The VA Learning Opportunities Residency (VALOR) Program gives outstanding registered nursing students who have completed their junior year in an accredited clinical program the opportunity to develop competencies in clinical nursing while at a VA-approved health care facility. Learning opportunities include didactic or classroom experiences, competency-based clinical practice with a qualified BSN RN preceptor, and participation in nursing-focused clinical conferences.

**Program Contacts**

**Nurse Recruiter**
Anthony Montecalvo, CRT, MSN, RN, CNOR
[Anthony.Montecalvo@va.gov](mailto:Anthony.Montecalvo@va.gov)
401-273-7100 (x 3572)
Providence VA Medical Center
Nurse recruiter (Mail Code 118)
830 Chalkstone Ave.
Providence, RI 02908

**VALOR Program Coordinator**
Tamara L. DeSousa MSN RN CCNS
[Tamara.Desousa@va.gov](mailto:Tamara.Desousa@va.gov)
401-273-7100 (x 6204)
Providence VA Medical Center
VALOR Coordinator (Mail Code 118)
830 Chalkstone Ave.
Providence, RI 02908
WHAT IS IT?

The VALOR Program is a summer learning experience; intended to expand/reinforce your clinical skills through a preceptorship with a BSN staff nurse. Receive 80% of a new RN’s salary and, if hired after graduation, start at a higher rate than other new nurses. There is however, no obligation to become a VA employee after the VALOR program is completed.

WHEN IS IT?

May through August in a full time position for 10 weeks. In certain circumstances, the residency may be extended to allow part time work for another 400 hours during your senior year.

QUALIFICATIONS

Any BSN student who is completing the third year (Junior Year, holding a GPA of 3.0 or higher, No grade may be lower than a B in major nursing courses.

HOW TO APPLY:

Send completed application including: Cover letter, resume, recommendation from the Dean of the School of Nursing on college letter head signed, and Official Transcripts to the Nurse Recruiter listed on the back of the brochure.

VALOR STUDENT REQUIREMENTS

Submit an application by March 1 to the Nurse Recruiter.

Must successfully complete a personal background check by the Providence VA Medical Center.

Complete an interview with the VALOR Program Coordinator and a panel consisting of Nurse Managers.

Submit official transcript documenting cumulative GPA of 3.0 on 4.0 scale. No grade may be lower than a B in major nursing courses. If selected, transcripts from the last semester completed must be submitted for review.

Commit to working for 10 consecutive weeks (40 hour - 8 hour work days) as a Nursing VALOR student.

Meet the physical examination standards at the time of entry into the program.

Submit a letter from the Dean of school enrolled in serving as a recommendation and testimony to your qualifications.

Attend the Medical Center orientation followed by the Nursing Department orientation.

Maintain a personal journal of your clinical experiences.

Prepare an educational presentation prior to the conclusion of your commitment.

The PVAMC is a Pathway to Excellence designated 73-bed facility that provides tertiary medical, surgical and psychiatric care and a full range of outpatient services. Our catchment area includes all of Rhode Island and some of Massachusetts, including Cape Cod. The PVAMC Mission is to honor America’s Veterans by providing exceptional healthcare that improves their health and well-being. The organization’s vision is to continue to be the benchmark of excellence and value in healthcare and benefits by providing exemplary services that are both Veteran-centered and evidence-based. The vision emphasizes prevention and population health and contributes to the Nation’s well-being through education, research, and service in national emergencies. The Core Values are Integrity, Commitment, Advocacy, Respect, Excellence ("I CARE"), and the Core Characteristics are Trustworthy, Accessible, Quality, Innovative, Agile, and Integrated.