



AHEC Scholars is a two-year academic program that provides health professional students with community learning opportunities working with some of Hudson Valley's most vulnerable, marginalized, and medically fragile patients in underserved and medically disadvantaged areas. These students will become part of an interprofessional team under faculty guidance to gain insight into the root causes that contribute to clinical and social complexities that lead select patients to repeatedly seek care in high cost emergency/hospital settings. AHEC Scholars students receive in-depth training on topics including motivational interviewing, social determinants of health, communication, and advocacy (to name a few) to help them improve care delivery system outcomes going forward.

AHEC Scholars students must be explicitly recruited from among minority/underserved student groups. They are required to be currently matriculated into an accredited health profession training/education program, be interested in improving healthcare quality for all individuals regardless of patient and/or community background, and be able to devote a minimum of two hours a week (average) to the project. Each student enrolled in AHEC Scholars will receive stipend agreements as part of the program.

The New York State Area Health Education Center system was provided funding for the AHEC Scholars program through the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration and the New York State Department of Health. Additional AHEC Scholars sites are currently being interviewed to expand student and program capacity and outreach.