

Community Exposure

A primary objective of R/UOP is to provide students with exposure to rural/underserved community medicine, including the opportunity to observe how local health care systems function.

By participating in the community, and by arranging experiences outside their preceptor's practice, students gain a greater understanding of the unique features of practicing medicine in a rural or underserved area.

Exposure to lifestyle issues, social and recreational opportunities, economics, and cross-cultural medicine are important aspects of the R/UOP experience.

A Community Framework:

We suggest that students view their community experiences within the following framework:

Population Overview: Students should identify the social, economic, occupational, educational, and cultural characteristics of the community.

Health Status: Students should be able to identify health benefits and risks that are specific to their host community including environmental factors.

Services: Students should be able to identify what health care or social services are available and how they are integrated into clinical practice.

Practice: Students should be able to identify the breath of services provided by the primary care physicians and recognize how referrals are utilized. They should gain some understanding of the health care delivery system (private practice, community health clinic, Indian Health Service, hospital-based clinic, etc.).

Physician Role: Impact of the rural or urban-underserved primary care physician's role on quality of life.

What Students Say....

"I didn't expect to see so many different aspects of community involvement by a physician. My preceptor had me come with him for various meetings, such as IRB at Children's, Adolescent care team meeting, clinic meeting, a meeting for a minority resident recruitment plan and others.

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"He has great connections in the community. He used these connections to help me see rural primary care with other doctors."

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"He and the other doctors in my host town set a great example of how a family practice clinic can work to serve the community."