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Interprofessional Focus in Community Health Distinction Program: An Advanced Learning Opportunity for WMed Students

The Interprofessional Focus in Community Health Distinction Program is a two-year curriculum designed to improve WMed students' clinical practice readiness skills to work in rural and underserved urban settings. It implements interdisciplinary curricula using clinical settings, didactic interprofessional learning modules, behavioral health integration, social determinants of health, cultural competency, practice transformation, and current and emerging health issues. Students in the program participate in a mix of online training and community-based learning in rural and underserved communities throughout Southwest Michigan. Students will train side-by-side with healthcare professionals, which includes community members.

Eligibility

Open to all WMed students in good academic standing. Students can apply at any point prior to starting the Clinical Applications phase of the curriculum in the second term of academic year two.

Requirements

Students must participate in the Michigan Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Scholars Program which is part of a national program. The Program prepares students to enter the health professions workforce by teaching them important supplemental skills that might otherwise be missing from the students' normal academic curriculum. AHEC Scholars is designed specifically for applicants from a diverse background who have a strong interest in providing healthcare to patients in rural and medically underserved communities across Michigan.

The Program is a two-year time commitment, requiring approximately 80 hours of effort per year. The Program allocates 40 hours to completing clinical and community-based training, with the other 40 hours spent participating in various didactic training activities.

Benefits

- Allows students exposure to an interprofessional curriculum that helps to increase knowledge, develop expertise, and contribute to communities in need.
- Program incentives such as paid conference attendance.
- Professional networking opportunities and competitive resume building.
- Upon completion of the Program, students will be awarded a designated distinction in Interprofessional Focus in Community Health and an AHEC Scholars Certificate, providing national recognition of graduates as part of an elite group of future leaders in healthcare.