



**RURAL HEALTH OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM (RHOP)
PROGRAM STANDARDS for the MEDICINE OPTION
Participants and Alternates**

PHILOSOPHY

The Rural Health Opportunities Program (RHOP) is a cooperative program between the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC), Chadron State College (CSC) and Wayne State College (WSC). The purpose of the Program is to recruit and educate traditional and non-traditional students from rural Nebraska that are interested in a career in one of nine health care professions with the expectation that each person will return to rural Nebraska to practice. The program represents a commitment and dedication to the education of Nebraskans and quality health care for the citizens of the state.

COURSE WORK

1. Each applicant and alternate (hereafter referred to collectively as student(s)) must follow a curriculum designed for the RHOP Medicine Program. Each student, in consultation with his/her undergraduate institution Pre-Medicine Academic Advisor, will choose an academic major and a program of study will be designed for that major that includes all of the Pre-Medicine required courses.
2. Each student must complete courses in a timely manner. Alternates must be prepared to move into a participant position should one become available, and participants and alternates must be prepared to enter professional school at the end of four years (at least eight consecutive semesters) of academic work and obtain their bachelor's degree at one of the applicable Nebraska State Colleges.
3. Each student must obtain approval from the undergraduate institution's Pre-Medicine Academic Advisor before registering for or dropping any class.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

1. **A student must earn a "C" or better in each course. If a student earns a "D" or "F" in a course, he/she will be placed on academic probation and must repeat the course as soon as possible. Failure to remove the "D" or "F" may result in the dismissal of the student from the Program.** Consultation with the Medicine Option Academic Advisor is required
2. **Each participant and alternate must maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) and a Math & Science GPA of 3.5 or higher. Each student with a GPA below the requirement may be placed on academic probation.** Academic probation and the probation terms will be assigned by the Admissions Dean at UNMC COM and the individual responsible for RHOP coordination at the

undergraduate institution in consultation with the undergraduate institution's Pre-Medicine Advisor. Students on probation will be monitored for progress to meet RHOP standards for not longer than two semesters, resulting in either dismissal or a return to good standing in the RHOP Program.

3. Students may receive a written warning up to one semester prior to being placed on probation if there are extenuating circumstances that are precluding them from meeting Academic Standards or Professional Standards. The warning terms will be assigned by the Admissions Dean at University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Medicine (UNMC COM) and the individual responsible for RHOP coordination at the undergraduate institution in consultation with the undergraduate institution's Pre-Medicine Academic Advisor.
4. A copy of the probation or warning notice and terms provided to the student by the Pre-Medicine Academic Advisor at the undergraduate institution will be shared with the Admissions Dean at UNMC COM.
5. Each student is required to consult with the undergraduate institution's Pre-Medicine Academic Advisor on a regular basis, at least once per semester.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Each participant and alternate must write a journal chronicling their activities that enhance their understanding of the art and practice of medicine, motivates her/him to become a physician in rural Nebraska, or enhance their professional development. The student is also expected to record their reactions to and their perceptions of the events to which they have been exposed. The journals must be developed on a computer so that a copy can be emailed upon request. A copy of the Journal must be submitted to the Health Professions Office at the end of each semester. The journal is the only record of a student's shadowing and other activities that enhance their professional development. Failure to adequately complete this requirement can be cause for dismissal from the program.
2. Shadowing of physicians, physician assistants, and at times other health care providers on a regular basis is expected. Some of the shadowing experiences must be in rural Nebraska so the student develops significant knowledge of what it is like to practice as a physician in rural Nebraska. This requirement can be completed during the summer, school vacations, or during school. All shadowing experiences must be noted in the journal. Each participant and alternate must always remember that the function of the Medicine Option of RHOP is to recruit and prepare people for practicing medicine in rural Nebraska. Hopefully, each student will develop a professional association with one or more practicing physicians in rural Nebraska.
3. Each student must visit UNMC on the regularly scheduled RHOP trips, as arranged by UNMC and the individual responsible for RHOP coordination at the undergraduate institution. RHOP students are also expected to attend and participate in all RHOP activities including meetings, hospital field trips, speakers, tours, volunteer activities, and all other events sponsored by RHOP.
4. Each RHOP student must participate in on-campus activities that enhance their abilities to interact with people. This would include being an active member in the Health Professions Club, meetings with health care providers, helping with Health Professions Showcase and RHOP interviews. Off-campus activities such as being a camp counselor, mission work, etc. are encouraged.

5. Each RHOP student must return to their high school at least once during their studies to promote RHOP.

PERSONAL BEHAVIOR

Participants and alternates must exhibit professional and personal behaviors that reflect positively on them, the University of Nebraska Medical Center, and Chadron State College. The students must remember that this includes summers and vacations. The students in RHOP are expected to comply with all campus standards of behavior as described in the CSC Student Handbook, as well as RHOP standards **which includes attending classes as scheduled, promptness, exhibiting respect towards fellow students and faculty, displaying initiative and leadership skills. They are also expected to obey all laws and thus, avoid having any criminal charges brought against them.** Failure to comply with these requirements may result in disciplinary action including dismissal from RHOP. The students must also remember that drug and alcohol offenses, felony convictions, etc. can prevent them from getting a license to practice their profession.

ENTRANCE OF PARTICIPANTS INTO THE PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM

In order for a participant to enter the College of Medicine Program at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, they must:

1. Meet all academic standards.
2. Submit a verified AMCAS application to the UNMC College of Medicine in a timely manner.
3. Achieve a minimum of 500 on the MCAT by March 1 of the planned matriculation year.
4. No more than 3 attempts to achieve the MCAT minimum will be accepted, students in good standing may be allowed an additional year post-graduation to achieve the minimum by March 1 of the following calendar year upon written request and approval by the Admissions Dean at UNMC.
5. Submission of a letter of reference by the Pre-Medicine Advisory Committee at the NSC.
6. Students will be expected to maintain professional attributes expected of the discipline.

DISMISSAL POLICY

1. Failure to meet probation expectations may be grounds for dismissal from the program.
2. Dismissal will be determined by the Admissions Dean at UNMC and the individual responsible for RHOP coordination at the undergraduate institution in consultation with the undergraduate institution's Pre-Medicine Academic Advisor.
3. Illegal and unprofessional behaviors may result in immediate dismissal from the Program determined by the Admissions Dean and the individual responsible for RHOP coordination.
4. A copy of dismissal notice and terms provided to the student by the Pre-Medicine Academic Advisor at the undergraduate institution will be shared with the Admissions Dean at UNMC.

ALTERNATE TRANSITION TO PARTICIPANT STATUS

In the event that any of the candidates selected as participants in the RHOP Medicine Program decide not to accept a position, withdraw after entering the program, or are dismissed from the program, the Admissions Dean at UNMC and the individual responsible for RHOP coordination at the undergraduate institution may select a replacement from among the alternates the class and program. Academic accomplishments, progress within the curriculum and participation in professional development activities as described in the Program Standards will be considered in the selection of an alternate to fill each vacancy. A second interview by Admissions Dean at UNMC or their representative will be required. Each alternate maintains their alternate status as long as they are enrolled at the undergraduate institution and have met all of the course work, academic and professional development requirements of the RHOP Medicine Program. The alternate status ends March 1 of the cohorts scheduled matriculation year.

RESIGNATION PROCEDURE

Should a participant or alternate choose to resign their position in RHOP, a formal letter of resignation must be filed with the academic advisor and Health Professions office as soon as possible.

