

RURAL TRIBAL PRECEPTORSHIP

All Pathways students participate in a 16-week preceptorship in a rural tribal community during their fourth year of medical school. This provides students with the unique opportunity to hone their skills in a small rural hospital or clinic while under the supervision of a faculty preceptor with knowledge of Native health issues. Students also give back to the community by working with partners to develop and implement a community-oriented research project that addresses a community health need.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
ROCKFORD CHICAGO PEORIA URBANA



THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR
RURAL HEALTH
PROFESSIONS



THE
**NATIVE
AMERICAN
PATHWAYS**
PROGRAM

WHO WE ARE

The Native American Pathways Program is a student support program designed to recruit, support, and graduate Native American students pursuing a medical degree. We provide Native American students the support they need to complete their medical education, with the goal that students will return to rural tribal communities to serve their people. We are located at the University of Illinois Health Sciences Campus in Rockford, Illinois.

RURAL MEDICAL EDUCATION TRAINING

Native American Pathways Program students participate in the Rural Medical Education (RMED) Program, which means they complete Rural Health Professions curriculum along with the traditional medical school curriculum. This prepares RMED students with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes required to be a rural health professional. Building on the RMED Program's "grow your own" model, we recruit Native American students who grew up in rural tribal communities and have the desire to return to practice in these communities upon finishing residency.

PROGRAMMING

We provide programming and support for Native students from high school through medical school. This includes:

PRE-COLLEGE

- Presentations at career fairs
- Career exploration guidance
- College preparation information

COLLEGE

- Personalized financial aid and scholarship assistance
- Transcript review and academic advising
- Guidance through the medical school application process

MEDICAL STUDENTS

- Native student advocate staff on campus
- Social and academic support
- In-state tuition
- Financial aid assistance
- Preceptorship in rural tribal communities



“ The Native American Pathways Program gives you an outlet where you can talk about both traditional and westernized medicine and build your own bridge between the two. It allows you to learn how to be a westernized medicine provider without losing your past and culture. ”

KAITLIN WEISSHAPPEL

Native Medical Student, Class of 2020