

Optional Enrichment Elective: Rural Health Scholars Pathway

Course Name: Rural Health Scholars

Faculty: Steve Martin, MD, EdM

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Goals and Objectives:

Goal: To foster medical and nursing students' interest in rural health issues and to equip them and encourage them to practice in rural or small town areas.

Objectives:

- To identify and then nurture the interest of medical and nursing students who would like to pursue a career in rural health.
- To help participating students acquire the skills and develop the attitudes necessary to become effective providers in rural and small town communities.
- To expose students to the important linkages between clinical practice and public health in developing healthy rural communities.
- To foster relationships among student Scholars and introduce them to others in the medical/nursing, public health, and governmental sectors who are working to meet the needs of rural communities.
- To introduce students to physicians, nurses, and other clinicians who are practicing in rural and small town communities in Massachusetts and New England.

Learning Methodology and Opportunities:

- Luncheon seminars that occur approximately 6-7 times during the year.
- Summer stipended service-learning assistantship or research experience; these experiences are funded through the Office of Undergraduate Medical Education (OUME) Summer Service-Learning Assistantship Program and MassAHEC Network. (MassAHEC, the state's Area Health Education Center, is a federal Health Resources and Services Administration funded training program).
- The Population Health Clerkship (PHC) provides placements in rural/small town communities; medical students may be matched with a rural/small town practicing physician for the Longitudinal Preceptor Program (LPP) experience. nursing students are offered clinical placements as appropriate in rural/small town settings.
- For medical students, family medicine clerkship and electives in rural/small town communities; other electives include family medicine in rural/small town communities. We expand these to include other specialties based on student interest. For example, if a student in the program wants to do an elective with a pediatrician in a rural/small town, we work with the Pediatrics department to make that happen.

Requirements: Medical Students

Year One: Attend at least 60% of the seminars

Year Two: Attend at least 60% of the seminars, OR attend 30% of the seminars and complete the Population Health Clerkship or a Summer Service-Learning Assistantship placement in a rural/small town placement.

Year Three: Complete two activities from among the four listed. Provide plans for continuing participation through a rural setting or theme in the 1) Flexible Clinical Experience, 2) Capstone, 3) Family Medicine rotation or 4) other option proposed by the student. *[Suzanne Cashman or Linda Cragin should approve the student's plan.]*

Year Four: Continue 3rd year options OR arrange a 4th year elective in a rural/small town community.

Requirements: Graduate School of Nursing Students

For GEP students, Year 2: Attend at least 60% of the seminars; students are encouraged to attend seminars, as feasible, during subsequent year(s).

For Traditional Master's or BS to DNP students, Year 2: Attend at least 60% of the seminars; students are encouraged to attend seminars, as feasible, during subsequent year(s).

Method of Evaluation:

- Faculty maintain records of student participation

NB: At the end of the year, students participate in an evaluation of the year's programming and development. This has helped shape the opportunities so that they are consistent with students' assessments of their needs regarding support and exposure to practice in rural and/or small town communities.

