Program Mission Statement and Aims

The mission of the Palliative Care Social Work Fellowship Program at the VA Portland Health Care System (VAPORHCS) is to develop expert palliative care social workers with the knowledge and skill to lead the advancement of compassionate, interdisciplinary, patient and family-centered, care for seriously ill individuals through education, clinical care, cultural humility, scholarship, and advocacy. We provide this training in an interprofessional, supportive, diverse, and inclusive educational environment where trainee wellbeing, professional development and clinical care are our greatest priority. Our mission aligns with the VA’s Palliative and Hospice Care National Program Office’s vision for the provision of hospice and palliative care.

We aim to:

1) Train Master of Social Work (MSW) prepared fellows from a variety of cultural and clinical backgrounds who strive to improve the provision of both primary and subspecialty palliative care across the healthcare continuum through excellence in education and clinical care.
2022-2023

VA Portland Health Care System (VAPORHCS)

Palliative Care Interprofessional Social Work Fellowship

2) Develop palliative medicine social workers with expert communication skills to provide compassionate, interprofessional, patient-and-family centered, and culturally competent care for seriously ill individuals.

3) Educate MSW prepared leaders to succeed in a variety of practice settings including community and academic programs.

Portland VA’s Palliative Care Social Work Fellowship Program is approved by the VA’s Office of Academic Affiliations (OAA) and the Office of Geriatrics and Extended Care.

Social Worker Eligibility, Recruitment, and Selection

Applicants who meet the below eligibility criteria will be considered for appointment to Portland VA’s Palliative Social Work training program.

1. A graduate of a Council on Social Work (CSWE) accredited Master of Social Work program. MSW students in good standing who are on track to graduate from a CSWE accredited Master Social Work program in June of 2022 will also be considered.

2. Legally able to work in the U.S., or eligible to obtain work authorization.

Pre-employment Department of Veteran Affairs onboarding is required. A negative drug screen (including cannabis) is required to finalize employment.

Social Work Fellows are selected based upon their preparedness, abilities, aptitudes, academic credentials, communication skills, and personal qualities such as motivation and integrity. The Department of Veteran Affairs Palliative Social Work Fellowship Program will not discriminate with regard to gender, race, age, sexual orientation, religion, color, national origin, disability or Veteran status.

Employment/Benefits

Annual Stipend

Annual salary is dependent upon the fiscal year as set by the Office of Academic Affiliations. The salary levels for fellows for the 2022-2023 academic year is listed below.

Stipend: $32,172/year.
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Leave

Fellows have 11 paid federal holidays throughout the fellowship year. Additionally, Fellows will accrue 4 hours of Annual Leave (AL) per pay period and 4 hours of Sick Leave (SL) per pay period during the fellowship year.

Health Insurance and other benefits

Fellows are eligible to enroll in health insurance through the VA. Once accepted, inquire with the Department of Chaplain & Social Work human resources representative for more information about health insurance and other benefits.

To Apply

To apply for the Hospice and Palliative Care Social Work Fellowship Program at the Portland VA, please submit the following application materials to Jason Malcom at jason.malcom2@va.gov. The final day to submit the application is March 31st, 2022.

1. Resume or CV
2. Personal/Professional statement to include your motivation for seeking this fellowship experience (no longer than one page in length).
3. Three letters of professional or academic reference (no longer than one page in length).