PHS Commissioned Corps

As Public Health Service Officers and America’s Health Responders, PHS Commissioned Corps officers respond to preserve public health and national security during national or global health emergencies. Emergencies include global pandemics, natural disasters such as hurricanes and earthquakes. There are currently 350 PHS officers in ORA in varied positions such as dental hygienists, healthcare administrators, health information managers, informatics specialists, laboratory scientists, medical record administrators, medical technologists, optometrists, podiatrists, physician assistants, Clinical psychologists, public health professionals, and social workers. PHS Commissioned Corps message is to be out the door as soon as requested, as the events are “all hands-on deck” situations.

- The PHS Commissioned Corps is one of the nation’s uniformed services — a branch committed to the service of health.

- Officers advance the nation’s public health, serving in FDA and other agencies across the government, as physicians, nurses, dentists, veterinarians, scientists, engineers and other professionals.

- PHS Commissioned Corps officers can be selected as applicants to FDA or current FDA employees who wish to convert to the PHS Commissioned Corps.

- To serve in FDA as a Commissioned Corps officer, you must first apply to the PHS Commissioned Corps and meet all service standards. A select few of the basic standards include:
  - Be a U.S. Citizen,
  - Be age 44 or younger,
  - Possess a qualifying degree to be commissioned, and
  - Meet Medical qualification standards.

- Please see [https://www.usphs.gov/](https://www.usphs.gov/) to apply.

**Qualifying Degrees**

- Qualifying degrees vary and can be from an array of health professions such as:
  - Dentist
  - Physician
  - Veterinarian
  - Dietician
  - Scientist
  - Engineer
  - Nurse
  - Pharmacist
  - Environmental Health
  - Therapist
PHS Commissioned Corps Officer Pay and Benefits

PHS Commissioned officer pay tables are consistent with all uniformed services pay and allowance. Please see https://www.dfas.mil/militarymembers/payentitlements/Pay-Tables/www.DFAS. Commissioned Corps officers receive non-taxable benefits including basic allowance for housing and subsistence allowance. Further, prior uniformed service time is credited consistent with uniform service rules and regulations.

Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

Become a part of the Department that touches the lives of every American. At the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) you can give back to your community, state, and country, by making a difference in the lives of Americans everywhere!

US Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

The HHS Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has been recognized as one of the Federal Government’s best places to work. The FDA is responsible for protecting the public health by ensuring the safety, efficacy, and security of human and veterinary drugs, biological products, and medical devices; and by ensuring the safety of our nation’s food supply, cosmetics, and products that emit radiation.

FDA Work Life Balance

While making an impact at ORA, benefits include a balance of uniform service benefits such as federal holidays, annual leave, sick leave, along with agency flexible work schedules, paid training and professional development tools and resources.

Office of Regulatory Affairs (ORA)

The Office of Regulatory Affairs, which includes virtually all the field offices of FDA as well as a significant presence in the Washington DC Metropolitan area, serves as the traditional eyes and ears of the agency through its network of investigators and laboratory analysts. ORA works closely with each of the FDA Centers and with other components of the agency to enforce the laws that protect and advance the public health. ORA protects consumers by maximizing compliance of FDA-regulated products and minimizing risk associated with those products. More than 5,000 ORA professionals work in a range of program areas and locations in 227 offices and 13 laboratories throughout the United States every day to maximize compliance of regulated products and to minimize public health risk. ORA regulates more than 135,000 business establishments that annually produce, warehouse, import, and transport $1 trillion worth of consumer goods.

Where to Find Jobs & How to Apply

To join the PHS Commissioned Corps, you must apply on-line through https://www.usphs.gov/apply-now. Once you have applied to the PHS Commissioned Corps, you can start applying for jobs through www.fda.gov/orajobs. For more information or assistance with becoming an officer in ORA, please contact the ORA Commissioned Corps Management Group at ORACC@fda.hhs.gov.