



June 2, 2025

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 make you aware of ***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 focusing on issues specific to urban communities and vulnerable populations.***

Over its 19 years of operation, the ***Urban Service Track*** has engaged more than 1000 health professions students. Students selected to participate from the six schools are designated as Urban Health/AHEC Scholars and are expected to participate in a variety of educational activities that ***complement the dental school curriculum.*** Because the curriculum for each of the schools 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, Clinical Skills Boot Camp Simulation, four learning retreats to be held on Friday afternoons, involvement in [National Primary Care Celebration](#) activities, participation in student-centered and run [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](#) (four each academic year) sponsored by CT AHEC.

Graduates consistently describe UST as a defining part of their professional journey. One recent MS-IV shared, "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." These reflections echo a broader trend: a 2024 curriculum review found that UST Scholars are significantly more likely to pursue careers in primary care and underserved settings. One curriculum administrator noted, ***"The integration of health systems science and social determinants of health has elevated our students' ability to deliver holistic, patient-centered care."***

Faculty members also speak passionately about the program's impact. As one UST faculty advisor said, ***"This program doesn't just teach clinical skills—it cultivates empathy, leadership, and a lifelong commitment to service. Watching students grow into advocates for health equity is one of***

the most rewarding aspects of my role.” These voices—students and faculty alike—highlight the program’s unique ability to transform academic learning into meaningful, real-world impact.

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 July 1, 2025. 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 11, 2025.

Sincerely,



Petra Clark-Dufner, MA
Director, CT AHEC



Associate Dean for Admissions
University of Connecticut School of Medicine



Scan for Application Details