



AHEC Scholars Core Topic Areas

Educational and training activities will support the following eight (8) Core Topic Areas:

Interprofessional Education (also known as interdisciplinary training) which supports a coordinated, patient-centered model of health care that involves an understanding of the contributions of multiple health care professionals.

Behavioral Health Integration which promotes the development of integrated primary and behavioral health services to better address the needs of individuals with mental health and substances use conditions.

Social Determinants of Health includes five key areas (determinants) of economic stability, education, social and community context, health and health care, and neighborhood and built environment, and their impact on health.

Cultural Competency which seeks to improve individual health and build health communities by training health care providers to recognize and address the unique culture, language and health literacy of diverse consumers and communities.

Practice Transformation which aims to fully support quality improvement and patient-centered care through goal-setting, leadership, practice facilitation, workflow changes, measuring outcomes, and adapting organizational tools and processes to support new team-based models of care delivery. AHEC programs are expected to develop and implement educational and training activities and build and strengthen strategic partnerships. Educational and training activities under practice transformation must target the specific skills and competencies needed to prepare students and practicing health professionals to effectively practice in a transforming health care system.

Connecting Communities and Supporting Health Professionals, which is intended to increase training and development of CHWs and paraprofessionals.

Virtual Learning and Telehealth, which seeks to improve virtual learning and telehealth curricula.

Current and Emerging Health Issues See list below with Oregon-specific topics

Oregon's Current and Emerging topic areas:

- Diseases of Despair/Illnesses of Poverty: high school graduation rates, health equity, mental/behavioral health, suicide and suicide prevention;
- Substance Use Disorder: alcohol, tobacco, OUD;
- Prevention/Health Promotion: maternal/fetal wellbeing, physical inactivity, cancer;
- Community Health/Resiliency: emergency preparedness, pandemic response, emerging diseases;
- Climate change and public health policy;
- Cardiovascular disease/prevention and strokes, diabetes;
- Healthcare Workforce: shortages, provider well-being, lack of rural preceptors; and
- LGBTQ+ health and access.

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