



CAMC RURAL SCHOLARS RESIDENCY ENTRY INITIATIVE

CAMC Institute of Academic Medicine Family Medicine Program

Do You Meet the Challenge?

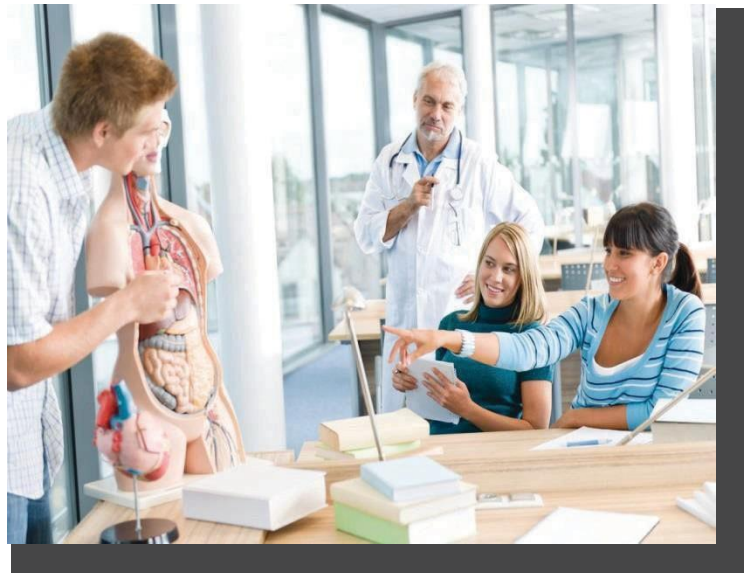
The Rural Scholars Program is looking for superior medical students who can meet the challenge of practicing primary care in a rural setting. Your preparation will go beyond the routine training found in most medical school or residency curricula and the demands and rewards will be just as unique. Successful practitioners will develop a unique set of skills and expertise that will significantly impact the delivery of health care in an under-served region.

The Rural Scholars Program is designed to reward medical students with proven ability and a strong desire to practice family medicine in rural parts of West Virginia.

Students' fourth year of medical school will be maximized by an accelerated rural scholar's curriculum with unique community experiences and sub-internships. The Rural Scholars will then be linked to a position in the sponsoring Family Medicine Program. The rigorous fourth-year experience enables Rural Scholar residents to participate in advanced procedural and leadership training usually found only at a fellowship level. Candidates will also experience coordinated rural rotations integrated with the medical school and residency curriculum. Graduates may eventually practice in one of these locations.

Selection:

All candidates must be West Virginia University, Marshall University, or West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine medical students and must have the application and all attachments submitted by April 9, 2027, of their third year. A selection committee composed of the participating program director and chief resident, each medical school's dean of students (or suitable representative), and two at-large committee members appointed. Students must have passed USMLE 1 or COMLEX 1 to apply.





Applications are reviewed by the selection committee on a rolling basis, and the final number of scholarships will be determined each year based on the award funds available.

Awardees will receive a letter of acceptance or notification of being placed on a waitlist for further consideration after review by the selection committee. Scholarship recipients will not be required to participate in any additional CAM interviews the following year for the Match. Failure to maintain eligibility for residency start can result in a removal of scholarship award. The Program Director will ensure that each selected candidate complies with all ACGME, NRMP and institutional residency selection requirements.

Acceptances are announced during the selection process but prior to the start of the student's fourth year to allow for integrated scheduling requirements. Any changes in deadlines will be communicated by the residency program. Accepted students will work with Dr. Madonna Gribble and Rural Scholars Faculty to advise and aid students during their (1) MS4 scheduling; (2) four Rural Scholars rotations including SubInternship, Rural, Community and Project rotations, and (3) selection and completion of the required Rural Scholars Project.

Financial Resources:

The Rural Scholars stipend/scholarship is \$10,000/recipient.

Scholarship Default:

Scholars recipients that do not complete MS4 Rural Scholar requirements will not be eligible for the \$10,000 scholarship. A Rural Scholar who leaves the Program prior to the completion of at least six months of training in the PG1 year, will be expected to repay the entire \$10,000 scholarship within 12 months of departing the program. After completing six months of the PG1 training, if one or both parties decide the program is not a good fit, the recipient will be under no obligation to repay the scholarship if he/she leaves the Program. If the Program decides to terminate the recipient for cause, at any time during the residency, the recipient will not be under any obligation to repay the scholarship. A one-time request for consideration of any variation of this policy may be made to the Program.

Any student that decides to not pursue the rural scholar's program during MS4, has the option to resign from the program and enter the traditional NRMP match without penalty.

Rural Scholars:

Benefits to Rural Scholars include:

- A Rural Scholars stipend of \$10,000 upon graduation from medical school which significantly reduces medical school debts as practitioners begin their professional careers.
- Secure your residency position in the Family Medicine Residency at the end of MS3 through a waiver from the NRMP. This allows Rural Scholars to bypass the traditional match process.
- The stipend and matching system eliminate the expense and uncertainty of the residency match and interview process.

