The Bay Pines VA Healthcare System (VAHCS) offers a specialized training program for students pursuing select medical professions interested in earning a certified Lean Six Sigma Yellow Belt. Program length is four to six weeks. All training takes place at the C.W. Bill Young VA Medical Center located in Bay Pines, Fla.

What is Lean Six Sigma?

Lean Six Sigma is a combination of two highly effective process improvement disciplines used in business today. Lean, simply stated, is an improvement practice use to eliminate all non-value-added activities and waste to improve efficiency and flow of a business process. Six Sigma is a fact-based, data-driven philosophy of quality improvement that values deficiency prevention over deficiency detection. Both disciplines are used widely throughout the Bay Pines VA Healthcare System in both clinical and administrative settings.

What will I learn while I am in the program? What are the benefits?

- Discover and utilize Lean and Six Sigma tools for improving complex health care processes.
- Be mentored by a physician project champion in a medical specialty area and Lean Six Sigma Black Belt improvement practitioner.
- Lead a multidisciplinary team of health care professionals to identify inefficiencies, conduct value stream analysis, and complete an in-depth improvement project that may improve health care delivery for America’s Veterans!
- Present project solutions to Bay Pines VAHCS senior executives and other key stakeholders.
- Earn a certified Lean Six Sigma Yellow Belt.

What are the requirements to enroll in the program?

- Must be a student pursing a medical profession enrolled at a college or university affiliated with the Bay Pines VAHCS.
- Must be in good academic standing.
- Must be able to furnish a letter of support from the Dean of your college or university.

Who can I contact for more information?

For questions about the Lean Six Sigma Yellow Belt Certification Program, application process and project opportunities, please contact Joann Fenicchia, Systems Redesign Coordinator, Bay Pines VAHCS, at 727-398-6661 extension 17627 or email joann.fenicchia@va.gov.
About the Bay Pines VA Healthcare System
The Bay Pines VAHCS is a level 1a, tertiary care facility headquartered in Bay Pines, Fla. Originally opened in 1933, the main medical center is located on 337 acres situated on the Gulf of Mexico approximately eight miles northwest of downtown Saint Petersburg, Fla. This area is part of Tampa Bay, the second most populated metropolitan area in the state. The organization operates nine facilities to include the C.W. Bill Young VA Medical Center in Bay Pines and outpatient clinics located in the Florida cities of Bradenton, Cape Coral, Naples, Palm Harbor, Port Charlotte, Sarasota, St. Petersburg, and Sebring. Every year, the Bay Pines VAHCS serves more than 105,000 Veterans while providing a full range of high quality medical, psychiatric, and extended care services in outpatient, inpatient, residential, nursing home, and home care settings. Bay Pines is the 4th busiest VA healthcare system in the country in regards to patients treated or served. The healthcare system is fully accredited by The Joint Commission, Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, and several other nationally recognized accrediting organizations.

About Saint Petersburg, FL
The city of Saint Petersburg is the fourth most populous city in the state of Florida and the largest city in the state that is not a county seat. The city boasts a population of roughly 2.8 million residents and is a popular vacation destination for both American and foreign tourists. According to city estimates, the average temperature during the year is 73.7 degrees and average days of sunshine per year are 361.

Housing
Quality homes and apartments are available within commuting distance of the medical center. Prices are consistent with those found in cities of comparable size.

Cultural Activities

Sports and Outdoor Recreation
Tampa Bay boasts extensive indoor and outdoor sports and recreation facilities suitable for all ages. In Saint Petersburg alone, there are three award-winning public golf courses (Florida is known as the golf capital of the world), nine public pools including an Olympic-size training facility located on Tampa Bay, 80 lighted tennis courts, five dog parks, two skateboard parks, a BMX bicycle track, and a Maximo Park flying disc golf playing facility.

Beaches
The Tampa Bay area is well regarded for its beaches. In 2005 a non-profit beach ranking organization recognized Fort De Soto the number one beach in the nation. Fort De Soto is located approximately 30 minutes south of the medical center. Other nationally ranked beaches within driving distance from the medical center include Clearwater Beach and Siesta Key Beach.

Transportation
Tampa Bay is a major transportation center with excellent interstate highways and air, rail and bus services, facilitating travel to all surrounding areas. Interstate 275 is the primary north/south highway connecting St. Petersburg to Tampa, and interstate 75 – the main north/south arterial on the west coast of the state.