Geriatrics Academic Career Award Program
Frequently Questioned Answers
REVISED FEBRUARY 14, 2019

Replays of the GACA Question/Answer call on December 5, 2018 is available at: 866-403-8763.

**Question 1:** I was unable to attend the Geriatrics Academic Career Award (GACA) webinar on Tuesday, November 20, 2018. Will you be making the GACA TA webinar recording and the presentation slides available?

**Answer 1:** Yes. The slides are available to download by clicking on the file located to the right of this pod. Access the GACA TA webinar recording to learn more.

**Question 2:** Given that HRSA is not posting the slides, do other organizations have permission to do so?

**Answer 2:** We recommend you go to the GACA TA webinar recoding link (refer to answer 1) where individuals can also download the presentation slides.

**Question 3:** I am a registered nurse, but not a nurse practitioner. I am an assistant professor who has a PhD degree. In addition, I completed Facilitated Learning to Advance Geriatrics (FLAG) training. Am I eligible to apply?

**Answer 3:** You do not have to be a nurse practitioner. However, you must have certification as a Gerontological Registered Nurse. Applicants from the discipline of nursing must have one of the following certifications from the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC):

- Adult-Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist Board Certified (AGCNS-BC)
- Gerontological Registered Nurse-Board Certified (RN-BC)
- Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Board Certified (AGACNP-BC)
- Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Board Certified (AGPCNP-BC).

An applicant may also have certification as a nurse practitioner from the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners in Adult-Gerontology. Facilitated Learning to Advance Geriatrics (FLAG) training will not meet the requirement of your discipline.

**Question 4:** A doctor of nursing practice (DNP) prepared nurse, with a degree in Advanced Nursing Practice (Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner) would be eligible, assuming other criteria have been met. Is this correct?

**Answer 4:** Yes.

**Question 5:** If we are a VA employees and the project is done in the Veteran Affair (VA) how that will be handled?

**Answer 5:** [Revised] The award is made to an eligible institution. Salary payments may be made from HRSA grant funds to full time junior faculty, as long as the combined federal salary and GACA award amount does not exceed 100% of the GACA candidate’s total salary.

**Question 6:** For applicants who are VA employees with a full time appointment at a university, do they need certificates of support from each institution? Or only the sponsoring academic institution?
Answer 6: [Revised] The award is made to an eligible institution. The certificate of faculty appointment must be from the accredited school of allopathic medicine, osteopathic medicine, nursing, social work, psychology, dentistry, pharmacy, or allied health where the GACA candidate has a full-time junior faculty appointment. The certificate of service requirement must be from your institution. See NOFO Attachment 5.

Question 7: Is this GACA opportunity also applied to Dentists?
Answer 7: Yes, assuming other requirement criteria are met (please refer to pages 4-5 of the GACA Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).

Question 8: Are current Geriatrics fellows (PGY-4) who will be hired as faculty as of 7/1/19 eligible to apply?
Answer 8: Yes. As long as your institution submits the application on your behalf and provides the 2 required documents when your application is submitted, you are still eligible to apply. The following documents are required: 1) Certificate of full time (FT) Jr. faculty appointment from July 1, 2019 –June 30, 2023; and 2) Certificate of Service Requirement stating that your institution provides a commitment for you to spend 75 percent of your total time on teaching and developing skills in interprofessional geriatrics education from July 1, 2019 –June 30, 2023.

Question 9: We are considering a candidate who is a family physician that has been out of residency for 3 years. She received her geriatric training in her residency program, which is connected to a nursing home, but she does not have a "formal" certificate. Would she be eligible?
Answer 9: No. She must have completed an approved fellowship program (formal training) in geriatrics as required by her discipline.

Question 10: The School of Medicine that holds pre-accreditation status by the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA), but has been approved by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). Is this applicant eligible to apply on behalf of the physician GACA candidate?
Answer 10: The School of Medicine must hold current accreditation status and not pre-accreditation. However, if the SACSCOC accreditation states the entire institution including the School of Medicine is accredited, the School of Medicine is eligible to apply for GACA on behalf of the physician candidate.