- The educational base and residency enable students to develop clinical and leadership experiences uniquely targeted to foster success in a rural/underserved practice.
- If selected, Rural Scholars will be entering into the CAMC Institute of Academic Medicine Family Medicine Residency Program upon graduation.

Benefits to West Virginia:

Despite a growing presence of rural community preceptors and an increased emphasis on rural primary care in medical school curricula nationally and in the state, some regions of West Virginia have limited access to healthcare.

Our mission is to establish long-term relationships between our physicians and communities while providing a level of care previously unobtainable in the region.

The continued success of the Rural Scholars program:

- Enhances our ability to attract and retain excellent MS III students from West Virginia Medical Schools.
- Increases retention of medical students for in-state residency programs.
- Provides a mechanism to sponsor innovation in residency curricula and increase physician placement and retention in under-served areas of the state.
- Provides meaningful financial rewards to medical students who possess the desired traits for success in rural family medicine, and who are willing to commit themselves to in-state residency training to achieve this goal.



Selection Criteria:

All candidates must be West Virginia University, Marshall University, or West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine medical students to be eligible.

CAMC Institute of Academic Medicine Family Medicine Residency Selection Criteria		Priority Points
1.	Legal resident of West Virginia	0 - 10 points
2.	Student's Comprehensive Class ranking; Class Ranking in Clinical Clerkships; and Class ranking among student's clinical campus cohort.	0 - 30 points
3.	Interview Process, which will include: • Review of MS III rotations • Ability to complete MS IV sub-internship and Rural Scholar project • Interaction with selection committee	0 - 30 points
4.	Demonstrated commitment of the candidate's decision to practice in rural/underserved areas of West Virginia.	0 - 30 points
TOTAL		0 - 100 points

CAMC Institute of Academic Medicine Family Medicine Rural Scholars Curriculum:

Designed to provide significant amount of time in rural location or selected rotation which will maximize continuity of care for patients. The curriculum varies depending upon location.

This program is being presented with financial assistance from grants from the WVHEPC and the CAMC Foundation.

Scholarship Timeline:

August 24, 2026	Call for applications released by CAMC.
August 24, 2026 – April 2, 2027	Attached one- page application form must be received by the CAMC GME office. Interested applicants are emailed a link with instructions for completing the rest of the application process. Programs may review applications, interview applicants and accept applicants during these dates
April 9, 2027	Final deadline for the GME office to be in receipt of application form <u>and</u> ALL additional requested documents outlined.
April 30, 2027	Final date for residency programs to review applications
By May 21, 2027	Latest date for programs to make final decisions and contact applicants.

Any time after August 24, 2026, the one-page application form must be received via email by the CAMC Office of Graduate Medical Education. Once an application form is received, the applicant will receive further instructions on how to complete the application process. All submissions and documentation must be sent by email only.

Charleston Area Medical Center Office of Graduate Medical
Education gme@vandaliahealth.org
ATTN: CAMC Residency Rural Scholars Entry Initiative
Phone: 304-388-9948

CAMC INSTITUTE OF ACADEMIC MEDICINE FAMILY MEDICINE APPLICATION
Rural Health Scholar at Charleston Area Medical Center

Please complete THIS application form and send to gme@vandaliahealth.org. Once the GME office has received your application, you will be emailed specific instructions for completing the application process and providing the remaining documents required for consideration. Applications and all additional required documents outlined must be received by April 9, 2027, for scholarship consideration.

Name: _____

Medical School: ☐ WVU ☐ MU ☐ WVSOM State of Legal Residence: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Birthdate: _____

Preferred Phone #: _____ SSN#: _____

Current Medical Student Financial Aid/Scholarships:

Attestation:

I have read the terms and description of the Rural Health Scholars Program with Family Medicine and agree to abide by all provisions if accepted into the program.

Signature of Applicant

Date

After the GME office receives your application, you will be emailed with a set of instructions on how to upload and provide the following documents into our electronic database:

CV or Resume; Medical School Transcript (Copy or Original); USMLE/COMLEX Transcript (Copy or Original); a one-page personal statement that describes and promotes your candidacy for the Scholarship

Must be emailed directly to the GME office at gme@vandaliahealth.org from the Faculty/Dean's office:

- Reference Letters from ONE (1) Family Medicine Clerkship Faculty (Preceptor)
- Reference Letter from ONE (1) Other Clinical Clerkship Faculty (Preceptor)
- Dean's Letter (May be a Letter of Good Standing from the Medical School) **MSPE not required**
- Letter of Demonstrated Commitment of the Candidate's decision to practice in rural/underserved areas of West Virginia – this letter may come from a professor, clergy, etc.