

# AHEC Rural Immersion Program

## Program Information

Northwest Missouri, June 21-25, 2026

### Overview

The Rural Immersion Program is a four-day experience for health professions students who are interested in living and working in a rural area. This is a non-clinical experience designed to highlight the social and communal aspects of rural life. Through group activities and meetings with community leaders, participants will get a preview of life as a rural healthcare professional.

### Cost of Attendance

There is no cost for students to attend.

### Housing

Accommodations are provided in Trenton and Maryville.

### Student Stipend

Students will receive a \$740 participation stipend at the conclusion of the program. This includes funds needed to cover individual meals and travel.

### Eligibility Criteria

- Up to 20 students will be selected. Students must have an interest in rural practice and be enrolled in a pre-med/health professions program. Students will be in groups of five for group work.
- Students must complete an application (including a resume) via Qualtrics by April 15th. Applicants will be notified of acceptance by early May.

### Questions? Please contact:

Bai Xiong

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Scan **HERE** to apply!



### Exploring Interdisciplinary Collaboration in Rural Healthcare

By participating in the Rural Immersion Program, students in pre-medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, physician assistant, and nursing programs gain experience working across disciplines in a collaborative setting. The program offers insight into the non-clinical aspects of rural healthcare practice while fostering teamwork among future providers. Participants are placed into interdisciplinary groups, allowing for a rich exchange of perspectives and experiences. Each group engages with community leaders across one of four key sectors—business and government, education, healthcare, or natural resources—to better understand the unique dynamics of rural communities. At the conclusion of the program, students present their insights to fellow participants and community members, highlighting their findings and reflections.

### Student Benefits

- Learn about industries and organizations in a rural community
- Build a network of friends from other health professions schools
- Experience day-to-day activities in a rural town
- Explore the non-clinical aspects of life as a healthcare professional

### Student Expectations

Students are expected to attend an orientation session by video conference in May or June, write a one-page reflection paper about their experience in Northwest Missouri, complete an evaluation survey, and give a group presentation to the community about their experience in the Rural Immersion Program.



This program is supported as part of an award totaling \$400,000 through a contract between the University of Missouri and the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, Office of Rural Health and Primary Care (DHSS ORHPC). This award is funded by the DHSS ORHPC with match funding for the State Office of Rural Health (SORH) grant administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The contents are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by DHSS ORHPC, HRSA, HHS, or the U.S. Government.