



# RURAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

As the state's leading educator of physicians practicing in Missouri, the University of Missouri School of Medicine is in a key position to improve the number of physicians in rural Missouri.

The Rural Scholars Program is designed to offer medical students interested in rural practice a variety of experiences including lectures, mentoring and clinical programs centered around rural care.

## STUDENT BENEFITS

### Rural Missouri Experience

- Experience the rewards and challenges of working and living in a rural community
- Examine rural health disparities and quality of life concerns within a specific region of Missouri
- Develop an ongoing relationship with hospital systems and health care providers in rural Missouri
- Explore potential future practice locations

### Clinical Experience

- Participate in a unique early clinical experience after the first year of medical school to enhance understanding of rural medicine and practice history taking and physical exam skills
- Participate in high-volume, high-value rural educational experiences across all four years of medical school through the Rural Scholars Program
- Complete three core clerkships during third year in a rural community while working one-on-one with MU appointed community-based faculty or participate in the longitudinal integrated clerkship (LINC)
- Participate in community-based research through the development of a community integration project
- Complete one four-week elective in a rural community to develop a deeper understanding of rural practice and assist in solidifying specialty selection



### Lasting Benefits

- Prepare for rural practice through ongoing clinical exposure
- Develop strong, supportive relationships with other students interested in rural care
- Receive personal mentoring from a rural community-based faculty member
- Participate in the annual rural lecture series for ongoing exposure to topics in rural health
- Receive a program completion scholarship during the fourth year of medical school
- Receive personalized assistance and support from Rural Scholars Program faculty and staff
- Receive potential scholarships from participating hospitals and/or health systems
- After completing all Rural Scholars requirements students will also be recognized as an AHEC Scholar.



## Students accepted into the Rural Scholars Program are expected to:

- Be assigned to a region and continuity training site where all clinical training programs will be completed
- Attend six evening rural lectures during medical school
- Establish a mentor relationship with a designated rural faculty member during the first year of medical school
- Participate in the Summer Community Program for six weeks or complete four weeks of the Summer Community Program and the Clinical Rural Immersion Program after the first year of medical school
- Complete three rural clerkships or the longitudinal integrated clerkship (site dependent), and a community integration project during the third year of medical school
- Complete one rural elective during the fourth year of medical school

## Continuity Region and Training Site

Rural Scholars will be assigned to a continuity region and training site where they will complete all clinical training programs. Rural Scholars will develop a more in-depth connection with and understanding of the culture, health disparities and health care resources in the region.

## Rural Lecture Series

Annual lecture series where experts in rural medicine speak on a variety of topics, including models of addressing behavioral and women's health in rural areas, rural leadership and community engagement, the use of telemedicine in rural areas, the opioid epidemic in rural Missouri and many more.

## Summer Community Program

Students work with one or more community-based physicians in a primary care setting in their continuity region and experience the benefits and rewards of rural practice. Students perform appropriately focused medical histories, physical exams and other clinical tasks under the supervision of the physician. Students who complete this program will receive a stipend.

## Rural Clerkship Program

Students are given the unique opportunity to live and work in a rural community to gain personal experience about the rewards of rural practice. Community-based physicians serve as faculty and role models, guiding students through the program and serving as mentors for professional and personal development. In busy rural settings, students care for a large number of patients and are able to experience continuity of care.

## Rural Longitudinal Integrated Clerkship

The Rural Longitudinal Integrated Clerkship (LINC) includes medical students participating in patient care over time, allowing enduring learning relationships to develop with patients and physician-teachers. Students will meet required core clinical competencies in multiple disciplines through longitudinal experiences over the course of the clinical training year. In contrast to a block curriculum, students meet and follow their patients across multiple settings of care and different disciplines.

## Community Integration Project

Students research community health needs in a region of the state and develop and evaluate a community research project to address the identified needs. An academic poster and paper are submitted to reflect on the project.

## Rural Elective Program

The Rural Elective Program provides students with additional rural clinical experience during their final year of medical school to help students explore and solidify their commitment to practicing rural medicine.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



For more information visit [medicine.missouri.edu/ruralscholars](https://medicine.missouri.edu/ruralscholars)