

**Transform
Healthcare
Together**



Panhandle AHEC Scholars Program



Panhandle AHEC

**WEST TEXAS
AHEC**



AHEC Scholars

Overview

The Panhandle AHEC Scholars Program . . .

Was developed as a national program grant funded through the Health Resource and Service Administration (HRSA).

Is designed for health professions students who are interested in pursuing careers in rural and/or underserved communities after graduation.

Is accepting new applicants who have a passion for serving in rural and medically underserved communities!

Panhandle AHEC Scholars

The AHEC Scholars Program is a unique opportunity for health and health related discipline students to gain professional experience working in an interprofessional team-based community or clinical care setting, while they are still in school.

This two-year program offers didactic and practical learning experiences that enhances students' traditional curricula by offering opportunities to:

- Learn more about the roles and responsibilities of other health professions.
- Work in team-based environments that foster inclusivity and focus on patient-centered care.
- Broaden their scope of practice and learn strategies to become better practitioners.
- Learn and understand the unique challenges that face underserved and rural populations when accessing care and achieving good health status.

AHEC Scholar Prerequisites

Students must:

Be enrolled in a health professions training program (minimum 2 years in length, some exceptions apply).

Be in good academic standing.

Have reliable transportation and access to WiFi.

Possess a strong work ethic.

Display effective organizational, time management, and communication skills.



AHEC Scholar

Eligible Disciplines

Eligible Health Professions List

Dental Professions

Dentist

- MS year 3&4

Dental Assistant

- Certification

Dental Hygienist

- BS year 3&4
- MS year 1&2

Nursing Professions

Registered Nurse

- BS year 3&4
- MS year 1&2

Nurse Practitioner

- MS year 1&2

Licensed Vocational Nurse

- Certification

Medicine

Medical Doctor (MD)

- MS year 3&4

Doctor of Osteopathy (DO)

