

Behavioral Health Integration (BHI) Scholars Traineeship: FAQs

PEER NC: NP-BHI/PC-VP (T94HP30882)

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Carolina Nursing Excellence in Whole Health Care Website: <https://bhi.web.unc.edu/>

WHAT:

1. What is a traineeship?

A traineeship is typically defined as advanced training or research within an academic setting. Specifically, the Behavioral Health Integration (BHI) Scholars Traineeship is offered to UNC Chapel Hill Nurse Practitioner Students and provides additional training in how to implement a whole health approach to their patient care by integrating behavioral health into their clinical practice.

2. What is the name of the grant?

Partners in practice, engagement, and education in rural NC: Preparing Nurse Practitioners for Behavioral Health Integration in Primary Care-Vulnerable Populations (PEER NC: NP-BHI/PC-VP) is a Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) advanced nursing education and workforce (ANew) grant which focuses on educating, training and providing financial support for NP students to be able to implement clinically competent and culturally sensitive whole healthcare to some of the most vulnerable individuals and families in North Carolina.

3. What are the requirements?

See pages 7 and 8 for a breakdown of requirements for each type of Scholar: Full, Associate or Participant.

4. How much time outside of my regular coursework will I need to dedicate to this traineeship?

Full Scholars: 1 hour/week at BHI Seminar, 2 hours/month at bi-monthly ECHOs, 8 hours/academic year at a conference related to BHI/Substance Use. (+ any additional trainings such as Mental Health First Aid, MOUD Waiver Training)

Associate Scholars: 1 hour/week at BHI Seminar, 1 hour/month at bi-monthly ECHOs, 4 hours/academic year at a conference related to BHI/Substance Use. (+ any additional trainings such as Mental Health First Aid, MOUD Waiver Training)

Participant Scholars: as much or as little time as your schedule permits.

5. When are the BHI Seminars and what should I expect?

The seminars are held virtually on a weekly basis – the day/time changes per semester. Primary Care Education Team Lead, Dr. Leslie Sharpe facilitates these seminars and brings in content experts to cover a variety of topics around behavioral health and substance use disorders.

6. What is ECHO?

Project ECHO ([Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes](#)) is an initiative that works to provide best practice care for underserved people all over the world. These “all teach, all learn” tele-sessions allow participants to present real and anonymized cases to subject matter experts for discussion and recommendations. Our ECHO focuses on addiction/substance use disorders (A), behavioral health integration (B) and collaboration among peers (C). UNC-SON ABCs for MOUD ECHO sessions take place on the second and fourth Friday of each month from 12-1:00PM EST.

7. Where will I upload my requirements to?

You will be added to the BHI Scholars Traineeship Canvas site, and you will upload any requirements (certificate of completion, conference attendance, etc.) there. Your attendance will also be recorded in Canvas.

8. What’s in it for me?

Upon acceptance to the Behavioral Health Integration Scholars Traineeship, you will:

- *Receive financial assistance dedicated to assist with tuition, books, fees for educational related activities, transportation expenses (gas) and lodging at clinical sites if needed. You may also choose to purchase a laptop or iPad, but this purchase needs to be made at UNC and a discount for purchases is granted as a student. Note: it is not to be used for personal use, outside of school expenses. If you have any questions, please reach out to Dr. Soltis-Jarrett, vsoltis@email.unc.edu.*
- *Be part of an elite group of graduate students who will be educated and trained as NPs with advanced education and focus in behavioral health integration in primary care (the first and only traineeship of its kind in NC!)*
- *Receive mentoring from UNC SON faculty and outside coaches on the Grant Team*
- *Form peer support groups and have opportunities to join interprofessional teams.*
- *Be on the cutting edge of NP practice.*

9. How do I apply for the BHI Scholars Traineeship?

After Open House, the application (a Qualtrics link) will be emailed to those signed up for the listserv and will also be posted on our website – <https://bhi.web.unc.edu/2022/01/what-is-a-behavioral-health-integration-scholar-bhi-scholar/>. The application will remain open for 2-3 weeks and you will receive an email from peer-nc@unc.edu indicating your status of award.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:

10. How much financial assistance will I receive?

We cannot definitively answer as we are unsure how many qualified individuals will apply, and we will need to consider funding for all four years (2023-2027) of the grant. An estimated range:

Full Scholars: Up to \$22,000 annually

Associate Scholars: Up to \$11,000 annually

Funds are exclusively dependent on the number of successful applicants and the total amount of budgeted tuition assistance per year. There could be a difference between your first year of assistance and your final year or you may receive additional support in the summer between your first and second years. DNP students are eligible for a total of three years support and MSN students (including post-MSN students) a total of two years support.

11. What can I use my financial assistance for?

As described above, your financial assistance can be applied to your tuition, books, housing (yes, your rent!), any academic-related expenses such as fees, gas for travel to clinical sites and lodging at clinical sites. NOTE: We request that you keep track of your expenses to ensure that you are using the funds properly and within the guidelines provided. This will resemble an expense report that will allow us to report back to HRSA that the financial assistance disbursed is used properly.