Question 11: Does a college of nursing need to be an established gerontology program in place or can be in development.
Answer 11: As long as your college of nursing is accredited, it is eligible. However, the peer reviewers will review and assess the strength of your institution’s information, resources and capabilities (refer to review criterion 4).

Question 12: The statutory service requires that 75% of the time be devoted to training in clinical geriatrics including the training of interprofessional teams of healthcare professionals. Is this 75% of the total time of the faculty? Or is it 75% of the time supported by GACA? For example, if GACA supports 50% of the time of the faculty, does this mean 75% of this the 50% time supported by GACA (37.5% of the total time of the faculty)?
Answer 12: It is 75% of GACA supported time. However, the applicant institution is required to provide assurances that the GACA candidate spends 75 percent of total faculty time on teaching and developing skills in interdisciplinary education in geriatrics.

Question 13: Is it required for GACA candidates to provide interprofessional team (IPT) training? I am junior faculty in a psychology program that only train psychologists.
Answer 13: Yes. It is required for GACA candidates to provide IPT training. However, not all training will be training teams of IPT health professionals. It would include also include training in clinical geriatrics to health professionals including psychologists and psychology students.

Questions 14: In our institution, 80% faculty is considered as full time employee. Is this faculty member qualified to submit for this award?
Answer 14: The definition of FT is slightly different in each institution. The answer is “yes” as long as your institution clearly state 80% FT faculty is considered as full time employee in your institution in the Certificate of Faculty Appointment (Attachment 5a).

Questions 15: I am not a citizen of the United States and currently my permanent residency application is in process. I will be receiving it in few months. Can I still apply for the award?
Answer 15: You may still apply, but you must have your permanent residency before July 1, 2019.

Question 16: Our institution has a System-2-System electronic submission mechanism for submissions to grants.gov. Are we required to use workspace or can we submit using our System-2-System electronic submission mechanism?
Answer 16: Many educational institutions have their own software portal interface with Grants.gov. Therefore they will be accessing Grants.gov through their portal. However, it is each institution’s responsibility to clarify with the grants.gov and request for technical assistance as appropriate.

Question 17: Must the GACA primary mentor be from the same professional school? For example, can a GACA candidate who is a social worker have a physician as mentor?
Answer 17: The primary mentor (PM) must be from the same discipline as you. In addition, the PM must have a full-time academic appointment located at the same institution as you. I recommend you to include your physician mentor as secondary mentor.

Question 18: Does previous dentistry work in geriatrics apply as a previous training?
Answer 18: Yes. However, you must have completed your fellowship in geriatrics or have an additional clinical training in geriatrics as required by your discipline.

Question 19: For Attachment 2- if we are from a discipline (social work) that does not have board certification, do we list our training in geriatrics?
Answer 19: No. Just put not applicable to social worker. In addition, be sure to state in Attachment 3 that your discipline does not require certification in geriatrics and include your relevant clinical education, training, and research activities in geriatrics within the last five years.

Question 20: I am a full-time Research Assistant Professor. I am not on a tenure track line. Am I eligible to apply?
**Answer 20:** Yes – **A non-tenured assistant professor will be eligible.**

**Question 21:** Can any of the funds be used for other purposes outside my salary? For instance, can I use some of the funds for course development or training fees for participants?  
**Answer 21:** Yes, you may use for course development, but NO to training fees for participants.

**Question 22:** I have two physician faculty considering submitting applications. Both exceptional educators. It is my understanding that no two GACAs will be awarded to the same profession at an institution. I have 3 questions: 1) If they both submit applications, will the process allow the applications to be independently reviewed and scored? 2) If their scores are competitive for funding, would the grant with the highest score be funded? 3) Regardless of score, would one with lower score be excluded from funding?  
**Answer 22:** 1) Yes. Two applications will be independently reviewed and scored. 2) Yes. If both applications received fundable high scores, only the one with the higher score will be funded. 3) Yes. Only one award will be made regardless of score.

