



# 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 Track Pipeline Program
- Completion of 3-4 core clerkships during third year in a rural community while working one-on-one with MU appointed community-based faculty

- 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 Track Pipeline Program faculty and staff
- Receive potential scholarships from participating hospitals and/or health systems

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



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

- Attend six evening rural lectures across the first and second year of medical school
- Establish a mentor relationship with a designated rural faculty member during the first year of medical school
- Meet at least twice per academic year with their designated mentor across all four years of medical school
- Participate in the Summer Community Program for six weeks or complete four weeks of the Summer Community Program and the Rural Immersion Program after the first year of medical school
- Complete three core rural track clerkships and a community integration project during the third year of medical school
- Complete one rural track elective during the fourth year of medical school

## Summer Community Program

Students work with one or more community-based physicians in a primary care setting 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 Immersion Program

Hosted in communities throughout the state, the Rural Immersion Program is a four-day experience for rising second year medical students and health professions students. The program is a non-clinical experience designed to highlight the social and communal aspects of rural life. Through group activities and meetings with community leaders, participants get a preview of life as a rural health care professional. Students who complete this program will receive a stipend.

## 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.

## Rural Track 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.

## 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 Track Elective Program

The Rural Track 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.

## Continuity Region

Rural Scholars will be assigned to a region 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.

