

Be a Medical 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 Medical Officer in the Commissioned Corps

The medical officers in the Commissioned Corps work throughout the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and in other Federal agencies and programs, including the following:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
- Federal Bureau of Prisons
- Food and Drug Administration

- Health Resources and Services Administration
- Indian Health Service
- National Institutes of Health
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
- U.S. Coast Guard

Medical officers in the Corps:

- Perform traditional clinical services, including inpatient and outpatient care ranging from newborn care to geriatric services, from obstetrics to orthopedics, and from prevention services to chronic care or acute disease management
- Review and regulate drugs and medical products
- Conduct biomedical and epidemiological research
- Respond to public health emergencies
- Develop and monitor national health policies
- Work in domestic and international assignments

The focus is on improving physical health for entire populations. While there is plenty of direct patient care, there are opportunities to work in organized community disease prevention and treatment programs that can make an impact on overall disease rates.

› 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. While it is difficult to compare your take-home pay with someone in the private sector, your base pay, in addition to an assortment of nontaxable income and benefits, provides a competitive compensation package that grows with years of service and promotions. The U.S. Public Health Service also understands the financial burden of medical school and, in coordination with certain Federal agencies, may offer loan repayment and other educational and family support programs. 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. The 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 several basic qualifications: You must be a U.S. citizen, be less than 44 years of age, and pass a physical examination. To be a medical officer, you also need one of the following:

- M.D. from a program that is accredited by the Council on Medical Education and Hospitals of the American Medical Association (AMA)
- D.O. degree from a program that is accredited by the Bureau of Professional Education of the American Osteopathic Association (AOA)

You also must have:

- One completed year of postgraduate medical education (e.g., internship or first year of residency training) in a program that is accredited by the Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education of the AMA or the Department of Education of the AOA
- A current, unrestricted, and valid medical license from one of the 50 States; Washington, DC; the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; the U.S. Virgin Islands; or Guam

› Join America's Public Health Team

If you are a physician 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.

