

# Rural Health Track

## Program Overview

The Washington State University College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences (CPPS) is offering a specialized education track for student pharmacists who are committed to expanding access to pharmacist care in rural communities. Students accepted into the Rural Health Track begin their specialized training in the spring semester of their PY2 year. Expectations of students in the rural health track include completing 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 longitudinal 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 who are from rural communities in Washington state and who hope to return to those communities are especially encouraged to apply.

## Program Details

- Access to specialized elective course work
  - ▶ Spring PY2: Introduction to Rural Health Care and Research Methods (2 credits)
  - ▶ Fall PY3: Chronic Disease Management and Role of the Rural Health Pharmacist (1 credit)
  - ▶ Spring PY3: Policy, Advocacy, and Legislature Impact for Rural Health (1 credit)
  
- Capstone Research Project – 2 credits as a Pharm 599
  - ▶ Longitudinal special project to address a rural health need
  - ▶ Faculty and community mentors
  - ▶ Produce a poster or manuscript for publication
  - ▶ Present results at a regional or national meeting
  
- IPPE and APPE rotations scheduled at rural sites
  - ▶ Multiple home zones available across the state
  - ▶ Complete Institutional IPPE at a rural qualified or rural preferred site during the summer between P2 and P3 years.
  - ▶ Complete at least four APPE rotations at rural preferred or rural qualified sites.
    - At least 3 of 4 required APPEs at rural sites (Community, Institutional, Ambulatory Care or Acute Care)
    - 1 rural APPE can be an elective rotation with rural emphasis
  
- See the Rural Health Track Manual for additional information

## Benefits of Participation

- Special preparation for a rewarding career with opportunities to positively impact health disparities and improve access to pharmacist-provided care
- Interprofessional service and learning experiences available in rural communities
- Unique mentoring program – faculty and alumni advisors with rural pharmacy experience
- 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 securing 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

- Maintenance of good academic standing, passing all courses throughout the PharmD curriculum
- Completion of the Introduction to Rural Health elective course
- Submission of all required application materials prior to the deadline
- Completion of an interview with Rural Health Initiative faculty and partners

## Apply to the Rural Health Track

To be considered for admission into the Rural Health Track, please submit the following materials on or before 11:59 pm on **November 12, 2025** via email to Dr. Stewart at [stewas@wsu.edu](mailto:stewas@wsu.edu)

- Letter of Intent
  - ▶ Provide a statement (up to 500 words) describing your relationship to or motivation for advancing rural health through pharmacy practice in a rural or underserved community.
  - ▶ Include a description of your connection to rural health and communities (examples include rural background, rural influence, rural desire)
  - ▶ Include a statement of your career goals and how the Rural Health Track will help you achieve those goals
- Current Curriculum Vitae
- Participate in an interview with Rural Health Initiative faculty and leaders. Applicants selected for interview will be notified in November and interviews will be completed before the end of the month.
- Candidates selected for the Rural Health Track will be notified before the end of the semester.

Check this box if you are also applying for the Rural Health Scholarship (see separate application)

If accepted into the Rural Health Track, I agree to completion of the above components of the program. I understand that completion of the Rural Health Track components does not guarantee any specific future employment or residency placement. I understand I may withdraw from the program at any point, with no consequences to my completion of my Pharm D degree at WSU CPPS. I understand that participation and completion of the Rural Health Track is separate from the RHI Scholarship, and that participation and completion of the Rural Health Track does not require acceptance of a RHI Scholarship.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_