**HPSP Fact Sheet for Active Duty, ROTC, and USAFA Graduates**

# Benefits of the Health Professions Scholarship Program for Dentists

* USAF pays for dental school tuition, fees, books, equipment for 4-years of dental school
* USAF pays you a monthly stipend of $2,608 while in dental school
* Countless opportunities for military discounts and benefits across various industries and organizations
* Access to tax free goods and services at all military installations
* Once you enter active duty upon dental school graduation:
  + An annual salary based on your rank, location of duty station, dependents, and years in service:
    - Base pay starting at $4,849.88/month
    - Basic allowance for subsistence starting at $311.68/month
    - Basic allowance for housing starting at $1374/month
    - Incentive pay for licensed dentists starting at $20,000/year
    - Board certification pay for board certified dentists at $8,000/year\*
    - Portions of your salary are not taxable income
  + 30 days of vacation with pay each year
  + TriCare Prime insurance for you and your dependents providing qualifying medical care at no cost
  + No requirement for malpractice insurance and a potential for disability benefits upon retirement
  + Supplies for clinical practice at no additional cost to you
  + Blended Retirement System with benefits not requiring 20 years in military service
    - Does include an additional pension after 20 years in military service

**Who Can Apply?**

* No minimum DAT score or GPA required for you to apply!
* Applicants must complete pre-requisites for entry into dental school
* Applicants can apply while awaiting dental school acceptance, but they must receive dental school acceptance in order to receive an HPSP scholarship
* Applicants must be US citizens and be able to obtain the appropriate security clearance
* Applicants must be morally and physically qualified for commissioning as an Air Force officer
* AD applicants must acquire a conditional release from their Career Field Manager and Wing/CC
  + Applicants begin this process approximately 1 year prior to their dental school start
* Enlisted AD applicants must complete OTS (5-week officer training program at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama) after graduation from dental school. Officer AD, ROTC, and USAFA grads are exempt.
* AD applicants that separate prior to entry to dental school cannot apply for HPSP scholarships through AFPC. They can apply through AFRS.
* HPSP recipients must pass the Integrated National Board Dental Examination (INBDE), graduate dental school, and challenge a US State licensure exam in order to enter active duty

**When to Apply?**

* Contact the AF Dental Education Officer at [AFPC.DPMND.GraduateDentalEdu@us.af.mil](mailto:AFPC.DPMND.GraduateDentalEdu@us.af.mil) now!
* The application is released each December. Applicants applying to start dental school the following summer are eligible to apply for the HPSP scholarship.
* The application documents are due mid-late February, and the selection board meets in March. Results will be released through the applicants’ chain of command in April.
* AFPC/DPMND will coordinate completion of HPSP and commissioning documents for AD and ROTC HPSP selects.

# Service Obligation for HPSP

* Serve a 4-year active duty service commitment (ADSC) for the HPSP scholarship
* Must apply for an AEGD-1 residency, and must attend an AEGD-1 if selected. This 1-year residency does not count toward any HPSP/ROTC/USAFA ADSC, but it does not incur an additional ADSC
* Must complete any prior ADSC acquired before serving the HPSP ADSC (exception: enlisted AD)
  + AD Enlisted: 1 year AEGD-1 + 4 years HPSP = 5 years ADSC
  + AD Officer: 1 year AEGD-1 + ADSC remaining after separation + 4 years HPSP = 5+ years ADSC
  + ROTC: 1 year AEGD-1 + 4 years ROTC + 4 years HPSP = 9 years ADSC
  + USAFA: 1 year AEGD-1 + 5 years USAFA + 4 years HPSP = 10 years ADSC

