

INTRODUCING...

RURAL HEALTH TRACK

More than half a million Idahoans live in rural areas where getting seen necessitates long distances. Bringing them care means jumping into their community to meet them where they are, break down stigmas, and weave an interprofessional net of providers.



WHAT IT ENTAILS

The Rural Health Track (RHT) trains 12 PAS students—4 in Pocatello and 8 in Meridian and/or Caldwell—in the unique aspects of rural healthcare. RHT students are paired with a PA who either is working or has worked rurally for mentorship and guidance. Students complete at least 8 of their PA-required service learning hours shadowing a primary care provider in an underserved community.

RHT students become an AHEC Scholar, a nationally-recognized 2-year interdisciplinary certificate program with 40 hours of rural-focused curriculum and 40 hours of service learning experiences each year. AHEC Scholars learn to identify and address health inequities, disparities, and the social determinants of health in rural communities through interprofessional teamwork.

RHT students pursue 1 of 4 certificate options, which can be completed mostly online alongside the PA curriculum, usually as one course per semester.

During the clinical year, RHT students serve 2 consecutive rotations alongside a Master of Social Work or Master of Counseling graduate student at a rural clinic in Kimberly, Rupert, Shoshone, or Twin Falls, ID; or Ontario, OR. After an introduction to the community and the people's specific needs, RHT teams coordinate a mental-health-focused community training project, and host an interprofessional grand rounds for their classmates. RHT students receive a \$5,383 stipend on this rotation.

The PA Program funds RHT students' membership to the National Rural Health Association (NRHA) and registration for 1 RHT student to attend the national NRHA CME Conference.



CERTIFICATE OPTIONS



SPANISH FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONS CERTIFICATE

A 15-credit curriculum focused on the intersections of Spanish language, hispanic culture, and health care. isu.edu/globalstudies/spanish-for-health-professions/graduate-certificate/



GERIATRIC CERTIFICATE

An 8-credit curriculum preparing students to support the increasing older adult population. isu.edu/healthsciences/geriatric-certificate/



RURAL HEALTH CERTIFICATE

A 15-credit curriculum preparing providers and students to practice in rural settings. isu.edu/publichealth/rural/



LIFESTYLE MEDICINE CERTIFICATE

Coming soon.