Frequently Asked Questions

**When does the Rural Interprofessional Health Professions Summer Preceptorship take place?**
The summer preceptorship experience at SSM Health St. Mary’s Hospital in Centralia will take place from June 10, 2019 through July 23, 2019.

**Where will I be staying?**
This is an immersion experience, so it is expected that students reside in the community for the full 6 weeks. The hospital provides housing at the Best Western Plus in Centralia.

**Is this a paid preceptorship?**
Yes. The stipend for this preceptorship is $1,500. Half of this stipend ($750) is disbursed to students at week 3, and the rest ($750) at week 6 (preceptorship end).

**What will my days be like during the preceptorship?**
Each week 3-4 days are spent individually shadowing a variety of health professionals in the hospital and/or surrounding community. These shadowing experiences include those of the students’ disciplines and those that are not. This provides an opportunity to witness how inter-professional teams work together in a rural facility as well as how healthcare is delivered at multiple levels.

Students will meet once a week with Dr. Laura Payne, PhD, Faculty Advisor from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, who will lead group discussions on rural health care practice and theory. Students are asked to keep weekly journal reflections related to their shadowing experiences.

Additional time each week is scheduled to provide students the opportunity to work on the Community Service Learning (CSL) project.
A typical week day will begin at 8:00 a.m. and end at 4:00 p.m., although some adjustments may be made (for example, students shadowing a procedure in surgery may need to start earlier in the morning).

This preceptorship is a rural immersion experience – students are expected to reside in the community for 6 weeks. Full participation is required, except in emergency or illness situations. Any exceptions or special circumstances must be requested during the application process. The majority of weekends will be free, although we request students stay in the community to get the most benefit from the experience. No experiences will be scheduled during the 4th of July holiday.

**Where will the preceptorship take place?**
Students will shadow health professionals at the main hospital as well as related health professionals’ offices in the hospital service area. Students may be expected to travel to outlying clinics or health department sites, so personal transportation is required.

**Where will I get my meals?**
Meals at the hospital are included. Students are provided with coupons to use in the cafeteria. The cafeteria is located within the hospital and is open Monday-Friday 7:00 AM-2:00 PM and 4:00 PM-6:00 PM; Saturday & Sunday 7:30 AM-2:00 PM.

**Will I have access to computer/Internet?**
There is a guest access at the hospital. There is also access at the Best Western Plus.

**What should I wear?**
Dress Appropriately:
- Look professional, business casual.
- No blue jeans, capris, or shorts.
- Dress modestly and neatly.
- No sleeveless blouses, shirts, or tops.
- Body tattoos must be covered.
- Wear flat, comfortable, closed-toe shoes. No sandals or slingbacks

**Contact information**
The below staff are available to answer questions and assist with any needs for the preceptorship:
Kayla Dunahee, MA- SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital Representative, Coordinator
South Central Illinois Area Health Education Center (AHEC)
kayla.dunahee@ssmhealth.com
Work: 618-899-1052