

One Graduate's Reflections on Her Rural Scholars Track Experience



"I am most proud to be a graduate of the Rural Scholars Track. It helped me immensely. LSU paid my tuition while I worked during medical school, which was a tremendous help to my family. I loved going to my preceptor once a week during my clinical years. My personal goals of practice were a perfect fit with the RST, and I am grateful to LSU for the opportunity. They have significantly lessened my debt during medical school while allowing me to pursue my interests in primary care."

*—Holly Womack Primeaux, MD,
LSUHSC School of Medicine—
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Class of 2009*

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Louisiana Needs Rural Primary-Care Physicians



Louisiana is largely a rural state, with 57 of the state's 64 parishes and 32 percent of its population classified as rural. Rural areas do not have enough physicians,

resulting in inadequate access to medical care for residents. In addition, the number of physicians across the state nearing retirement age is growing significantly, while the number of students choosing primary-care careers is declining. Our state needs more rural primary-care physicians to care for its citizens.

LSUHSC Rural Scholars Track

The Rural Scholars Track at LSUHSC School of Medicine—New Orleans was created to directly address this dire physician shortage. The RST is designed to recruit highly motivated students who are committed to practicing primary-care medicine in rural areas of Louisiana.

Admissions

Admission to the Rural Scholars Track is open to Louisiana residents. Interested students must first apply and be accepted into the School of Medicine before being considered for the RST. All standard Admissions criteria and policies apply. Once accepted into the School of Medicine, applicants will be further evaluated for consideration into the Rural Scholars Track. Up to 15 students will be accepted in each entering class. Students interested in the RST should complete an application and return it to the Office of Admissions as soon as possible.

Curriculum

For students enrolled in the Rural Scholars Track, the first and second years of medical school remain the same and are spent in New Orleans. The third and fourth years, however, are spent in Lafayette at University Medical Center. While the location of the training is different, the curriculum is equivalent to that offered in New Orleans.

In addition, during their third and fourth years, RST students spend one day each week with their rural



preceptors. Students are matched with rural primary-care physicians near their hometowns or their future practice locations, as well as with those whose practice interests match that of the students. While in these rural practices, RST students get a first-hand

look at how a rural practice is run, as well as

experience continuity of care as they follow patients over the two years.

Tuition Exemptions

Students who join the Rural Scholars Track can receive up to four years of tuition exemptions. To be eligible, students must contractually agree to:

- Practice in one of the following Primary Care specialties:
 - Family Medicine
 - Pediatrics
 - General Internal Medicine
 - Medicine/Pediatrics
 - Obstetrics/Gynecologyor
 - General Surgery
- Return to a rural area in Louisiana to practice upon completion of residency
- Practice in this rural area for at least five years

For More Information

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