Selection

All candidates must be West Virginia University, Marshall University, or WVSSOM medical students and must apply by Jan. 15 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 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 by Feb. 1 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

Recipients who fail to complete the residency program which awards their scholarship shall be in default and must refund the entire $10,000 award within 12 months of leaving the residency program.

A one-time request for consideration of any variation in this default payment may be made to the selection committee. The committee must have at least five members present and a simple majority vote on any decision will be final without appeal. The program director shall chair the meeting.
West Virginia Family Medicine Rural Scholars Program

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 healthcare in an underserved region.

The Rural Scholars program is designed to reward medical students with proven ability and a strong desire to practice Family Medicine in rural areas of WV.

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 postgraduates.

Students’ fourth year of medical school will be maximized by an accelerated rural scholars curriculum with unique community experiences and sub-internships. The Rural Scholar 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.

Rural Scholars:
Benefits to Rural Scholars include:
- A Rural Scholars stipend of $10,000 during the fourth year of medical school which significantly reduces medical school debts as practitioners begin their professional careers.
- A matching system that links graduates with a specific WVU Family Medicine Residency Program with a Rural Scholar Track.
- 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.

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 IV 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 underserved 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 WV SOM medical students to be eligible.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rural Scholar Selection Criteria</th>
<th>Priority Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Legal resident of West Virginia</td>
<td>0-10 points</td>
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<td>2. Student’s Comprehensive Class ranking: Class Ranking in Clinical Clerkships and Class ranking among student’s clinical campus cohort.</td>
<td>0-30 points</td>
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<td>3. Capability of student handling a “sub-internship” load of 8-10 months during the fourth year of medical school that would follow the content of a Family Medicine PGY1 curriculum.</td>
<td>0-30 points</td>
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<td>4. Demonstrated commitment of the candidate’s decision to practice in rural/underserved areas of West Virginia.</td>
<td>0-30 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>0-100 points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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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.