

# Rural ACE-PCP

## Rural Accelerated Competency-based Education in Primary Care and Psychiatry

### About the Rural ACE-PCP Program

In partnership with the County Medical Services Program (CMSP), UC Davis School of Medicine launched the Rural Accelerated Competency-based Education in Primary Care and Psychiatry (Rural ACE-PCP) initiative in 2025, and will recruit its first class in 2026. This innovative program addresses the critical shortage of primary care physicians and psychiatrists in rural Northern California by creating a fast-tracked, community-rooted medical education pathway. With support from a grant by CMSP, the program will recruit students from the Shasta, Nevada, and Humboldt regions, offering a three-year MD track that reduces both the time and cost of medical education, making it more accessible for all students.

### Program Eligibility

- Clinical experience in a primary care or behavioral health setting
- Demonstrated community health or leadership experience
- Connection to Northern California, specifically those from Shasta County, Nevada County, and Humboldt County

### Curriculum

The Rural ACE-PCP curriculum immerses students in a longitudinal primary care practice as they complete their MD in three years. Accelerated students start 6 weeks early, continue learning during the summer after their first year, and have less time dedicated to preparing for the Step exams. Rural ACE-PCP students will spend their clinical training at community sites in the target counties.

The third-year longitudinal integrated clerkship (LIC) has been shown to prepare students as well as traditional block clerkships while increasing students' sense of patient-centeredness and confidence. LICs provide students a meaningful continuity of care experience and the opportunity to develop long-term relationships with preceptors, while simultaneously meeting the clinical competencies of multiple clerkships.

### Highlights

- 3-year continuity clinic
- Intensive summer experience in rural community between Year 1 and Year 2
- Clinical reasoning seminars
- Longitudinal Integrated Clerkship in rural community
- Academic support and mentorship from primary care and psychiatry doctors in rural settings
- Medical education curriculum linked to residency expectations
- Dedicated staff and faculty at UC Davis School of Medicine

### Application Process

- Applicants apply to UC Davis School of Medicine through the AMCAS by Oct 1
- Applicants indicate their interest once invited to complete a Secondary Application
- Following the traditional holistic review and multiple mini-interview process, Rural ACE-PCP Program Directors review accepted applicants
- Qualified applicants invited to interview with Rural ACE-PCP program team members



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## Contact Us



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