The goal of the Area Health Education Center (AHEC) program is to improve access to quality primary health care in urban and rural medically underserved areas, through educational activities designed to recruit, train and retain community-based health care personnel where they are most needed. Nationally, 56 AHEC programs operate in almost every state and serve over 85% of US counties. In academic year 2016-17, AHECs supported more than 4,300 different types of training programs including pre-pipeline and pipeline activities, as well as community-based field placements for health professions trainees. Over 437,000 people were trained by the AHEC.

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University of Cincinnati AHEC Program

Founded in 1974, UC AHEC is part of the College of Medicine and represents Region VI of the Ohio Statewide Program covering Adams, Butler, Clermont, Clinton, Hamilton, Highland, and Warren Counties.

AHEC is funded by the State of Ohio and the Federal AHEC Program.

UC AHEC works with all of the colleges in the Academic Health Center – Allied Health Sciences, Nursing and Pharmacy.

This project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under U77HP23072 Point of Service Maintenance and Enhancement, with a total award amount of $2,055,702 and a non-federal share of 54%. This information or content and conclusions are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government.
The AHEC Scholars Program is for current health professions students interested in positioning themselves to join a well-prepared, diverse and culturally competent primary care workforce. The program’s core topics are:

- Inter-professional education
- Behavior health integration
- Social determinants of health
- Cultural competency
- Practice transformation
- Current & emerging health issues
- Team-based clinical and community experiences working in rural areas and/or with urban, underserved populations.

To apply for the AHEC Scholars program, please contact Sharron DiMario at sharron.dimario@uc.edu

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Participation in AHEC Scholars provides students with a variety of benefits including:

- $750 stipend (each year)
- Participation in professional conferences and continuing education opportunities
- Student research opportunities
- Clinical and community shadowing experiences
- Rural and Appalachian cultural experiences
- Recognition from the National AHEC organization

The program is open to students in disciplines that support primary health care services delivery in both clinical and non-clinical roles. Applicable majors include, but are not limited to: medicine, community and public health, nutrition and dietetics, nursing, communication sciences and disorders, social work and counseling.

The program has a special interest in students from underserved, under-represented population and/or disadvantaged backgrounds. If you have questions about qualifications, please reach out to our office.