



The Virginia AHEC Scholars program is a part of a national initiative to prepare tomorrow's health professionals to become leaders in interprofessional, transformative practice who serve those who need it the most.

AHEC Scholars is a program for health professions students interested in supplementing their education by gaining additional knowledge and experience in rural and/or underserved urban settings. This is a longitudinal program with interdisciplinary curricula to implement a defined set of clinical, didactic, and community-based activities.

AHEC Scholars Program is anticipated to be a cutting-edge, high-performing program with a priority goal that was built on a plan that responds to the six (6) Core Topics: Interprofessional Education, Behavioral Health Integration, Social Determinants of Health (SDOH), Cultural Competency, Practice Transformation, and Substance Use Disorders.

The programs duration is two years totaling 160 hours. Each year of the two years includes 80 hours allocated to:

- 40 hours of community-based, experiential, or clinical training in a rural and/or other underserved area
- 40 hours of didactic education (focused on six Core Topic Areas, all online)

Student eligibility focuses on their interest in rural or underserved health care; participants must be currently enrolled in a health professions degree or certificate program and be two years from program or degree completion. This includes, but is not limited to, students in medical, dental, pharmacy, nurse practitioner, nursing, physician assistant, social work, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and public/population health programs.

The requirements of the Virginia AHEC Scholars program are in addition to regular coursework required for the student's academic program.

Student Benefits: *Network and mentoring opportunities with established leaders in primary care and rural health Virginia; Virginia AHEC Scholars will receive a certificate recognizing them as an AHEC Scholar upon completion, setting them apart during job search and/or subsequent residency match; Program is provided at no cost to participating students; Scholars may be eligible for a stipend of up to \$500 each year (*subject to fund availability and University approval); completion of this program results in a Virginia AHEC Scholars certificate, setting students apart from other students in an increasingly competitive environment.*