

Introduction

PURPOSE OF THIS MANUAL

1. To provide an overview of the Rural/Underserved Opportunities Program (R/UOP).
2. To provide a resource of strategies for precepting pre-clinical students.

Goals of R/UOP Experience:

1. Provide the student with early exposure to the challenges and rewards of practicing *primary care medicine* in a rural or urban underserved setting.
2. Promote in students a positive attitude toward rural and urban underserved medicine.
3. Provide students with an opportunity to learn how community healthcare systems function.

R/UOP: A Brief History:

- **R/UOP is non-credit, immersion experience; there are no grades.**
- Begun in 1989, it is a collaborative effort of
 - the Dean's Office of the UW School of Medicine,
 - the Area Health Education Centers of the WWAMI (Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, Idaho) Region,
 - The Idaho and Washington Associations of Family Practice
 - Clinical preceptors and communities throughout the WWAMI area
- R/UOP is administered by the Department of Family Medicine.
- R/UOP is a popular elective experience that has seen an increasing number of students participating throughout the years.
- Students apply for stipend positions in approved rural and urban underserved training sites, where they spend 4 weeks in intimate contact with the practice and the community served.
- Students are expected to plan their own learning experiences and review their Learning Plan with their preceptors.

Where Does R/UOP Fit Into the Medical Student Experience?

R/UOP is offered to students the summer after their first year of medical school. R/UOP is the first intensive clinical experience for most students

- Students have completed a number of didactic courses (see Appendix III).
- Clinical skills are basic and primarily practiced in the classroom
 - history-taking
 - physical exam
 - some students have completed a basic suturing workshop

Additional information about this program can be found on the R/UOP web site at <http://depts.washington.edu/fammed/predoc/programs/ruop>