

AHEC Scholars Program

AN OVERVIEW FOR ACADEMIC PARTNERS

Who is eligible to be an AHEC Scholar?

AHEC Scholars is a two-year program designed to supplement and broaden a student's healthcare training. Any student enrolled in the following Alaskan healthcare programs can apply. An abbreviated form of the program, requiring half as many hours, may be available to students enrolled in a degree or certificate program taking two years or less.

- Behavioral Health Aide
- Certified Nursing Assistant
- Children's Mental Health
- Clinical Mental Health Counseling (M.Ed.)
- Clinical-Community Psychology
- Community Health Aide/Practitioner
- Community Health Worker
- Dental Assisting
- Dental Health Aide/Therapist
- Dental Hygiene (BS)
- Diagnostic Medical Sonography
- Dietetics (Certificate, BS, MS)
- Emergency Medical Technician
- Health Sciences
- Human Services (AAS, BHS)
- Justice
- Justice Administration
- Kinesiology
- Medical Assisting
- Medical Coding
- Medical Lab Science (AAS, BS)
- Medicine
- Nursing (AAS, BS, MS)
- Nursing Practice (Doctorate)
- Occupational Therapy
- Outdoor Leadership (AAS)
- Paramedicine (Certificate, AAS)
- Pharmacy
- Physical Therapy Assistant
- Physician Assistant
- Public Health
- Radiologic Technology
- Social Work (BS, MS)
- Speech-Language Pathology

What are the Basic Requirements of the AHEC Scholars Program?

Each year, students are required to complete 40 hours of classroom or online training (didactic) and another 40 hours of community-based learning out in the field. Students will have the opportunity to complete their community-based learning in an Alaskan rural community or with urban underserved populations.

DIDACTIC

Core courses that are required by programs are ineligible to count towards didactic requirements but elective coursework containing core topic content may count. The following core topics must be covered in order to count towards this requirement:

- **Cultural Competency:** which seeks to improve individual health and build health communities by training health care providers to recognize and address the unique culture, language and health literacy of diverse consumers and communities.
- **Interprofessional Education:** (also known as interdisciplinary training) which supports a coordinated, patient-centered model of health care that involves an understanding of the contributions of multiple health care professionals.
- **Social Determinants of Health:** includes five key areas (determinants) of economic stability, education, social and community context, health and health care, and neighborhood and built environment, and their impact on health.

- **Practice Transformation:** which aims to fully support quality improvement and patient-centered care through goal-setting, leadership, practice facilitation, workflow changes, measuring outcomes, and adapting organizational tools and processes to support new team-based models of care delivery. AHEC programs are expected to develop and implement educational and training activities and build and strengthen strategic partnerships. Educational and training activities under practice transformation must target the specific skills and competencies needed to prepare students and practicing health professionals to effectively practice in a transforming health care system.
- **Behavioral Health Integration with Primary Care:** which promotes the development of integrated primary and behavioral health services to better address the needs of individuals with mental health and substance use conditions.
- **Current and Emerging Topics**
 - Geriatrics
 - Chronic Disease
 - Trauma Informed Care
 - Oral Health
 - Substance Use Disorders
 - Suicide

COMMUNITY BASED EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING (CBEL)

CBEL hours can be required clinical or practicums of a program as long as they are completed in a rural or underserved setting. The AHEC program also helps to coordinate CBEL customized to community needs and student interests. Here are some examples of CBEL to date:

- Assisting with community health fairs
- Completing public health outreach to rural/underserved populations
- Job shadowing in clinics, hospitals or other health related settings
- Ride-alongs with EMT, Paramedics, Fire Departments or Police Departments in rural communities
- Assisting with research projects related to health in rural communities or with underserved populations
- Project Based Learning
 - Project Hope: Scholars are trained to lead Narcan kit-building workshops and train community members to dispense Narcan while distributing kits
 - Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Community Trainings: Scholars are trained as ACEs Facilitators and are certified to complete 1.5 hour ACEs fundamental trainings for community members, school personnel and healthcare professionals in rural/underserved settings
 - Premera Baby Box Project: Scholars are trained to lead maternal health workshops and one-on-one trainings with new and expectant moms while providing them with Baby Boxes for safe sleeping as well as contents conducive to promote positive infant maternal health and development.

How can our students become AHEC Scholars?

We are happy to come speak to a classroom of students, one-on-one or they can submit an application anytime here, <https://cutt.ly/AlaskaAHECScholars>.

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