

# California

## AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTER

### SCHOLARS PROGRAM IN COMMUNITY HEALTH

The severe shortage of primary care health professionals is California's next big drought. Nearly half of all Californians live in regions with insufficient primary medical, dental and mental health services. We must ensure that the health care workforce is better prepared and committed to meeting the needs of our communities.

Launching in Fall 2018, the California Statewide Area Health Education Center (AHEC) is recruiting for its inaugural class of AHEC Scholars in Community Health. This program enables high-potential students in the health professions to explore primary care with an emphasis on community health and interdisciplinary practice in medically underserved communities. AHEC scholars and their degree-granting institutions will be connected to a local AHEC Center and an expansive network of clinics and resources spanning 13 regions in California. These clinics are affiliated with AHEC, the California Office of Rural Health and the California Primary Care Association and will serve as AHEC Scholar training sites.

## CLINICAL EXPOSURE & IMPACTFUL MENTORSHIP

In conjunction with the student's own health professional program, AHEC scholars will enhance their clinical training with knowledge and skills development in community health. Guided by selected mentors and preceptors from the community, scholars will receive team-based clinical training and learn how a clinical setting responds to the health needs of an underserved or rural community. Scholars gain strong connections to professional networks, health service organizations and lifelong mentors.

## COMMUNITY-ORIENTED ACADEMIC TRAINING

The California AHEC Curriculum for Scholars in Community Health is a direct response to the growing need for clinicians capable of applying new models of care with underserved populations. The curriculum was designed in partnership with community leaders, vetted by clinical educators, and endorsed by state and professional agencies.

Curriculum modules present diverse learning opportunities that include webinars, case-based learning, self-guided research, interviews, direct skills development, and clinic and community exploration. These 11 modules, which are outlined below, provide scholars with a community health immersive learning experience:

- Clinical Skills
- Quality Improvement
- Leadership & Advocacy
- Medical Neighborhood
- Patient Engagement
- Community Engagement
- Team-Based Care
- Work-Life Balance
- Health Care Reform
- Patient-Centered Medical Home
- Community-Based Health Project



## SCHOLARS PROGRAM OVERVIEW

A two-year\* longitudinal, interdisciplinary curriculum divided into three components: community-oriented education, clinical training and community-based hands-on activities that supplement students' existing health training programs.

\*One-year option is available for select students.

*"AHEC gave me exposure to providing comprehensive care for the homeless and medically underserved. I felt empowered!"*

*- Student Participant*



The 11 modules also integrate six core topic areas. Examples include:

### INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- Motivational Interviewing
- Patient-Clinician Relationship

### BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INTEGRATION

- Reducing Stigma
- Anxiety & Depression

### SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

- SDH 101
- Addressing SDH in Primary Care Settings

### CULTURAL COMPETENCY

- Embracing Diversity
- Cultural Professionalism & Competency

### PRACTICE TRANSFORMATION

- Leadership Models
- Patient-Centered Medical Home

### CURRENT & EMERGING HEALTH ISSUES

- Opioid Crisis
- Immunizations

# PROGRAM AT-A-GLANCE

	COMMUNITY-ORIENTED TRAINING	CLINICAL TRAINING	COMMUNITY-BASED HEALTH PROJECT
HOURS	Minimum: 40 hours each year x 2 years = 80 hours total	Minimum: 40 hours each year x 2 years = 80 hours total (variable combination)	
RESOURCE	CA AHEC Scholars in Community Health Curriculum	Scholar's school clinical training site	AHEC-sponsored community clinic in underserved area
VENUE	Online	On-Site	

- 40 hours/year of online didactic training
- 40 hours/year of team-based, clinical and community-based experiences in an underserved site
- Student-created personalized learning plan that is self-paced and flexible

# STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Utilizing a hybrid learning environment, scholars can create a personalized learning plan for immersive clinical and community training that complements their academic program and allows for professional development that suits their career and personal goals.

Sample scholar learning plan (variable per student; subject to change):

	SUMMER			FALL			WINTER			SPRING		
	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
YEAR 1	Orientation			M3		M4		M5		M6		M7
	M1 (Clinical Training - Refer to Your School)											
YEAR 2	M2 (Community-Based Health Project)				M8		M9		M10		M11	
	M1 (Clinical Training - Refer to Your School)											

M = Module | \*Medical assistant and community health worker students may be able to participate in a one-year Scholars Program.

# PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

Students are eligible to participate if they are (1) enrolled in a program with clinical training requirements that ends in a terminal degree/certificate, (2) interested in primary care and community health and (3) motivated to address health needs in underserved communities. Health professions students include but are not limited to medical, medical assistant, physician assistant, nursing, nurse practitioner, dental, clinical psychology, public health, allied health and community health worker students.

# AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTER

The California Statewide AHEC Program's mission is to improve access to and quality of health care for underserved populations of California using academic-community partnerships for health education and workforce training. For over 40 years, the CA AHEC Program, with its 13 centers throughout the state, has developed and enhanced education and training networks within communities, academic institutions and community-based organizations. The CA AHEC is part of a national program sponsored by the Health Resources and Services Administration. Today, 56 AHEC programs with more than 235 centers operate in 48 states and the District of Columbia.

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & LASTING CONTRIBUTIONS

Scholars work with a mentor and complete a community-based health project that addresses a health need in a clinical setting. The local AHEC Center Director must approve the health project. Past student projects have influenced program development of teen clinics, informed clinicians on smoking habits and diabetes literacy levels of the local community, and increased patient access to language-appropriate health materials.

# CERTIFICATE IN COMMUNITY HEALTH

Upon completion of their health professions program graduation requirements and the supplemental AHEC Scholars Program learning tools and resources, scholars earn a Certificate in Community Health from the CA Statewide AHEC Program endorsed by the California Primary Care Association and the Rural Health Association.



# CONTACT

For more information, please contact your local AHEC Center Director or the CA Statewide AHEC Program Office at 559-499-6624, [ahec@fresno.ucsf.edu](mailto:ahec@fresno.ucsf.edu) or visit [cal-ahec.org](http://cal-ahec.org).