12. When and how will I receive my financial assistance?

*If you are accepted as a Full or an Associate Scholar, you will receive your financial assistance via Connect Carolina in two installments, half awarded each semester (Fall and Spring). If you receive your assistance **after** you have already paid your Fall bill, the awarded funds can remain in your student account and be applied toward spring tuition/fee expenses, or a refund can be requested of the overage. NOTE: For any questions related to this, please contact Hanna Beers, MSW, Project Manager, hbeers@email.unc.edu.*

We kindly ask for your patience with disbursement time this semester as the Assistant Dean, Office of Student Affairs is primarily responsible for this task. As you may know, our current and wonderful ADOSA is retiring, and a new candidate in training will fill her role.

13. If I am receiving money from another funding opportunity (educational scholarship, Teacher Assistant, etc.), can I apply for this traineeship too?

*Depending on the type and amount of financial assistance you are receiving, you may apply for any three of the BHI Scholar levels. However, you may not qualify for the full financial assistance amount. **Why?** We are committed to a fair and equitable approach to providing equal funding for **all** students.*

This is certainly a case-by-case situation, and we are happy to answer any specific questions about receiving funding from other sources.

14. Can I continue to receive funding in the Summer 2024?

Most of the time, yes. However, this is dependent on your level of commitment to the BHI Scholars Traineeship throughout the academic year and the amount of funds remaining.

WHO:

15. If I was in the BHI Scholars Traineeship last year (2022-2023), do I need to reapply?

Yes! A requirement of the grant funding requires us to have students reapply each academic year.

16. If I am a first-year graduate student, when will I begin attending BHI seminars and ECHO?

Spring 2024 – this gives incoming students a semester (Fall) to adjust to new schedules.

17. If I didn't apply for the BHI Scholars Traineeship last year, can I apply this year?

Yes! If you are in your second (or third) year of school, but your first year in the BHI Scholars Traineeship, you will begin attending BHI seminars and ECHOs starting Fall 2023.

18. If I am in my first year of the BSN-DNP program, am I eligible to receive funding in the BHI Scholars Traineeship?

*No, the curriculum for first year BSN-DNP students does not align with the curriculum of the BHI Scholars Traineeship. You are eligible to receive financial assistance in your **second year**, when you are enrolled in clinical courses.*

However, you may choose to join as a participant in your first year and if there is money available, receive financial assistance in Summer 2024. Note: You will need to show commitment to the BHI Scholars Traineeship in the Spring 2023 semester to be eligible for summer funding.

19. If I am a PNP (Pediatric Nurse Practitioner) student, can I apply?

Yes! Pediatric NP students are NOW eligible to participate in the BHI Scholars Traineeship as we have expanded to Child and Teen Mental Health.

20. Can AGPCNP-O's apply for the BHI Scholars Traineeship?

To be determined!

21. Can a postgraduate NP (post-MSN student) apply?

Yes! Dr. Soltis-Jarrett made a conscious effort to include postgraduate students in this traineeship and there are specific guidelines set for you. Unfortunately, tuition has increased for postgraduate NP students and there are no options for scholarships or tuition assistance other than personal loans which often have high interest rates. Therefore, in the spirit of inclusivity and transparency, this traineeship offers an opportunity for postgraduate NP students who return to graduate school to have financial support in the same, equitable way as other NP students. The ONLY exception at this stage is that this traineeship does not provide financial support for postgraduate DNP students. This HRSA funded traineeship is specifically designed to prepare new APRNs (e.g., FNP, PNP, AGNP, PMHNP) at UNC-Chapel Hill to work in rural and underserved areas.

22. If I am a part-time student, can I apply for the BHI Scholars Traineeship?

*You are eligible to apply in your **second year**, or until you are enrolled in clinical courses. However, as a part-time student, you will not receive the same amount of funding allocated to a full-time student.*

23. Can a non-NP student apply for the BHI Scholars Traineeship?

No, this grant only supports nurse practitioner students.

24. Are there requirements for where I work when I graduate from this traineeship?

YES! It is important to understand we are required to track you as a graduate of the UNC-Chapel Hill BHI Traineeship and it will be followed up by the US Dept. of Health and Human Services (USDHHS) HRSA ANEW Project Officers and Grants Management Specialists in Bethesda, Maryland (where HRSA is based). We (at UNC-Chapel Hill School of Nursing) are required to have you register for a NPI (National Provider Identification) number in the first year of the funding and maintain it while you are at UNC-CH. This number typically will follow you throughout your career and more importantly, provides a method of tracking where you choose to work after you receive the federal funding. At any time after receiving federal funding, you choose to violate any of the requirements, you could be audited by HRSA.

