

# THE UIC COLLEGE OF NURSING ANNOUNCES THE ADDITION OF **RURAL HEALTH NURSING**

Advanced practice interprofessional electives  
for nurse practitioner and midwifery students  
who wish to practice in rural communities

Rural populations experience higher incidence of disease and disability, lower life expectancies, higher mortality, and higher rates of pain and suffering.

The UIC College of Nursing intends to help mitigate these disparities by educating advanced practice nurses to deliver care to the more than 20% of residents in Illinois living in health professional shortage areas (HPSAs).



# The UIC College of Nursing now offers rural nursing electives

Advanced practice nurses (APRNs) are critically needed as primary care providers to increase healthcare access in rural communities. It is estimated that 20 to 30 percent of Illinois residents live in rural primary care Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs), where the supply of primary care providers relative to the population is below federal standards. The Illinois Department of Public Health has designated 62 of the 102 counties in Illinois as HPSAs. Rural populations experience higher incidence of disease and disability, higher mortality, lower life expectancies, and greater rates of pain and suffering.

**Primary care APRNs, who provide up to 90 percent of the services offered by physicians, can mitigate health disparities caused by shortages of healthcare professionals willing to work in rural settings,** as well as limited training of healthcare professionals to care for individuals from rural communities. These advanced practice nurses have a long history of caring for underserved, uninsured and vulnerable populations.

The UIC College of Nursing's main campus in Chicago and its five additional campuses in Peoria, Quad Cities, Rockford, Springfield and Urbana have long been providing the highest-quality education for APRNs throughout Illinois. Using in-person, simulated and distance-learning educational technologies, the UIC College of Nursing offers 12 advanced practice specialty programs for the doctor of nursing practice (DNP) degree, the terminal degree for practice.

**Now, all six UIC College of Nursing campuses are offering a rural nursing track for DNP students studying in any of our 12 focus areas:**

- Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner
- Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner
- Advanced Population Health Nursing
- Family Nurse Practitioner
- Health Systems Leadership and Informatics
- Neonatal Nurse Practitioner
- Nurse-Midwifery
- Nurse-Midwifery / Women's Health Nurse Practitioner
- Pediatric Nurse Practitioner-Acute Care Program
- Pediatric Nurse Practitioner-Primary Care Program
- Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner
- Women's Health Nurse Practitioner



The rural nursing (RNURSING) program is supported by its collaboration with UIC's rural medicine (RMED) and rural pharmacy (RPHARM) programs at UIC's Rockford campus. RNURSING students take part in interprofessional electives facilitated by the Rockford campus's National Center for Rural Health Professions.