Introduction
Are you looking for a summer training experience in the health professions? If you are a health professions student interested in interprofessional training in a rural setting, this opportunity may be for you. The Rural Interdisciplinary Health Professions Summer Preceptorship offers opportunities to health professions students to:
• Train in a rural clinical practice
• Be part of an interdisciplinary team
• Collaborate in a community-focused learning project
• Network with rural health professionals
• Earn a $1,500 stipend
• Housing and food provided

Eligible Health Professions Disciplines
✓ Dental Medicine
✓ Health Administration (graduate)
✓ Medicine
✓ Nurse Midwifery
✓ Nursing (graduate/undergraduate)
✓ Physical Therapy
✓ Speech & Language Pathology
✓ Pharmacy
✓ Physical Therapy
✓ Physician Assistant
✓ Public Health (graduate)
✓ Social Work
✓ Nutrition
✓ Other health professions students as appropriate

The preceptorship is designed to:
• Provide experience in rural healthcare settings;
• Acquaint students with rural lifestyle;
• Convey knowledge and appreciation for a variety of health professions disciplines;
• Introduce health professions students to rural practice and encourage consideration of practicing in a rural area;
• Create awareness of rural health needs;
• Provide an opportunity for students to learn and work in an environment that supports health professionals working together, encourages awareness and acceptance of different cultures and promotes learning through active and organized participation in the community.

A Typical Six Week Rural Experience
• Complete a one day hospital orientation
• Complete a two day preceptorship orientation including a discussion on problem-based learning
• Complete an initial Windshield Tour of the community
• Reside in a rural community for six weeks

Experience roughly 12 days of shadowing with a variety of different healthcare providers including primary care physicians, pharmacists, hospice RNs, inpatient mental health providers, public health professionals, etc.
• Attend interdisciplinary care-coordination meetings at the hospital
• Participate in a community service learning project

Problem-Based Learning Model (PBL)
Problem-based learning or PBL is the educational model behind the preceptorship. The process of learning in PBL focuses on using real problems/issues to engage students and enhance their learning and motivation. Development of problem solving skills as well as disciplinary knowledge bases and skills are developed by placing students in the active role of problem-solvers confronted with a real-world problem/issue. PBL...
• Fosters collaboration among students
• Stresses the development of problem solving skills within the context of professional practice

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 healthcare. The project is decided on by the host site and benefits the larger community. Students spend at least one day a week working on the project. While their work is guided by a community preceptor, PBL methods are incorporated. Below is a list of some of the previous projects completed by students.
• Developed patient education materials around various chronic diseases
• Helped a local health department with their IPLAN process
• Developed a “This is Public Health” campaign for a local health department
• Developed a worksite walking program for local hospital
• Developed a community health directory for the local community
• Developed a media campaign for residents of the community about emergency preparedness, pandemic influenza planning and local preparedness efforts

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

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Nicholas Heller  
Biology major, pre-med  
Illinois Wesleyan University  
Mattoon, Illinois  
“I was exposed to all different areas and health professions and learned how they work together for total patient care. I feel like I have a much better understanding for how to point patients to the right person now and have a true appreciation for what each job does now that I have shadowed them. I got to meet an amazing group of students much like myself, and also very different. Each was at a different point in his/her education, and all interested in a different field, but we all had the same goal in mind with regard to helping our patients.”

Quintin Hayes  
Pre-pharmacy  
Southern Illinois University – Edwardsville  
Centralia, Illinois  
“I learned more about what it means to work as a team and how vital it is to patient health and satisfaction. If everyone comes together, healthcare can be achieved in a much quicker, more efficient, and yet with a better quality of care. I learned that this is exactly where I want to be, involved in a rural community, dealing with rural health issues and helping the patients of small town communities. I learned more about my town this summer than I realized I could. Overall, what I learned about the preceptorship is teamwork, well-being, and life skills that, along with many great memories, will stick with me forever.”

Eric Wessel  
Physician Assistant/Spanish  
Butler University  
Batesville, Indiana  
“I thought the preceptorship was an awesome experience that all health professionals should share in. And I think that’s the point of the program, for you to realize that good patient care revolves around a variety of healthcare providers sharing responsibility to treat and manage patients effectively. Before partaking in the Rural Health Interdisciplinary Preceptorship I thought that patient care was placed mainly on the primary care provider, but by the end of the summer I realized just how much time other people in completely different departments and clinics put in to treating a patient.”

Preceptorship Graduating Classes

KSB Preceptorship 2011
St. Mary’s Preceptorship 2011

Contact Information
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Sponsoring Organizations

St. Mary’s Good Samaritan

Katherine Shaw  
Bethea Hospital  
Dixon, Illinois  
May 30 – July 11, 2012

St. Mary’s Good Samaritan  
Centralia, Illinois  
June 13 - July 25, 2012

RURAL HEALTH PROFESSIONS SUMMER PRECEPTORSHIP

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS Rockford  
A UIC Health Sciences Campus

THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR RURAL HEALTH PROFESSIONS