**Rural-PRIME**

*Training California’s future doctors to meet the needs of rural communities*

With a founding mission that emphasizes community service, UC Davis School of Medicine recently launched a new program to help increase health-care access for underserved populations living in rural areas.

Called “Rural-PRIME,” this unique program is designed to train the best and the brightest students for a fulfilling career in rural primary care medicine. It is an opportunity that offers a range of experiences, from public health and community service to the use of leading-edge medical technologies like telemedicine.

Rural-PRIME is a combined, five-year M.D. and master’s degree program. It focuses on developing physicians who can become leaders and advocates for improving health-care delivery throughout the state’s smaller, more isolated communities. Rural-PRIME offers an innovative curriculum, beginning with the first year of medical school. It is specifically geared toward students from rural backgrounds who have a strong desire to make a difference in communities like the ones they were raised in.

**Significant Features of Rural-PRIME**

- Clinical experiences through rural preceptorships and immersion in rural communities
- Mentoring by rural physicians for a deeper understanding about the small community practice and public health leadership
- Clinical technique (Doctoring) courses taught by rural physician faculty, with an emphasis on cultural sensitivity and rural case studies
- Integrated master’s degrees in Public Health, Medical Informatics or other health-care related fields
- Core clinical clerkships focusing on culture, health-care issues, epidemiology and economics in rural California
- Extensive experience and opportunities to use the latest health-care technology and telecommunications:
  - Computerized patient simulators at UC Davis Center for Virtual Care provide realistic experience and training in emergency medicine and trauma care;
  - Innovative clinical training center, with patient actors, offers skills training in a life-like setting;
  - High tech telemedicine connections, offering quick access for remote areas to the specialty care of UC Davis Health System (as a longtime leader in the use of this technology, UC Davis now has an internationally recognized program);
  - State-of-the-art medical education facility, with ‘smart’ classrooms and distance learning capabilities, connecting rural physicians with the resources of an entire academic health system.

“Students at UC Davis will train for rural medicine in a way far different from their predecessors. Our focus combines team medical practice, advanced information and telecommunication technologies and evidenced-based medicine, while still recognizing what has always made rural medicine fulfilling and fun: that broad scope of practice, great relationships with patients and the knowledge that you are making a difference.”

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