

R egional Programs

The UAMS Regional Programs (RP) division is an integral component of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. Unlike other UAMS programs, RP Centers are located off-campus and positioned in eight regions of the state, including Batesville, Fayetteville, Fort Smith, Helena, Jonesboro, Magnolia, Pine Bluff, and Texarkana. Since its inception in 1973, the mission of Regional Programs is to improve the supply and distribution of health care professionals in Arkansas with an emphasis on primary care, through community/academic educational partnerships, to increase quality health care for all Arkansans.

Quality training experiences in settings away from the academic medical center expose trainees to opportunities in underserved communities, helping encourage rural practice choices. The teaching atmosphere, library services network linked to UAMS, and continuing education offerings enhance the rural professional environment, aid in provider retention, ultimately strengthening the participating community health care systems. Regional Centers offer both required and elective courses to medical students. Junior medical students may take the required 4-week Family Medicine clerkship at one of the six Centers that sponsor fully-accredited Family Medicine Residency Programs. Senior medical students may complete their required 4-week Acting Internship in Family Medicine or Internal Medicine at any of the Regional Centers. They may also complete a 4-week Primary Care elective in Family Medicine at any of the centers. In addition, a select group of specialty electives is also available. Each student works under the supervision of Family Medicine faculty. Summer preceptorships in Family Medicine for 1st and 2nd-year medical students are also available through Regional Programs.

Specific Regional Programs program goals:

- Enhance the quality of health professions education by using the best academic resources available statewide
- Retain Arkansas graduates of health professions schools within the state
- Improve the supply and distribution of primary health care providers in Arkansas
- Increase the number of individuals from underserved populations who enter health career programs
- Supply professional support and continuing education for health care providers statewide
- Promote cooperation and coordination among communities, health care providers, educational institutions, and health-related organizations
- Support multi-disciplinary and inter-disciplinary training that is responsive to community needs
- Provide quality health care services using the practice model of Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH)
- Promote improved health, disease prevention, and cost containment through educational interventions

Programs sponsored through UAMS Regional Centers:

- Administration and operation of six fully-accredited Family Medicine residency programs
- Educational opportunities through summer preceptorships and community health service-learning projects
- Sponsorship of Family Medicine Interest Group (FMIG) for medical students
- Junior clerkship in Family Medicine
- Clinical rotations, both required and elective, for senior medical students
- Clinical training for students of nursing, pharmacy, public health, and health-related professions
- Medical libraries linked to UAMS campus library in Little Rock as well as the National Library of Medicine in Washington, D.C.

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