



June 3, 2024

Dear Incoming Medical Student,

***Congratulations*** on your acceptance to the University of Connecticut's School of Medicine. As an incoming medical student, we want to inform you of the 2-year enrichment opportunity available to students that includes ***didactic, experiential, and longitudinal training focused on the medical management of the underserved.***

The University of Connecticut's Schools of Dental Medicine, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Social Work, and Quinnipiac University's Physician Assistant Program, in collaboration with the Connecticut Area Health Education Center ([CT AHEC](#)), sponsor a program whose focus is care for the urban underserved. Known as the Urban Service Track/AHEC Scholars Program, this ***innovative program maximizes interdisciplinary training and learning opportunities that focus on issues specific to urban communities and vulnerable populations.***

Over its 18 years of operation, the ***Urban Service Track*** has engaged more than 900 health professions students. Students selected to participate from the six schools are designated as Urban Health/AHEC Scholars and are expected to participate in various educational activities that ***complement the medical school curriculum.*** Because each school's curriculum is very demanding, we have been careful to plan learning retreats and educational activities with exam schedules and curricular demands in mind.

***Typical training activities for new Urban Health/AHEC Scholars include*** a welcome reception and orientation, a Clinical Skills Boot Camp Simulation Lab, 4 learning retreats to be held on Friday afternoons, SBIRT (Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment) training and Clinical Assessment with standardized patients, involvement in [National Primary Care Celebration](#) activities, participation in student-centered and run monthly [UST Interest Groups \(IGs\)](#) and [on-line modules](#) addressing tools critical for today's health professional. In addition to these didactic and clinical opportunities, students are required to participate in [community outreach activities](#) (two each semester) sponsored by CT AHEC.

***In regards to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and public health challenges:***

CT AHEC follows the same rules/guidance as the University and state. To that end, with low positivity rates, will offer in-person training/activities for vaccinated students. Students/faculty/staff will adhere to the University's policies. This may include masking, pre-registration and self-symptom checking. Should positivity rates increase, the program will follow University guidance on moving to hybrid and/or virtual programming as well as any additional protocols. Our number one goal in CT AHEC is to keep students, staff, faculty, patients, and community members safe.

***UST graduates credit the program*** with providing them with unique and valuable tools and experiences. After completion of the formal two-year curriculum, many students stay connected with the program

serving as mentors, coaches, and small group facilitators which adds to the richness of the UST/AS Learning Community.

***Recent graduates have reflected on their experiences with UST. One example from an MS-IV:***

“Being a part of UST has been a wonderful and transformative experience. It has not only presented me with numerous opportunities to provide direct care to underserved populations, but it has also taught me to do so in a more culturally sensitive and compassionate way. I will never forget my time spent as an Urban Health Scholar and will forever carry all these valuable UST lessons with me into the world of patient-centered care.”

***If you are interested in being part of special learning community focused on primary care, interprofessional collaborative practice and working with urban underserved patient populations,*** we invite you to complete the on-line application by June 30, 2024 ([how to apply](#)). Individuals with completed applications will be extended a virtual interview to learn more about their interests and background. Students will be notified of their application status by August 12, 2024.

Sincerely,



Petra Clark-Dufner, MA  
Director, CT AHEC



Thomas Regan, MD  
Associate Dean for Admissions  
University of Connecticut School of Medicine

P.S.

Check out this slideshow, which reviews UST/AHEC Scholars curriculum components.



Click [here](#) if the QR code doesn't work on your device.