

RPLP Frequently Asked Questions

What is the mission of the RPLP?

The program's mission is to increase the number of physicians who are trained to provide high-quality health care and leadership, who are knowledgeable about community health, and who will address the acute shortage of physicians in the rural areas of the Commonwealth.

Why should a student pursue rural training?

Traditional medical training is performed at tertiary care centers, emphasizing treatment of critically ill patients with advanced diseases. The RPLP offers an alternative mode of training, emphasizing commonly seen diseases, outpatient and continuity care, rural and community health issues, and cooperative arrangements with other hospitals. These topics are critical to practicing in a rural area. Understanding of rural health issues is also essential for those interested in missionary work or medical practice outside the United States. Due to its smaller size, the RPLP also emphasizes developing close relationships with faculty and the community.



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<https://meded.med.uky.edu/rural-physician-leadership-program>



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Rural Physician Leadership Program

The University of Kentucky College of Medicine has developed an educational program to identify and train physicians who desire to serve as practitioners and leaders in rural settings. This program is in response to the growing health care needs evident in rural areas of Kentucky and the rest of the nation. Such areas have limited access to physicians and other health care professionals. The Rural Physician Leadership Program (RPLP) is unique to the University of Kentucky and is designed to produce physicians in all specialties who can provide health care leadership. As an important outcome of this special educational pathway, graduates of RPLP gain knowledge and experience necessary to work with other civic and community leaders to improve the general health of their communities.

The College of Medicine has partnered with health care providers, hospitals, clinics, and Morehead State University to train rural physician-leaders. The program at the Morehead site currently accepts up to 10 students per year.

About the RPLP:

In this four-year program, RPLP students complete their first two years of medical school in Lexington, following the curriculum required for all MD program students. In addition, first year RPLP students attend a weekly small group experience emphasizing rural and community medicine.

During their third and fourth years of medical school, RPLP students complete the majority of their clinical experiences at St. Claire Regional Medical Center and with other health care providers in northeast Kentucky. Community faculty members holding academic appointments at the UK College of Medicine serve as their teachers, preceptors, and mentors. In addition, RPLP students can take course work at Morehead State University that focuses on health systems, business practices, and health policy. Upon completion of all components of the program, students graduate with the following:

- MD degree from the UK College of Medicine, qualifying them for internship and residency in any area of medicine
- Certificate in Health Systems Leadership, upon completion of their course work at Morehead State University.

HOW TO APPLY FOR RPLP

Applicants to the UK College of Medicine who are interested in practicing in a rural area upon completion of their training should consider applying to the Rural Physician Leadership Program. Preference is given to in-state rural applicants, but anyone with an interest in rural medicine can apply.

Up to 10 students are admitted to the RPLP each year. The rural areas of the state need all specialties, not just family medicine. The program provides an excellent preparation for surgery, medical specialties, psychiatry, or any other specialty of medicine practiced in a rural area.

<https://meded.med.uky.edu/how-apply-rplp>