# Air Force Graduate Dental Education (GDE)

* The AF has numerous dental residency and fellowship training program opportunities in over 25 different specialties/focus areas at 11 different AF training locations, in addition to some Army, Navy and civilian locations.
* All HPSP recipients must apply for the one-year Advanced Education in General Dentistry (AEGD-1) residency, and they must attend if selected. This residency aims to provide AF dentists with an advanced clinical skill set across a multitude of specialties and is equivalent to 5-6 years in clinical private practice!
* HPSP recipients may apply for military graduate dental specialty education during the summer between their 3rd and 4th year of dental school as well as after they enter active duty.
* The Graduate Dental Education Selection Board (GDESB) is the process by which AF obligated officers compete for selection in GDE residencies and fellowship programs and is similar to the civilian match.
* Most individuals will be selected for residency training in AF programs; however, some students may be selected by the GDESB to train in civilian residency programs.
* Residents/fellows attending the AEGD-1 and other specialty training receive full active duty pay and benefits and may promote while in their training program.
* Detailed information on the GDE application process is provided to all program participants by the AF Dental Education Officer ([AFPC.DPMND.GraduateDentalEdu@us.af.mil](mailto:AFPC.DPMND.GraduateDentalEdu@us.af.mil)).

**Why Should You Consider Air Force Dentistry?**

In addition to the financial benefits, we believe there are several other reasons why AF Dentistry may be the right choice for you. Some of the most commonly cited advantages that AF dentists mention when discussing their jobs include:

* Great patient populations! Our patients include active duty and retired military members and their families.
* The ability to provide total care. One of the fundamental advantages of the military health system is the ability to render care to a patient without worrying about whether or not they can afford treatment.
* Quality colleagues. No doubt about it, dentists who choose to serve in the military are a special group of highly trained, dedicated professionals. Our group practice model allows for professional collaboration and fosters mentoring.
* Travel opportunities. AF dentists can be stationed at military clinics and hospitals all over the world and deploy in support of military operations. In addition, they also participate in a variety of humanitarian missions all over the globe.
* World-class education with zero debt! If you are selected for specialty training, you will find that the salaries and benefits of being a resident in a military training program far exceed civilian averages.
* Opportunity to be a leader and make a difference -- not only for individuals in your local community and duty station, but quite possibly for individuals and communities around the world.

**Additional Information**

* AFPC offers approximately 10 scholarships to USAFA grads, ROTC, and AD each year
  + AFPC HPSP acceptance rate = nearly 100% for 4-year HPSP
  + AFRS HPSP acceptance rate = 12% for 4-year HPSP
  + Currently AD members become ineligible to apply through AFPC if they separate prior to starting dental school. They are still eligible to apply for HPSP, but they must apply through AFRS and compete against civilian HPSP applicants.
* You commission as a 2nd Lt (O-1) in the Inactive Ready Reserve (IRR) while in dental school
* You commission as a Capt (O-3) in Active Duty (AD) once you graduate from dental school. If you have prior AD service, your service is reviewed during the first 120 days on AD. Your AD service is applied to your years to promotion, retirement, and pay after this review. AD Majors and above may return to AD service at a lower rank.
* Current promotion rates in the Dental Corps are 95% to Maj, 95% to Lt Col, and 75% to Col
* You are not eligible for most active duty benefits while in the IRR, including BAH, BAS, and Tricare Insurance. ROTC do not receive reimbursements for their PCS to dental school.
* A DAT prep course is recommended to increase success on the exam as well as strengthen your application for dental school acceptance

**How Can You Get More Information about AF Dental Career Opportunities?**

* Civilian HPSP and Fully Qualified (FQ) dentist applicants should contact a local Health Professions recruiter via <https://www.airforce.com/find-a-recruiter>. Be sure to submit your zip code and select “Air Force Active Duty to receive your local list of recruiters. Contact your local “Healthcare Recruiter” in the list provided.
* Currently Active Duty/ROTC/USAFA HPSP applicants should contact the AF Dental Education Officer, Maj Elizabeth Morris, at [AFPC.DPMND.GraduateDentalEdu@us.af.mil](mailto:AFPC.DPMND.GraduateDentalEdu@us.af.mil) or DSN = 665-0645/Comm = (210)565-0645.
* Civilian applicants interested in applying for military residencies/fellowships should contact the AF Dental Education Officer, Maj Elizabeth Morris, at [AFPC.DPMND.GraduateDentalEdu@us.af.mil](mailto:AFPC.DPMND.GraduateDentalEdu@us.af.mil).

\*Dental special pays are subject to change based on approval of the FY24 DC Consolidated Special Pay (CSP) Plan