

**UHC Family Medicine**  
527 Medical Park Drive  
Suite 500  
Bridgeport, WV 26330  
Phone / 681-342-3600  
Fax / 681-342-3625

Welcome Rural Scholars Applicants!

The United Hospital Center (UHC) Family Medicine Residency Program in Bridgeport, WV invites dedicated third year medical students with a passion for rural healthcare to apply for the prestigious Rural Scholar's Program that will provide them with an enhanced experience in their fourth year of medical school. This opportunity also provides a streamlined pathway into our Family Medicine Residency while offering financial incentives to reduce the burden of medical education.

Rural healthcare in West Virginia faces significant challenges. According to recent data, over 50% of West Virginia's counties are designated as Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs). Rural counties experience physician shortages 2-to-3 times greater than urban areas, contributing to worse health outcomes, including higher mortality rates for preventable diseases. On top of this, rural residents often experience longer travel times to healthcare facilities, higher rates of chronic diseases, and limited access to specialty care. The Rural Scholars Program aims to combat these disparities by training family medicine physicians committed to serving these communities.

Our mission is to establish long-term physician-community relationships and provide an exceptional level of care to rural populations. Access to a trusted primary care provider is essential to managing chronic conditions like diabetes and hypertension, which disproportionately affect rural populations in West Virginia. The UHC Family Medicine Residency has a strong track record of retaining family medicine physicians within the State, with nearly 70% of UHC Family Medicine graduates staying in West Virginia.

You will find all of the specifics of our new program attached to this letter. Please feel free to contact our Program Administrator Kim Signorelli at [kimberly.signorelli@wvumedicine.org](mailto:kimberly.signorelli@wvumedicine.org) with any additional questions regarding our Rural Scholars Program.

We look forward to the opportunity to assist you and your students in the future.

Sincerely,



Eric J. Radcliffe, M.D.  
Program Director  
United Hospital Center Family Medicine Residency Program



# United Hospital Center Family Medicine Residency Rural Scholars Program

## Eligibility Requirements:

- Be a third-year medical student in good standing who has successfully passed Step 1 of the USMLE or the COMLEX Level 1.
- Have a strong interest in matching into the United Hospital Center Family Medicine Residency prior to the NRMP Match, with the ability to pursue an enhanced track tailored to the applicant's future practice interests. These may include ambulatory practice, traditional inpatient and outpatient care, or care for patients in a critical access hospital.
- It is strongly encouraged to have an elective at United Hospital Center Family Medicine. Rural Scholar applicants will be prioritized for rotation slots.

## Benefits:

- **Guaranteed Residency Placement:** Secure your residency position in Family Medicine at UHC through a waiver from the NRMP Match, eliminating the uncertainty of the traditional residency application process.
- **Financial Support:** Receive a \$15,000 Rural Scholars stipend, in addition to the \$5,000 Residency Sign-On Bonus, upon starting residency, significantly reducing financial strain and debt.

## Selection Criteria:

- **West Virginia Residency / Ties:** Applicants must be either a resident of West Virginia, have attended medical school in West Virginia, or have strong ties to the state of West Virginia. (25 Points)
- **Academic Performance:** Consideration given to comprehensive class ranking, clinical clerkship performance, and ranking among the student's clinical campus cohort. (25 points)
- **USMLE Step 1 / COMLEX Level 1 Score:** Must be successfully completed. (25 points)
- **Interview Process:** Applicants will be evaluated on the following: (25 points)
  - Performance in MS / OMS III rotations
  - Ability to complete MS / OMS IV sub-internship and Rural Scholar project
  - Interaction with the selection committee

*The application is scored out of a grand total of 100 points. Decisions to be made by April 30, 2026.*

## Opt-Out Criteria and Scholarship Repayment Policy:

- Scholarship recipients who do not complete MS4 Rural Scholar requirements will not be eligible for the \$15,000 scholarship.
- A Rural Scholar who leaves the program prior to completing at least six months of PG1 training will be expected to repay the full \$15,000 scholarship within 12 months of departure.
- If either the recipient or the Program decides to discontinue participation after completing six months of PG1 training, the recipient will not be required to repay the scholarship.
- If the Program terminates a recipient for cause at any time during residency, the recipient will not be required to repay the scholarship.
- A one-time request for consideration of any variation in this policy may be made to the Program.
- Any student who decides not to pursue the Rural Scholars Program during MS4 has the option to resign and enter the traditional NRMP match without penalty as the stipend is not paid until after medical school graduation.

To be considered for the program, go to <https://forms.office.com/r/0tyNQPRxZk>  
to submit your interest.

The deadline to complete this form is **APRIL 1, 2026**.



# United Hospital Center Family Medicine Residency Rural Scholars Program

## Why UHC Family Medicine Residency?

- **Hands-On Training:** Train at UHC, a 300-bed tertiary care facility with an unopposed Family Medicine Residency, ensuring direct patient care experience.
- **Advanced MS-4 Curriculum:** The Rural Scholars Program offers a rigorous fourth-year experience that enables scholars to participate in individualized training typically found only at the fellowship level.
  - **Didactics:** Scholars will take part in educational sessions applicable to rural medicine.
  - **Individualized Rotations:** Each scholar will complete rotations that align with their desired future practice setting.
  - **Rural Elective Rotation:** Scholars will be paired with a practicing rural physician in the community to gain real-world experience in rural healthcare delivery.
  - **Coordinated Rural Training:** MS-4 scholars will experience rotations that are integrated with both the medical school curriculum and the residency program, ensuring a seamless transition into residency.
- **Addressing Healthcare Gaps:** With only 1 primary care physician per 1,500 residents in some rural areas, this program empowers new doctors to make an immediate impact in communities where they are needed the most.
- **Proven Excellence:** The UHC Family Medicine Residency Program boasts a 100% board pass rate for the last 13 years and is a three-time winner of the Press Ganey Pinnacle of Excellence Award in patient experience, the only residency in the nation to receive this distinction.
- **Specialty Training Tracks:** Residents have access to specialized training in Sports Medicine, Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine, Hospitalist Medicine, and Integrative Medicine.
- **Diverse Career Paths:** Graduates of the program have gone on to practice in Emergency Medicine, Hospital Medicine, Traditional Family Medicine with Obstetrics, Sports Medicine, Geriatrics, Hospice and Palliative Care, Ambulatory Care, and Direct Primary Care.
- **Embracing the Future of Medicine:** UHC utilizes advancements in Point-of-Care Ultrasound (POCUS), Virtual Reality Simulation, AI-driven patient communication skills, and a Precision Medicine Curriculum to ensure its graduates are prepared for the evolving landscape of healthcare.
- For more information, visit our website at: <https://wvumedicine.org/locations/united-hospital-center/about/education/residency-program/>

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