

# Rural Health Track

## Program Overview

The Washington State University College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences (CPPS) is offering a specialized track for student pharmacists who are committed to expanding access to pharmacist care in rural communities. Students apply for admission into this track before the end of their first year (PY1). Once admitted, students will be assigned a faculty mentor to guide them through successful completion of the track. Expectations of students in the rural health track include selecting elective courses that emphasize rural health topics, scheduling of Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience (IPPE) and Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience (APPE) rotations in rural areas, and completion of a capstone project focused on improving an aspect of rural health care.

Applicants to the CPPS rural health track are student pharmacists with a commitment to practicing pharmacy in Washington state's rural communities. Student pharmacists that are from rural communities in Washington state and hope to return to those communities are especially encouraged to apply.

## Program Details

- Access to specialized elective course work
  - ▶ Fall PY2: Introduction to Rural Health Care (2 credits)
  - ▶ Spring PY2: Introduction to Rural Health Care and Research Methods (2 credits)
  - ▶ Fall PY3: Policy, Advocacy, and Legislature for Rural Health (1 credit)
  - ▶ Spring PY3: Chronic Disease Management and Role of the Rural Health Pharmacist (1 credit)
- 3 to 6 additional credits in electives covering topics relevant to rural health – access to courses within and outside the CPPS
- Capstone Course – 2 to 4 elective credits
  - ▶ Longitudinal special project in rural health
  - ▶ Faculty and community mentors
  - ▶ Present results at a regional or national meeting, develop a manuscript for publication
- IPPE and APPE rotations scheduled at rural sites
  - ▶ Multiple home zones available across the state
  - ▶ Complete Community and Institutional IPPEs at rural partner sites during summer semesters between P1 and P2, and P2 and P3 years.
  - ▶ Complete at least three APPE rotations at rural preferred or qualified sites.
- Interprofessional service and learning experiences available in rural communities
- Unique mentoring program – faculty and alumni advisors with rural pharmacy experience

## Benefits of Participation

- Special preparation for a rewarding career with opportunities to positively impact health disparities and improve access to care
- Access to additional scholarships up to \$10,000 per year – the RHI scholarship and others
- Access to loan repayment programs upon graduation, if practicing in a qualifying community or setting
- Assistance with identifying post-graduate training opportunities in rural health
- Distinguish yourself from your peers: special recognition at commencement, certificate of completion for your curriculum vitae

## Requirements of Applicants

- Completion of the fall semester PY1 year
- Maintenance of good academic standing, passing all courses throughout the PharmD curriculum
- Scholarship recipients make a commitment to practice in a rural community for at least three years after graduation

## Apply to the Rural Health Track

To be considered for admission into the Rural Health Track, please submit the following materials on or before December 18, 2023, before 11:59 pm via email to Dr. Stewart at [stewas@wsu.edu](mailto:stewas@wsu.edu).

- Letter of Intent
  - ▶ Up to 500-word statement describing your relationship to or motivation for advancing rural health through pharmacy practice in a rural or underserved community.
  - ▶ Include a description of your career goals and how the rural health track will help you achieve those goals
- Current Curriculum Vitae

## Rural Health Initiative Scholarship

**Each Scholarship:** \$10,000 per year for up to three years (\$5,000 per semester, \$30,000 maximum) The purpose of the scholarship is to provide financial support to offset some of the costs of rural health students (including tuition, travel, and housing) as they incorporate their learning and professional practice in rural communities throughout Washington state.

**Number:** Four scholarships are available to Doctor of Pharmacy students in the Rural Health Track

### Eligibility:

1. Be accepted into the WSU CPPS Rural Health Track and maintain adequate progress towards completion of the requirements of the track
2. Maintain good academic and professional standing and adequate progress towards graduation in the Doctor of Pharmacy program
3. Be from the state of Washington or have demonstrable ties to the state of Washington
4. Agree to practice pharmacy in a rural or underserved community for a minimum of 3 years within five years of licensure, excluding post-graduate training. Practice in Washington State may be required.

**Terms:** If a recipient fails to fulfill the above conditions, the CPPS reserves the right to withdraw the financial support and/or request repayment of awarded funds from the student to the extent permitted by law. The CPPS may, in its sole discretion, request repayment for a lesser amount than the financial support provided depending on the circumstances, including but not limited to whether certain service commitments have been partially fulfilled. To the extent the recipient fails to fulfill the terms and conditions of the award, the CPPS may impose up to 6% interest per annum on the awarded amount.

**FAQs:**

- What is considered a rural area of Washington?  
<https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/am-i-rural>
- What is considered an underserved area of Washington?  
<https://data.hrsa.gov/tools/shortage-area/hpsa-find>

## Rural Health Initiative Scholarship Agreement

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Entering Year \_\_\_\_\_ Graduating Year \_\_\_\_\_

**Agreement:**

I agree to complete the requirements of the rural health track within the Doctor of Pharmacy Program and to maintain good academic standing and progress towards on-time graduation.

I agree to practice pharmacy in a rural or underserved community in the state of Washington for a minimum of three (3) years after graduation and licensure, excluding any post-graduate training.

I agree to write a letter of thanks to the donor(s) of the RHI scholarship funds prior to receiving the award each academic year.

I agree to provide the College with updated employment information and personal or professional contact information at least annually and with any changes for at least five years after graduation and licensure.

If I fail to fulfill all the above conditions, the CPPS reserves the right to withdraw the financial support and/or request repayment of awarded funds, to the extent permitted by law. The CPPS may, in its sole discretion, request repayment for a lesser amount than the financial support provided depending on the circumstances, including but not limited to whether certain service commitments have been partially fulfilled. To the extent I fail to fulfill the terms and conditions of the award, the CPPS may impose up to 6% interest per annum on the awarded amount. The remitted funds will be reassigned to a student who fulfills the pledge conditions.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

**College of Pharmacy and  
Pharmaceutical Sciences**