



West Virginia University®

HEALTH SCIENCES  
CHARLESTON CAMPUS

## West Virginia Family Medicine Rural Scholars Program

West Virginia University Charleston Division / Department of Family Medicine  
3200 MacCorkle Avenue, SE Charleston, WV 25304

**Program Director: Andy R. Tanner, DO**

**Rural Scholars Directors: Kathleen Bors, MD and Joshua Cusick-Lewis, MD, MPH**  
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### Do You Meet the Challenge?

The Rural Scholars Program is looking for superior medical students who can meet the challenge of practicing primary care in a rural setting. Your preparation will go beyond the routine training found in most medical school or residency curricula and the demands and rewards will be just as unique. Successful practitioners will develop a unique set of skills and expertise that will significantly impact the delivery of health care in an under-served region.

The Rural Scholars Program is designed to reward medical students with proven ability and a strong desire to practice family medicine in rural parts of West Virginia.

Candidates will benefit from financial incentives and an accelerated integration of medical school and residency that features advanced training and less loan repayment debt. The requirements of the program can be fulfilled within three years, the standard training period for undergraduates.

Student's fourth year of medical school will be maximized by an accelerated rural scholars curriculum with unique community experiences and sub-internships. The Rural Scholars will then be linked to a position in the sponsoring Family Medicine Program. The rigorous fourth-year experience enables Rural Scholar residents to participate in advanced procedural and leadership training usually found only at a fellowship level. Candidates will also experience coordinated rural rotations integrated with the medical school and residency curriculum. Graduates may eventually practice in one of these locations.

### Selection

All candidates must be West Virginia University, Marshall University, or West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine medical students and must apply by March 31 of their third year. A selection committee composed of the participating program director and chief resident, each medical school's dean of students (or suitable representative), and two at-large committee members appointed





by the program director to represent the clinical faculty and other funding partners of the scholarship program, reviews applications, interviews candidates and makes recommendations.

The residency program director must assure that each selected candidate complies with all ACGME/AOA and institutional resident selection requirements and each candidate's medical school dean of student services (or equivalent) must assure that the Year 1 Rural Scholars curriculum fulfills all MSIV institutional and LCME or AOA requirements.

Awards are announced after the selection process of the same year to allow for integrated scheduling requirements. Any changes in deadlines will be communicated by the resident program directors.

## Financial Resources

First Year Rural Scholars stipend/scholarship: \$10,000/recipient

Additional funds from residency program for Rural Scholar's advanced training courses.

## Scholarship Default

Scholarship recipients that do not complete MS4 Rural Scholar requirements will not be eligible for the \$10,000 scholarship. An Rural Scholar who leaves the Program prior to the completion of at least six months of training in the PG1 year, will be expected to repay the entire \$10,000 scholarship within 12 months of departing the program. After completing six months of the PG1 training, if one or both parties decide the program is not a good fit, the recipient will be under no obligation to repay the scholarship if he/she leaves the Program. If the Program decides to terminate the recipient for cause, at any time during the residency, the recipient will not be under any obligation to repay the scholarship. A one-time request for consideration of any variation of this policy may be made to the Program.

Any student that decides to not pursue the rural scholars program during MS4, has the option to resign from the program and enter the traditional NRMP match without penalty.

## Rural Scholars:

Benefits to Rural Scholars include:

- A Rural Scholars stipend of \$10,000 upon graduation from medical school which significantly reduces medical school debts as practitioners begin their professional careers.
- Secure your residency position in Family Medicine at the end of MS3 through a waiver from the NRMP. This allows Rural Scholars to bypass the traditional match process.
- The stipend and matching system eliminates the expense and uncertainty of the residency match and interview process.
- The educational base and residency enables students to develop clinical and leadership experiences uniquely targeted to foster success in a rural/underserved practice.
- If selected, Rural Scholars will be entering into the WVU/CAMC Family Medicine Residency



Program upon graduation.

## Benefits to West Virginia:

Despite a growing presence of rural community preceptors and an increased emphasis on rural primary care in medical school curricula nationally and in the state, some regions of West Virginia have limited access to healthcare.

Our mission is to establish long-term relationships between our physicians and communities while providing a level of care previously unobtainable in the region.

The continued success of the Rural Scholars program:

- Enhances our ability to attract and retain excellent MS III students from West Virginia Medical Schools.
- Increases retention of medical students for in-state residency programs.
- Provides a mechanism to sponsor innovation in residency curricula and increase physician placement and retention in under-served areas of the state.
- Provides meaningful financial rewards to medical students who possess the desired traits for success in rural family medicine, and who are willing to commit themselves to in-state residency training to achieve this goal.

## Selection Criteria:

All candidates must be West Virginia University, Marshall University, or West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine medical students to be eligible.



<b>Rural Scholar Selection Criteria</b>	<b>Priority Points</b>
1. Legal resident of West Virginia	0 - 10 points
2. Student's Comprehensive Class ranking; Class Ranking in Clinical Clerkships; and Class ranking among student's clinical campus cohort.	0 - 30 points
3. Interview Process, which will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review of MS III rotations</li><li>• Ability to complete MS IV sub-internship and Rural Scholar project</li><li>• Interaction with selection committee</li></ul>	0 - 30 points
4. Demonstrated commitment of the candidate's decision to practice in rural/underserved areas of West Virginia.	0 - 30 points
TOTAL	0 - 100 points

## Rural Scholars Curriculum:

Designed to provide significant amount of time in rural location or selected rotation which will maximize continuity of care for patients. The curriculum varies depending upon location.

This program is being presented with financial assistance as a grant from the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission

# APPLICATION

## West Virginia Rural Scholars Program

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Medical School:  WVU  MU  WVSOM

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Your State of Legal Residence \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth (Day/Month/Year) \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ SSN \_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_

Current Medical Student Financial Aid/Scholarships:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Attachments Required:

1. Medical School Transcript
2. USMLE/COMLEX Transcript
3. Attach a one page personal statement that describes your candidacy for the Rural Scholars Program.

### 4. Reference Letters Required:

- Family Medicine Clerkship Faculty
- Other Clinical Clerkship Faculty
- Dean's Letter
- Letter to support West Virginia Rural Commitment

Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Attestation:

I have read the terms and description of the West Virginia Family Medicine Rural Scholars Program and agree to abide by all provisions if awarded a position as a Rural Scholar.

*Loan repayment and other financial incentives do not guarantee long-term retention of these practitioners.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Please send all letters/correspondence to:  
Telista Snyder  
Student Program Coordinator  
Rural Scholars Program Coordinator  
West Virginia University Charleston Division  
Department of Family Medicine  
3200 MacCorkle Avenue, SE  
Charleston, WV 25304  
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