The AHEC Scholars Program is a voluntary, nationally recognized program for health professions students. It provides opportunities for students to increase knowledge, strengthen leadership skills, and gain competencies within six broad topic areas.

### AHEC Scholars Core Topic Areas

- **Interprofessional Education/Interprofessional Practice:**
  team-based care delivery, patient-centered care, effective teamwork

- **Behavioral Health Integration:**
  services that better address the needs of individuals with mental health and substance use conditions

- **Social Determinants of Health:**
  economic stability, education, social and community context, health and health care, neighborhood and built environment

- **Cultural Competency:**
  recognize and address the unique culture, language and health literacy of diverse consumers and communities, diversity, equity, and inclusion

- **Medical Practice Transformation:**
  quality improvement, care coordination, cost containment, rural health care, primary care, care for underserved/disadvantaged populations, patient-centered care, team-based care

- **Current and Emerging Health Issues:**
  opioids and substance use disorders, oral health as part of overall health, oral health integration, COVID-19

### Benefits of Participation

- Six core topic areas provide prompts for reflection: what did you learn and how did you grow, as a person and health professional?

- Enhance educational experience by engaging with those who live in rural and underserved communities

- Gain a deeper understanding of communities through opportunities to hear from and interact with providers, policy makers, community leaders, and others who care for those in rural and underserved populations

- Gain experience and competencies in interprofessional care and care for the underserved

- Designation as a Vermont AHEC Scholar, a nationally recognized distinction (list on C.V. section “Honors and Awards”)

### Requirements

- Program duration must cover at least two years, with each year including 40-hours of eligible didactic education and 40-hours of eligible experiential or clinical training, for a total of 160-hours of eligible activities. VT AHEC offers a “flexible pathways” approach to meet the AHEC Scholars requirements. Only those students completing all requirements will be designated as “Vermont AHEC Scholars” at time of graduation.

[www.vtahec.org](http://www.vtahec.org)