- MS year 3&4

Physician Assistant

- MS year 1&2

Therapy Professions

Respiratory Therapy

- AS year 1&2
- BS year 3&4
- MS year 1&2

Speech Pathology

- MS year 1&2

Allied Health

Radiology Technologist

- AS year 1&2
- BS year 3&4

Behavioral Health

Social Work

- BS year 3&4
- MS year 1&2

Public Health

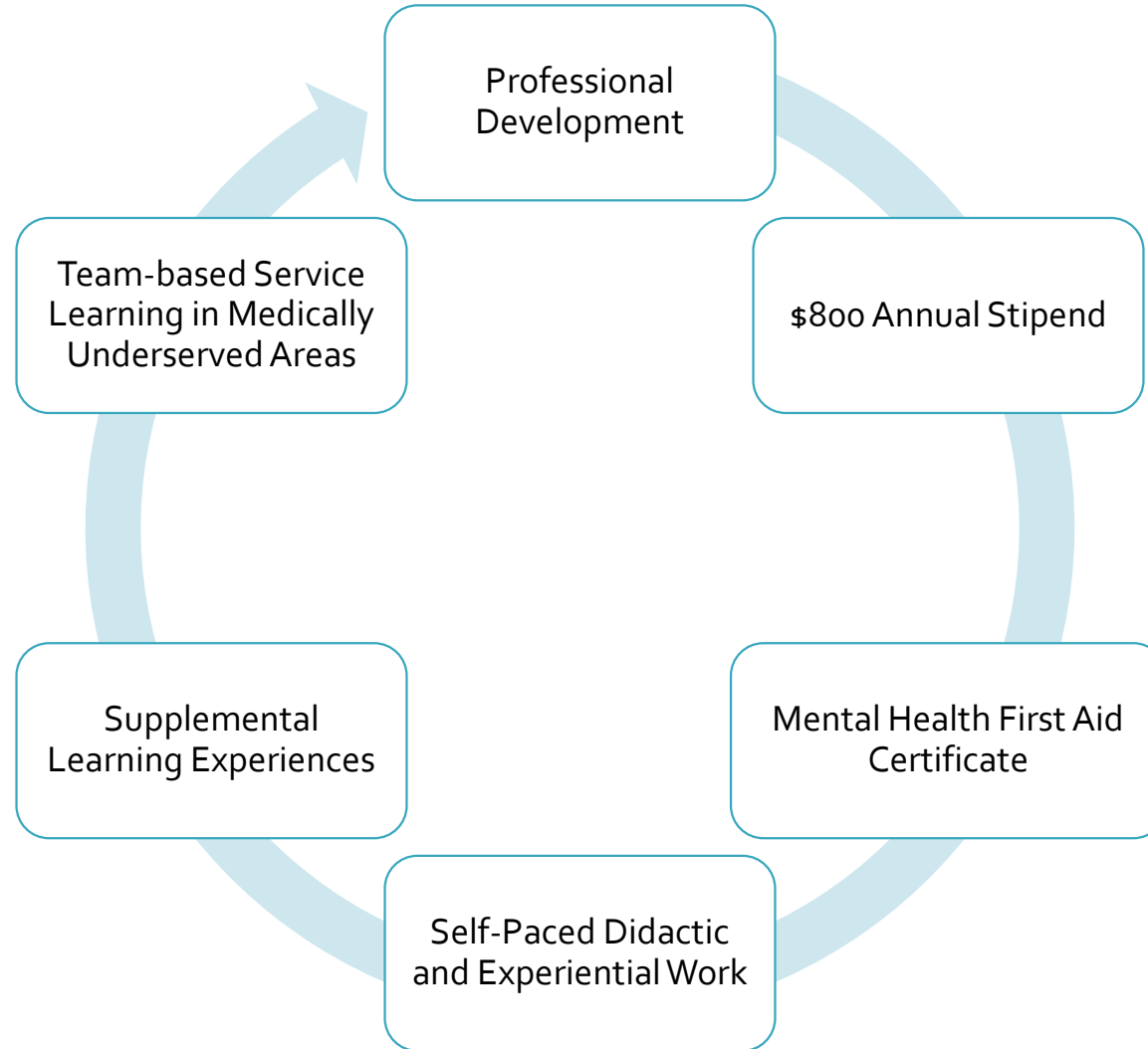
- MS year 1&2

Pharmacy

Pharmacy

- MS yr 3&4

AHEC Scholar Program Benefits



AHEC Scholar Program Requirements



Each student must complete **40 hours** of clinical/experiential training, which are:

- Interdisciplinary
- Team-based experiences in Texas rural and/or medically underserved areas
- Located in healthcare facilities, such as designated patient-centered medical homes, academic clinics, student run clinics, community-health centers, etc.

Clinical hours (which meet the requirements above) that students participate in as part of their academic programs will also count for AHEC Scholar clinical hours requirements!

AHEC Scholar Didactic Content

Each student must complete a minimum of 40 hours per year of didactic training (online, self-paced) in the HRSA defined 6 core topic areas.

Didactic (online, self-paced) training will supplement students' existing health professions training program curriculum.

Students must complete a program evaluation each year, including a one-year post-graduation follow-up.

Didactic (online, self-paced) Learning – 40 Hours

Core Topics

Interprofessional Education
Behavioral Health Integration
Social Determinants of Health
Cultural Competency
Practice Transformation
Current and Emerging Health Issues

Learning Opportunities

Online Webinars
Readings
Case Studies
Reflective Journaling
Mapping

Skills

TeamSTEPPS –*Team Strategies & Tools to Enhance Performance and Patient Safety*
Motivational Interviewing
Getting to Know Rural Health

Professional Certificate

Mental Health First Aid

AHEC Scholar Program Outline

AHEC Orientation

Meet with the AHEC Team and your fellow Scholars

Year One

Online pre-survey
TeamSTEPPS
Interprofessional Education
Motivational Interviewing
Cultural Competency
Healthcare Transformation
40 hours Clinical/Experiential Training (rural, MUA, Texas)
Online post-survey

Year Two

Online pre-survey
Behavioral Health Integration
Clinician & Practice Transformation
Interprofessional ECHO
Mental Health First Aid
40 hours Clinical/Experiential Training (rural, MUA, Texas)
Online post-survey



AHEC Scholars

Term/Year

AHEC Scholars Program
is a 2-year program

Students must commit to being in the program for 2 years, plus complete a third-year longitudinal survey.

Entry point into the program is dependent on each student's school/program with the exit point at graduation or completion of the degree.

The 2025-26 AHEC Scholars Cohort will begin with orientations scheduled during the third week of September.



Questions?

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- **Like us on Facebook**
<https://www.facebook.com/PanhandleAHEC>
- **Application Link**
<https://texastechuniversityhealthsciencesc.my.site.com/AHECScholarApplication/s/>



Applications are due September 9!

(Application portal will open in May. If you would like a reminder from our office to apply in May, please follow this link (https://wtamuw.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5d2UBdlk1oo6yfcor) or QR code to fill out an interest survey and we will contact you in May.

