

Reimbursement Policies (Contingent upon funding availability)

To support students' interest in completing rotations in rural and/or underserved communities we provide the following service:

- Housing Assistance (based on funding and availability; up to \$400)
- Transportation Reimbursement (limit of \$200 in mileage reimbursement per rotation with a maximum of \$400 per student)
- Continuing Education Opportunity
- Community Service Learning Opportunities

All students must complete and submit a **SAAHEC Community Based-Student Education form** prior to beginning their rotation in order to be eligible for reimbursement.

In order to receive mileage or housing reimbursement you must complete and return the following forms to the Southern Alabama AHEC Office **NO LATER THAN two weeks after your last day** at your clinical site. All forms are located on our website at www.saahec.org.

- **W-9 Form (required for payment)**
- **Student Reimbursement Form (travel or housing)**
- **Copy of housing contract/lease agreement or receipt (housing only, pre-approval required)**

Rotation and/or community service learning opportunities must be completed at a clinical site or organization that is located in a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) or Medical Underserved Area (MUA) located within our 10-county service area. In order to determine if your site meets these requirements please use the **Health Resources Service Administration Website**, (<http://datawarehouse.hrsa.gov/GeoAdvisor/ShortageDesignationAdvisor.aspx>).

Contact us for information about current funding availability

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(251) 809-1534

Community-Based Student Education Opportunity for Alabama Health Professional Students



Community Classroom Guide

Our mission is to enhance access to quality health care, particularly primary and preventive care, by improving the supply and distribution of healthcare professionals in underserved Alabama communities through community/academic education partnerships.

ALABAMA AHEC

Southern Alabama AHEC
www.saahec.org

Southern Alabama Area Health Education Center
220 Alco Drive, Brewton, AL 36426
(251) 809-1544 or (251)809-1534

Background

The Southern Alabama Area Health Education Center (SAAHEC) Program recruits, trains and retains a healthcare workforce for Alabama and seeks to improve health care delivery to Alabamians living in rural and medically underserved areas by increasing the **quantity, diversity, distribution and quality** of Alabama healthcare workforce.

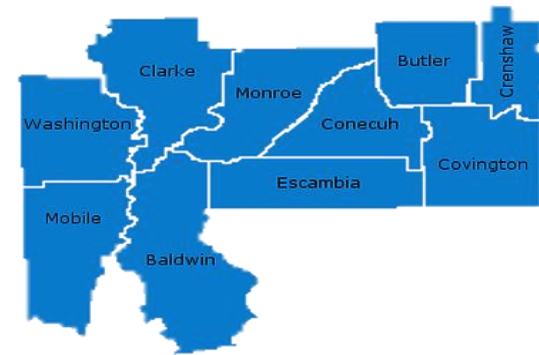
Students who are interested in primary care practice have an opportunity to complete clinical training opportunities, also referred to as rotations, in rural and/or underserved communities. Local health care providers serve as preceptors and benefit from the teaching experience while **communities receive thousands of hours of healthcare from students who bring up-to-the-minute healthcare innovation and education to the clinical experience**. It has been demonstrated that students who have enjoyed a rotation in rural and/or underserved community **are more likely to practice in a similar setting upon completion of their degree**.

Community Integration and Public Health Approach

The SAAHC serves as a **liaison** between academic institutions, healthcare providers, and students. We support rotations in **rural, medically underserved or healthcare professional shortage areas**. A rotation is defined as a supervised education experience approved by a participating school/department. Participation may take part in multiple rotations. Rotation schedules and policies are designed by academic health profession programs. However, we provide limited assistance with housing and transportation cost.

Besides offering an excellent clinical training experience, the SAAHEC offers students the opportunity to experience the culture of diverse populations and to work with community organizations in prevention and health education. Practicing in communities with limited health care resources can help students develop and/or improved diagnostic and critical thinking skills. Students are introduced to public health. The SAAHEC is your touchstone to the health professions and lifelong learning.

Southern Alabama AHEC serves the following counties:



Housing (Contingent upon funding availability)

SAAHEC will reimburse housing cost up to \$400. Reimbursements will occur at the end of the rotation and require completion of all required documents. No reimbursement will be made for students who reside with immediate relatives. Students who arrange for their own housing are responsible for any payments made to the landlord. No advance of funds can be made to students to pay for housing.

Transportation (Contingent upon funding availability)

1. Home base is the student's academic institution or their home, whichever is closer to the clinical site.
2. Mileage will be paid at .30/mile.
3. There will be a limit of \$200 in mileage reimbursement per rotation with a maximum of \$400 paid to any one student per academic year.
4. Students receiving mileage reimbursement must complete and submit required AHEC data forms, acknowledging that they have completed an AHEC rotation.