

VOLUME 7A, CHAPTER 63: “ACCESSION AND CONTINUATION BONUSES FOR NURSE OFFICER CANDIDATES”**SUMMARY OF MAJOR CHANGES**

Changes are identified in this table and also denoted by [blue font](#).

Substantive revisions are denoted by an asterisk (*) symbol preceding the section, paragraph, table, or figure that includes the revision.

Unless otherwise noted, chapters referenced are contained in this volume.

Hyperlinks are denoted by [***bold, italic, blue, and underlined font***](#).

The previous version dated [November 2023](#) is archived.

PARAGRAPH	EXPLANATION OF CHANGE/REVISION	PURPOSE
4.1	Increased the Accession Bonus to \$40,000.	Revision
Table 63-1	Updated to include the 2025-2026 school year Stipend and Financial Assistance Grant amounts.	Revision
References	Updated statutes and supporting references.	Revision

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CHAPTER 63**ACCESSION AND CONTINUATION BONUSES FOR NURSE OFFICER
CANDIDATES****1.0 GENERAL****1.1 Purpose**

The Secretary of the Military Department concerned is authorized to provide financial assistance to full-time students enrolled in an accredited baccalaureate degree program in nursing to assist in the completion of degree requirements and acceptance of an appointment as a nurse officer. For the purpose of this chapter, “continuation bonus” and “monthly stipend” are synonymous.

1.2 Authoritative Guidance

The Health Professions Scholarship Program for Active Service policies and requirements established by the DoD in this chapter are derived primarily from and prepared in accordance with the United States Code (U.S.C.), including Titles 10 and 37. Due to the subject matter in this chapter, the list of authoritative sources is extensive. The specific statutes, regulations, and other applicable guidance that govern each individual section are listed in a reference section at the end of the chapter.

2.0 ELIGIBLE STUDENTS

The Accession and Continuation Bonuses are authorized for nursing students who execute an agreement under each of the following conditions:

2.1 Senior Reserve Officers Training Corps (SROTC)

The student is enrolled full-time in an accredited nursing baccalaureate degree program at a civilian educational institution that either does not have an SROTC program established by the Secretary of the Military Department concerned who is selecting the student or has an SROTC for which the student is ineligible.

2.2 Baccalaureate Degree Program

The student has completed the second year of an accredited baccalaureate degree program in nursing and has more than 6 months of academic work remaining before graduation.

2.3 Officer Appointment

The student meets the qualifications for appointment as an officer of a Reserve Component (RC) of the Army, Navy, or Air Force as set forth in [10 U.S.C. § 12201](#) and the regulations of the Military Department concerned.

3.0 AGREEMENT

The student described in section 2.0 will execute a written agreement in which the student agrees to the following four provisions:

3.1 Degree Completion

The student will complete the nursing degree program described in paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2.

3.2 Reserve Enlistment

The student will, upon acceptance of the agreement by the Secretary of the Military Department concerned, enlist in an RC of the Armed Forces.

3.3 Officer Appointment

The student will accept an appointment as an officer in the Nurse Corps of the Army, or the Navy, or as an officer designated as a nurse officer in the Air Force upon graduation from the nursing degree program.

3.4 Active Duty Obligation

The member will serve on active duty as an officer described in paragraph 3.3 as follows:

3.4.1. For a period of 4 years in the case of a person whose agreement was accepted by the Secretary of the Military Department concerned during that person's fourth year of the nursing degree program; or

3.4.2. For a period of 5 years in the case of a person whose agreement was accepted by the Secretary of the Military Department concerned during that person's third year of the nursing degree program.

4.0 AMOUNTS PAYABLE

*4.1 Accession Bonus (AB)

The Secretary of the Military Department concerned may, upon acceptance of a written agreement, pay an AB to an eligible person in an amount not to exceed \$40,000. The AB will be paid in periodic installments, as determined by the Secretary of the Military Department concerned at the time the agreement is accepted, except that the first installment may not exceed \$20,000. Unless authorized by the Congress, an accession bonus may not be paid for service provided after the date listed on the [Duration of Authority](#) unless a contract was entered into prior to the date on the table.

4.2 Monthly Stipend

In addition to the AB, a person selected into the program shall be entitled to a monthly stipend in an amount not to exceed the amount listed on Table 63-1. The stipend is payable for each month the individual is enrolled as a full-time student in an accredited baccalaureate degree program in nursing at a civilian educational institution approved by the Secretary of the Military Department concerned who selected the individual. The continuation bonus may be paid for not more than 24 months. For the most current rates, see the Armed Forces Health Professions Stipend and Financial Assistance [\(AFHPS&FA\) Program Grant](#) table on DFAS.MIL.

NOTE: Accession and continuation bonuses are subject to Federal income tax withholding, but not subject to Federal Insurance Contributions Act.

5.0 REPAYMENT

A person will be subject to the repayment provisions of Chapter 2, section 3.0, under any of the following conditions:

5.1 Withdraws From Program

The student does not complete a nursing degree program in which the student is enrolled in accordance with section 3.0.

5.2 Commissioning

Having completed a nursing degree program, the student does not become an officer in the Nurse Corps of the Army, or the Navy, or an officer designated as a nurse officer of the Air Force.

5.3 Fails to Complete Service Obligation

The member does not complete the period of obligated active service required under the agreement.

*Table 63-1 – Monthly Stipend

For the most current rates, see the AFHPS&FA Program Grant table on DFAS.MIL.

Each School Year Beginning:	Amount
July 1, 2025	\$2,999.00
July 1, 2024	\$2,870.00
July 1, 2023	\$2,728.00
July 1, 2022	\$2,608.00
July 1, 2021	\$2,540.00
July 1, 2020	\$2,466.00
July 1, 2019	\$2,391.60
July 1, 2018	\$2,330.78
July 1, 2017	\$2,276.10
July 1, 2016	\$2,230.90
July 1, 2015	\$2,200.73
July 1, 2014	\$2,178.90
July 1, 2013	\$2,157.30
July 1, 2012	\$2,122.00
July 1, 2011	\$2,088.00
July 1, 2010	\$2,060.00
July 1, 2009	\$1,992.00

*REFERENCES

CHAPTER 63 – ACCESSION AND CONTINUATION BONUSES FOR NURSE OFFICER CANDIDATES**2.0 – ELIGIBLE STUDENTS**

- 2.3 10 U.S.C. § 2130a(b)
10 U.S.C. § 12201

3.0 – AGREEMENT

- 10 U.S.C. § 2130a(c)

4.0 – AMOUNTS PAYABLE

- 4.1 10 U.S.C. § 2130a(a)(1)
[Public Law 118-31, § 544, December 22, 2023](#)
4.2 10 U.S.C. §§ 2121(d), 2130a(a)(2)
Assistant Secretary of Defense Health Affairs (ASD (HA))
Memo, [May 22, 2025](#)

5.0 – REPAYMENT

- 10 U.S.C. § 2130a(d)
37 U.S.C. §§ 303a(e), 373

TABLE 63-1 – ARMED FORCES HEALTH PROFESSIONS STIPEND AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM GRANT

- [ASD HA Memo, May 22, 2025](#)
ASD HA Memo, April 16, 2024
ASD HA Memo, June 1, 2023
ASD HA Memo, May 12, 2022