



What are the benefits of becoming an AHEC Scholar?

- ◆ \$500 Participation Award upon completion of Year 1 requirements and an additional \$500 Participation Award upon completion of Year 2 requirements.
- ◆ Opportunities to participate in training programs designed for CHS staff providers.
- ◆ Increased understanding of attitudes, such as mistrust, subconscious bias, and stereotypes which practitioners and patients may bring to the patient encounters.
- ◆ Heightened awareness of the existence and magnitude of health disparities, including the multi-factorial causes and the many solutions required to diminish or eliminate them.
- ◆ Skills to effectively communicate and negotiate across cultures, languages, and literacy levels, including the use of key tools to improve communication.
- ◆ Certification as a TN AHEC Scholar, which sets the student apart in an increasingly competitive work environment.
- ◆ Information about Loan Repayment Programs.
- ◆ Opportunity to become part of a network of current and future leaders in health care.

Additional information about the TN AHEC Scholars Program can be found online at <http://tnahec.org>.

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Tennessee Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Scholars Program

The TN AHEC Scholars Program seeks to develop, prepare, and sustain a culturally competent health care workforce that is prepared to deliver high quality care in a transforming health care delivery system, with emphasis on training rural and urban underrepresented minority, and educationally disadvantaged students for practice in rural and/or underserved areas.



Tennessee AHEC Scholars Program

The Tennessee Area Health Education Center (TN AHEC) at Meharry Medical College sponsors the TN AHEC Scholars Program in collaboration with each of the three regional Tennessee AHECs:

- ◆ West TN—Cherokee Health Systems
- ◆ Central TN—Matthew Walker Comprehensive Health Center
- ◆ East TN—Cherokee Health Systems

The TN AHEC Scholars Program seeks to develop, prepare, and sustain a culturally competent health care workforce that is prepared to deliver high quality care in a transforming health care delivery system, with emphasis on training rural and urban underrepresented, minority, and educationally disadvantaged students for practice in rural and/or underserved areas.

The AHEC Scholars Program is designed for health professions students who are entering their last two years of training, except medical students who may enroll in years 1-3. TN AHEC's goal is for 80% of AHEC Scholars placed in rural and urban medically underserved areas (RUMUAs) to be retained at the end of the Scholar's Program.

Scholars Program Goals

- ◆ Prepare 15 students in each of the three regional AHECs for practice in primary care in rural and/or underserved areas in Tennessee.
- ◆ Provide didactic training on core topics key to effective practice in a transforming health care delivery system.
- ◆ Provide interdisciplinary, team-based clinical training experiences for health professions students.

Eligibility

- ◆ Have at least two years remaining in their required health professions program.
- ◆ Be in good academic standing in a graduate level health professions program (e.g., medicine, dentistry, nursing, social work, physician assistant, public health, and other allied health professions).
- ◆ Commit to participate in the two-year program.

The AHEC Scholars Curriculum

The curriculum includes a defined set of clinical, didactic, and community-based training activities (40 hours didactic and 40 hours clinical training per year). It is designed to promote knowledge and skill in providing culturally competent care and health equity through didactic and experiential learning. Training experiences will be team-based and include a formal, didactic component that addresses the following six Core Topic Areas:

- 1) Interprofessional Education
- 2) Behavioral Health Integration
- 3) Social Determinants of Health
- 4) Cultural Competency
- 5) Practice Transformation
- 6) Cultural and Emerging Health Issues.

Requirements

Students interested in the AHEC Scholars program should complete and submit an application to the regional AHEC Coordinator.

Accepted AHEC Scholars will:

- ◆ Complete a 40-hour (at least) clinical experience in a rural or medically underserved area during each of their two years as a Scholar.
- ◆ Complete the 40-hour didactic curriculum, including all required readings, assignments and group discussions, during each of their two years as a Scholar.
- ◆ At the end of two years, if the Scholar has not completed the health professions degree program, he/she will be able to continue as a Scholar only on an approved basis.
- ◆ If a student becomes unenrolled at the institution in which he/she is an AHEC Scholar, the student will not be allowed to continue participation unless he/she transfers to a school that already has an established AHEC Scholars Program in Tennessee and remains enrolled in a health professions degree-granting program.