

Early Rural Experience (ERE)

Curriculum

The Early Rural Experience is a **120 hour rotation** designed to reinforce student interest in rural practice and to prepare the student for their rural clerkships. This rotation is comprised of clinical office experiences in rural communities, community service and interdisciplinary shadowing.

This course is by **Permission Only**. Each student is required to fill out an application including requests for dates and places/preceptors (if known), and a one page essay of why they wish to participate.

Syllabus

CLME 8122.001

1. General Description

- A. **Course Title:** Early Rural Experience
Course Length: 120 Hours
Course Format: Rural Community Clinical Experience with Community Service and Interdisciplinary Experience
- B. **Student Level:** 1st – 2nd Year Osteopathic Medical Students
Course Coordinator: William Pettit, D.O.
Program Coordinators:
AHEC Coordinator, Morgan Farquharson
Phone: 918-584-4609 fax: 918-584-4396
Email: morganf@okstate.edu
Student will be referred to a site coordinator.
- C. The Early Rural Experience is 120 hours of clinical experience designed to reinforce student interest in rural practice and to prepare the students for their rural clerkships. The clerkship is comprised of clinical office experience in up to 3 small communities and includes community service and interdisciplinary shadowing.
- D. The clinical experiences occur in up to 3 rural Primary Care physician offices. As an integral portion of this program, these clinical experiences may also include such out-of-office experiences as:
 - hospital staff and committee meetings
 - house calls
 - hospital emergency room calls
 - community and public health functions
 - fraternal and social functions
- E. Community Service includes participating in a community activity that benefits the health of that community.
- F. Students will participate in two 2-hour interdisciplinary experiences.

2. Student Responsibilities

A. Pre-Arrival

1. Students are required to contact their assigned preceptors at least 1 week prior to the beginning of the rotation to coordinate the daily schedule and other pertinent aspects of the rotation. A minimum of 40 hours at each site is required.
2. All students must wear College approved identification and a clean, pressed white clinical jacket. Dress business casual unless directed otherwise by your preceptor.
3. Students are required to bring identification passwords for library resources (i.e. MD Consult), and current references for Family Medicine, Internal Medicine and Obstetrics/Gynecology.
4. Students will attend one orientation with the OKAHEC program office prior to starting any rotations and will meet with the local AHEC coordinator before starting at each new site.

B. During the Clerkship

First day at each new site the student:

1. Meets with their preceptor for an office orientation.
2. Is prepared to discuss their clinical strengths and weakness relative to the rotation objectives.

During the time at each site the student will:

1. Complete all requirements and rotation objectives as requested.
2. Participate in a community activity such as a health careers exploration project, health fair, fund raising for health related issues, free clinic, health department activity, etc as planned by the coordinator **at only one of the chosen sites.**
3. Participate in two (at least 2-hours each) interdisciplinary shadowing experiences (if rotating at more than 2 sites, please participate in one 2-hour experience at each site). Students spend time with health care professionals other than physicians in order to gain a better understanding of the role of those disciplines in the care of patients and gain experience in working with other disciplines.
4. Write a total of 6 to 10 page double spaced report of their experience. If more than 2 sites write a 3 to 5 page report for each site. Paper requirements are included in course descriptions and expectations and will be discussed in more detail at the Orientation.
5. Meet with their preceptor the last day at the site to review their clinical performance. The student is responsible for scheduling this meeting.

End of each Rotation the student:

1. Completes the site evaluations and submits them to the Coordinator within 7 days of the last day at each site.
2. All remaining paperwork is **due within 7 days** after the last day at the last site.
3. If forms are not received within 7 days after the last day at the last site, it is considered late and the student score could be lowered.

3. Clerkship Calendar

The specific scheduling of days and hours shall be made by the preceptor, with approval by the OSU-COM Course Coordinator, and shall generally conform to the following:

- A. **Working Day:** A typical working day is considered to be 8-10 hours in length; however, there may be instances when the working period may exceed 10 hours especially when accompanying the physician on "out of office" professional duties.
- B. **Attendance:** One hundred percent (100%) attendance is required on all clinical rotations.

4. Student Performance Evaluation Procedures

- A. The student's overall performance (grade) is weighed using the following criteria:
 - 1. 15% = Attendance and living in community
 - 2. 50% = Student Performance Evaluations of Clerkship by Physicians
 - 3. 10% = Interdisciplinary observations
 - 4. 10% = Community project
 - 5. 15% = End of experience essay
- B. Each course requirement **must** be passed with a required 80 percent to pass this course. A Pass or Fail will be assigned according to [procedures outlined in the student handbook](#).
- C. **Attendance:** 15 days in rural communities is required. Students are required to live in rural communities to gain a complete appreciation of rural community life whenever the schedule permits. If an absence is unavoidable the student must contact the supervising preceptor and the assigned Coordinator.

5. Rotation Objectives

Subject/Method	Learning Objectives	Resources/Assignments
Clerkship Shadow a rural physician	Apply observational and clinical skills in the office of a rural primary care physicians	Coordinators will assist in finding and contacting preceptor and housing Spend 120 hours (15 days) shadowing selected physicians.
Observe 2 different health professionals	Describe the role of health professionals in the health and viability of the community and demonstrate an understanding and appreciation of rural healthcare professionals	Coordinators will assist in finding other professions to observe – 2 hour each Discuss the roles of the healthcare professionals in the health and viability of the community and use examples in your final essay.
Community Project and Article for Publication	Describe how this experience has influenced your decision to practice in a rural setting	AHEC staff will assist in identifying a community project and assist with contacts. Write about your experience in a narrative format suitable for publication.
Experience Essay and Thank You Notes	Develop an understanding and appreciation of the total rural observational experience by Discuss how experience impacts understanding of primary care and rural medical/practice.	In a 6 page minimum discussion of above assignments, identify factors of rural practice that may have changed due to your experience. Include perceptions prior to this rotation, experiences that influenced you, and make a statement of where you are now in that decision making process.

