

# GROWING OUR OWN.

## Our Mission

The Rural Medical Education (RMED) Program of the University of Illinois College of Medicine Rockford seeks to admit and prepare medical students from rural America who will, upon completion of residency training, locate and practice in a rural location.

The RMED Program is the medical component of the National Center for Rural Health Professions, which promotes the health of rural communities through partnerships in education, service, research and policy.



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*“The RMED program was my first choice of medical schools. RMED teaches us about the unique challenges and opportunities that come with practicing medicine in a rural community. There is no better way to prepare for that mission than through the RMED Program.”*

Kelsey LeVault, Taylorville, Illinois



**RURAL MEDICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM**  
University of Illinois College of Medicine Rockford

## Practice in a community you love

The Rural Medical Education (RMED) Program uniquely prepares individuals who enjoy small-town life for a satisfying, service oriented medical career. Students who choose RMED receive additional education and mentoring focused on the healthcare needs of rural communities. They earn their medical degree at the University of Illinois College of Medicine Rockford and participate in courses and experiences that prepare them to practice in rural settings.

Graduates serve as leaders in their local communities, becoming involved in the town, school and business communities. Rural physicians are vital, respected members of the local healthcare delivery team. They choose rural medicine to make a difference in their patients' lives.

*"I joined RMED because I grew up in a small town in Idaho and always knew I would return to a rural area to practice medicine. There is such a great need for rural doctors and RMED is truly making a difference."*

Aaron Hezeltine, Fruitland, Idaho

## Targeted educational experiences for rural success

RMED provides students with insight into issues affecting rural communities during the first three years of medical school through seminars, field trips and projects. Students gain an understanding of the unique issues of rural healthcare delivery, including the significant role of the physician in the community. Many of these tasks are completed in partnership with pharmacy students enrolled in the Rural Pharmacy Education (RPHARM) Program from the UIC College of Pharmacy at Rockford, and the nursing students enrolled in the Advanced Practice, Rural Nursing Program (RNURSING) from the UIC College of Nursing. This collaboration provides a unique interprofessional educational experience.

In the third year of medical school, RMED students have the unique opportunity to participate in core, clinical clerkships located in numerous rural locations. During the fourth and final year of medical school, students complete a 16-week preceptorship in one of over 30 rural collaborating hospitals across the state or at sites located in tribal communities and other remote, rural locations across the country.



This experience is completed under the supervision of a faculty preceptor and replaces the fourth-year elective rotations. The rural preceptorship is a unique educational and clinical collaboration between small rural hospitals, physicians and the RMED Program at the University of Illinois College of Medicine Rockford. The experience focuses on clinical skill development, implementation of a community-oriented research project to address a local healthcare need and a study of the rural community's social, economic, cultural, organizational and political structure.

## Who is right for RMED?

RMED students have a critical understanding of rural life and the medically underserved condition of many rural communities. RMED students want to practice medicine in rural America, and want to be leaders in the revitalization of rural healthcare.

RMED students are those who:

- Have roots and plans to practice medicine in a rural setting
- Have competitive GPA/MCAT scores
- Receive three letters of reference from hometown community leaders
- Are interviewed and receive favorable recommendations from the RMED Recruitment and Retention Committee
- Pledge to participate in and complete the RMED Program and practice in a rural community
- Are approved by the University of Illinois College of Medicine Admissions Committee

## Find out more

Our staff would be delighted to meet with you and your family to provide more information and campus tours. Please contact us to schedule your personal appointment at (815) 395-5782 or email [mmeurer@uic.edu](mailto:mmeurer@uic.edu).

*"RMED offers a great variety of opportunities, especially during the clinical years. I feel so connected to my patients because of the extensive "hands-on" experiences I've gained while on my rural clinical rotations."*

Maggie Baker, Brighton, Iowa

