

Student Experiences



Hannah Mehochko

Nursing student
Illinois Wesleyan University
Hometown: Maxon, IL

"Participating in this preceptorship has given me such an appreciation for not only nursing, but every

section and part of the health care team. I have learned so much about how a hospital works and how to better provide patient care."



Brock Ebbing

Pre-physician assistant student
Hometown: Mount Sterling, IL

"The rural preceptorship program is an all-inclusive health care experience that all pre-health care students should take advantage of.

Before I came into the program I thought I knew a lot about the health care system. As it turned out, I knew very little. Upon completion of the inter-professional rural preceptorship I now have a better appreciation and understanding of each members role in the health care team. In addition, I have a greater capacity for understanding how trust and cooperation are paramount for success in health care."



Jessica Jackson

Community health student
University of Illinois
Champaign-Urbana
Hometown: Olmsted, IL

"I am truly grateful for the experience. I was able to gain

additional knowledge and establish networks that I will use in my career."



Devon J. M. Pace

MD Candidate, Class of 2018
University of Illinois College of
Medicine at Peoria
Hometown: Byron, IL

"This preceptorship program helped me understand the challenges often

faced among the various health professionals as well as the specific health needs of a rural community. These types of experiences are lacking in current education and are essential in building respect, understanding, and camaraderie in the health care community. Through this experience and the knowledge I have gained, I will be able to better communicate with other health professionals to provide the best care for my future patients."

Preceptor Sites

Gibson Area Hospital and Health Services

Gibson City, IL
May 27-July 7, 2020

SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital

Centralia, IL
June 3-July 14, 2020



Established in November of 2003 by the University of Illinois Board of Trustees, the National Center for Rural Health Professions (NCRHP) is located on the campus of the University of Illinois College of Medicine Rockford and is under the direction of the associate dean for Rural Health Professions. The purpose of the Center is to meet the health care needs of rural Illinois residents through collaborative projects involving multiple health professions and emphasize recruitment, retention and health care delivery initiatives that will positively impact the health and well-being of both rural residents and their communities.

Rural Health Professions Summer Preceptorship

An Interprofessional Rural Immersion Program for Health Professions Students



Introduction

The Rural Interprofessional Preceptorship Program is a rural immersion program for health professions students. It is a six-week, paid, full-time experience.

The preceptorship provides an opportunity for highly motivated students to learn in a real-world setting that supports health professionals from different disciplines working together and promotes learning through active and organized participation in the community.

The experience is designed to:

- Provide experience in a rural health care setting.
- Acquaint students with rural lifestyle.
- Convey awareness, knowledge and appreciation for a variety of health professions disciplines.
- Create awareness of rural health needs.
- Introduce students to rural practice and encourage consideration of practicing in a rural area.

Eligible Health Professions Disciplines

Students must complete sophomore year of undergraduate training by the start of the program in order to qualify and demonstrate a strong interest in rural healthcare.

- Medicine
- Pharmacy
- Nursing
- Public Health
- Social Work
- Dentistry
- Physical Therapy
- Nutrition
- Speech & Language Pathology
- Other health professions as appropriate



A Typical Six-Week Rural Experience

- A cohort of 4-5 students will be chosen for each site. Students will reside in a rural community for the duration of the program and spend four days per week shadowing providers. One day per week will be reserved for faculty-guided classroom discussions involving rural healthcare practice and theories.
- Engage in up to 16 days of shadowing different healthcare providers including physicians, pharmacists, nurses, mental health providers, physical therapists, public health professionals, home health workers, hospice staff, etc.
- Complete a three-day orientation to the host community, including an introduction to hospital staff and administration.
- Complete a Windshield Tour of the community.
- Attend a variety of health care team meetings to observe interprofessional collaboration.
- Complete a Community Service Learning project with an interprofessional intern group.

Participation in all activities is mandatory and students must have their own transportation.

Community Service Learning Project

The Community Service Learning (CSL) Project is an integral part of the preceptorship. The purpose of the CSL is to emphasize the community context of health care. Students spend at least one day a week working on the project which is guided by faculty and community preceptors. Below is a list of some of the previous projects completed by students.

- Helped a local health department with their IPLAN process.
- Developed a worksite walking program for local hospital.
- Created a community health directory for the local community .
- Facilitated a health and wellness Fun Fest targeting children in kindergarten through 8th grade and their families.
- Developed patient education materials around various chronic disease.

To Apply

For application instructions, visit www.ncrhp.uic.edu.

Applications are not considered complete until all materials and fee have been received. **Applications are due Sunday, February 9, 2020.**

For More Information

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