRCOSTEP, full-time students entering their final year of graduate school or professional training get paid while in school in exchange for committing to enroll in the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) Commissioned Corps upon graduation. Students receive the basic pay and allowances of an O-1, Ensign, while in the program and are guaranteed a spot in the USPHS Commissioned Corps upon graduation. The service obligation is equal to twice the time.

Eligibility

- **Students within one year of receiving a degree** in medicine, nursing, advanced nursing, dentistry, pharmacy, psychology, optometry, veterinary medicine, environmental health, engineering, speech-language pathology, audiology, research science, or occupational, physical, or respiratory therapy, dietetics, and a physician assistant program.
- **Participants** must be enrolled full-time in an academic or professional training program which upon completion will qualify them to receive a commission in the USPHS Commissioned Corps.
- **Participants** must also meet certain physical, medical, and security background requirements.



Benefits

- **Financial assistance.** Up to 12 months of pay equivalent to an Ensign while you finish your coursework (more for those with prior service).
- **Job upon graduation.** A full-time position as a Public Health Service officer immediately upon graduation.
- **Housing.** A tax-free allowance for your rent or mortgage calculated based on your rank, duty station, and dependent status.
- **Free health care.** Coverage through TRICARE.
- **The same privileges and benefits** given to Public Health Service officers.