**Question 23:** One of the faculty members I’m working with has a physician assistant (PA) license and a PhD in Population Health. She is an assistant professor in our College of Nursing. Her credentials are PA-C, MPH, PhD. Would she be eligible to apply?  
**Answer 23:** No. PA is not an eligible discipline for GACA. Please refer to the definition of allied health on page 3 of the GACA funding opportunity announcement.

**Question 24:** I am currently the Education Lead for our Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program (GWEP), and we wanted to confirm that I could be named in that role again in our GWEP application while also applying for a GACA. I am making sure that the GACA could stand alone regardless of what happens with the GWEP application in 2019.  
**Answer 24:** Yes. As long as your GACA career development plan will be standing alone regardless if your institution will be receiving the GWEP or not. The expectation of the GACA is that you will be junior faculty for the 4 years of the award.

**Question 25:** I am a graduate of the post-master’s palliative nursing program and I am board certified in hospice and palliative care. My practice and research is in hospice and palliative care. Am I eligible for this award?  
**Answer 25:** No. Though hospice and palliative care (HPC) predominantly include older adults, an Advanced Certified Hospice and Palliative Nurse Certificate is not recognized as one of qualifying specialty in geriatrics by your nursing discipline (refer to answer 3).

**Question 26:** Do you know if this opportunity will be presented on a yearly basis, or just once?  
**Answer 26:** As the GACA notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) stated on page 4, GACA funding beyond the first year is dependent on the availability of appropriated funds for the program in subsequent fiscal years. It is premature to talk about whether there will be an annual competition cycle.

**Question 27:** I just got promoted to “Associate Professor” position (not tenured yet) this year in July and am on H1B work visa. Does this position/status impede me from applying to this award?
Answer 27: If you are an **associate professor (non-tenured)**, you are not eligible for this grant. In addition, if you have a H1B work visa, you are not eligible.

**Question 28:** I am a full-time assistant professor in geriatrics. I was a GACA recipient in the 2007. I received my GACA award for 2 years and self-terminated it due to family circumstance. Would I be still eligible to apply for a GACA?

**Answer 28:** Yes. You are still eligible since you are an assistant professor. However, you must include in your biographical sketch that you received a GACA award and the period (start and end dates) of funding.

**Question 29:** Can GACA fund be used for trainees’ continuing medical education (CME)/continuing education (CE) credits and for food for participants?

**Answer 29:** No. You may not use GACA funds for your trainees CME and CE credits. In addition, food costs are not allowed under this grant. GACA funds can only be used to support your career development.

**Question 30:** Can my secondary mentor be from outside of my institution?

**Answer 30:** Yes, your secondary mentor can be from outside of your institution.

**Question 31:** Is it HRSA’s expectation for all GACA awardees to teach to all of the HRSA clinical priorities (e.g., substance/opiate use, value based care, and mental health) or heavily incorporate one of those priorities in depth (e.g., mental health). Also is it sufficient for GACA awardees to also incorporate some (though less than the first) related to teaching on the other two clinical priorities.

**Answer 31:** HRSA encourages GACA applicant to address these HHS priorities as appropriate. However, your application will be evaluated on how appropriately you respond to these HHS priorities (refer to review criteria).

**Question 32:** My GACA project hopes to capitalize on the Oregon ECHO Network in order to reach the rural Oregon practice sites that have not had access to regular geriatrics education. However, in order to run an ECHO project with the Oregon ECHO team, the cost is about $35K annually. I have the following questions: 1) Can GACA funds be used to pay for utilizing the ECHO team? 2) Can GACA funds be used to pay for the ECHO infrastructure and staff members that would be supporting my GACA? 3) Can GACA funds be used for my own personal career development training (e.g., courses I take to obtain new teaching and leadership skills, my FTE)? 4) Can GACA funds be used towards ECHO’s team would count as consultant services?

**Answer 32:** 1) No. 2) No, 3) Yes, and 4) Yes.