It is important for you to stay in contact with us (UNC-CH SON) for the two years following your graduation and to alert us if you stop working or move out of the US. As well, the US Congress has appropriated HRSA to award funding to 56 grantees (for a total of \$34,447,236) in 2023 to increase the number of primary care nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, and certified nurse midwives trained and prepared to provide primary care services, mental health, and substance use disorder care, and/or maternal health care.

We have been awarded this funding from 2017-2027 and need to ensure that you are providing the service 'payback' of working with underserved, vulnerable populations in health professional shortage areas (HPSA) and/or medically underserved regions in NC and/or across the US. More information will be made available to you about this requirement once you are accepted into the traineeship. The good news is that the majority of NC is medically underserved and, there is a shortage of NP with education and training to provide behavioral health and substance use services in primary care, acute care and long-term care settings. This traineeship gives NP students more options for working as a new graduate and opportunities to work to the highest level of your scope of practice. You will be part of an extraordinary group of NPs who can provide behavioral health integration which is at the cutting edge of healthcare in 2023 and beyond.

Do you have more questions? Send an email to peer-nc@unc.edu or to Hanna Beers (Project Manager) hbeers@email.unc.edu.

Glossary of Terms:

UNC-SON: University of North Carolina - School of Nursing

CNEWHC: Carolina Nursing Excellence in Whole Health Care

HRSA: Health Resources and Services and Administration

ANEW: Advanced Nursing Education Workforce

PEER-NC: Partners in Practice, Engagement, and Education in Rural NC

BHI: Behavioral Health Integration

ABCs for MOUD: Addiction and substance use disorders, Behavioral health integration, and Collaboration among peers for Medication for Opioid Use Disorders

ECHO: Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes

HRSA ANEW Grant Team:

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PI & Director: HRSA ANEW Grant Program

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BHI Scholar Requirements:

FULL SCHOLAR: Year 1	FULL SCHOLAR: Year 2
Receive maximum amount of financial assistance	Receive maximum amount of financial assistance
Agree to be placed in a rural and/or medically underserved area for clinical placements	Agree to be placed in a rural and/or medically underserved area for clinical placements
Attend weekly Behavioral Health Integration seminars starting Spring 2024	Attend weekly Behavioral Health Integration seminars starting Fall 2023
Attend immersions: Mental Health First Aid Training: January 2024 Behavioral Health Integration Intensive: December 2023	Attend immersions if not completed in Year 1: Mental Health First Aid Training: January 2024 Behavioral Health Integration Intensive: December 2023
Participate in educational opportunities: case studies, podcasts, self-paced courses	Participate in educational opportunities: case studies, podcasts, self-paced courses
Attend one conference (8 hours) related to BHI/SUD during the academic year	Attend one conference (8 hours) related to BHI/SUD during the academic year
Attend both ABCs of MOUD ECHO sessions/month starting Spring 2024	Attend both ABCs of MOUD ECHO sessions/month starting Fall 2023
Focus MSN paper or DNP project on BHI/SUD	Focus MSN paper or DNP project on BHI/SUD
Complete all requested evaluations: this feedback is crucial to our grant sustainability.	Complete all requested evaluations: this feedback is crucial to our grant sustainability.
	Complete the 8-hour MOUD Waiver Training (If DNP, complete additional 16 hours)

ASSOCIATE SCHOLAR: Year 1	ASSOCIATE SCHOLAR: Year 2
Receive reduced amount of financial assistance	Receive reduced amount of financial assistance
Attempt to be placed in a rural and/or medically underserved area for clinical placements	Attempt to be placed in a rural and/or medically underserved area for clinical placements
Attend weekly Behavioral Health Integration seminars starting Spring 2024	Attend weekly Behavioral Health Integration seminars starting Fall 2023
Attend immersions: Mental Health First Aid Training: January 2024 Behavioral Health Integration Intensive: December 2023	Attend immersions if not completed in Year 1: Mental Health First Aid Training: January 2024 Behavioral Health Integration Intensive: December 2023
Participate in educational opportunities: case studies, podcasts, self-paced courses	Participate in educational opportunities: case studies, podcasts, self-paced courses
Attend one conference (4 hours) related to BHI/SUD during the academic year	Attend one conference (4 hours) related to BHI/SUD during the academic year
Attend one ABCs of MOUD ECHO session/month starting Spring 2024	Attend one ABCs of MOUD ECHO session/month starting Fall 2023
Focus MSN paper or DNP project on BHI/SUD	Focus MSN paper or DNP project on BHI/SUD
Complete all requested evaluations: this feedback is crucial to our grant sustainability.	Complete all requested evaluations: this feedback is crucial to our grant sustainability.
	Complete the 8-hour MOUD Waiver Training (If DNP, complete additional 16 hours)

PARTICIPANT SCHOLAR
Invitation to attend all educational opportunities:
Weekly Behavioral Health Integration seminars
Mental Health First Aid Training
BHI Intensive
Case-studies, podcasts, self-paced courses
Bi-monthly ABCs of MOUD ECHO sessions