

Rural-PRIME

Training California's future doctors to meet the needs of rural communities

With a founding mission that emphasizes community service, UC Davis School of Medicine recently launched a new program to help increase health-care access for underserved populations living in rural areas.

Called "Rural-PRIME," this unique program is designed to train the best and the brightest students for a fulfilling career in rural primary care medicine. It is an opportunity that offers a range of experiences, from public health and community service to the use of leading-edge medical technologies like telemedicine.

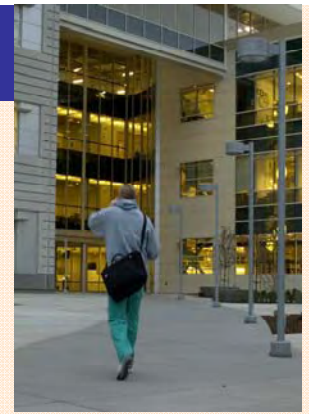


Rural-PRIME is a combined, five-year M.D. and master's degree program. It focuses on developing physicians who can become leaders and advocates for improving health-care delivery throughout the state's smaller, more isolated communities. Rural-PRIME offers an innovative curriculum, beginning with the first year of medical school. It is specifically geared toward students from rural backgrounds who have a strong desire to make a difference in communities like the ones they were raised in.

Significant Features of Rural-PRIME

- Clinical experiences through rural preceptorships and immersion in rural communities
- Mentoring by rural physicians for a deeper understanding about the small community practice and public health leadership
- Clinical technique (Doctoring) courses taught by rural physician faculty, with an emphasis on cultural sensitivity and rural case studies
- Integrated master's degrees in Public Health, Medical Informatics or other health-care related fields
- Core clinical clerkships focusing on culture, health-care issues, epidemiology and economics in rural California
- Extensive experience and opportunities to use the latest health-care technology and telecommunications:
 - Computerized patient simulators at UC Davis Center for Virtual Care provide realistic experience and training in emergency medicine and trauma care;
 - Innovative clinical training center, with patient actors, offers skills training in a life-like setting;
 - High tech telemedicine connections, offering quick access for remote areas to the specialty care of UC Davis Health System (as a longtime leader in the use of this technology, UC Davis now has an internationally recognized program);
 - State-of-the-art medical education facility, with 'smart' classrooms and distance learning capabilities, connecting rural physicians with the resources of an entire academic health system.

UC DAVIS
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"Students at UC Davis will train for rural medicine in a way far different from their predecessors. Our focus combines team medical practice, advanced information and telecommunication technologies and evidenced-based medicine, while still recognizing what has always made rural medicine fulfilling and fun: that broad scope of practice, great relationships with patients and the knowledge that you are making a difference."

Thomas Nesbitt, M.D.,
Executive Associate Dean,
UC Davis School of Medicine

Rural-PRIME is part of the University of California's "Programs in Medical Education."

It is designed to produce physician leaders who are trained in and committed to helping California's underserved communities.

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