



Arizona Center for Rural Health • Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health • The University of Arizona

Fast Facts: Rural Health Professions Program (RHPP)

The AzCRH Rural Health Professions Program (RHPP) partners Arizona's Area Health Education Centers (AHECs), the Zuckerman College of Public Health (MEZCOPH), and communities. The AHEC and RHPP mission is preparing health professional students for practice in Arizona's rural and urban underserved areas. Created in 1997 by the legislature ([ARS §15-1754](#)), RHPP programs are housed in AZ Board of Regents universities: UAHS Colleges of Nursing, Pharmacy, Medicine, and Public Health; AZ State University (ASU College of Nursing); and Northern AZ University (NAU School of Nursing Family Nurse Practitioner Program).

SERVICE LEARNING

Service learning is experiential – learning in the field between students, faculty, and community members. Partnerships with regional AHECs allow active learning and reflection on achieving health equity, eliminating disparities, addressing the social determinants of health, and improving public and individual health outcomes.

The MEZCOPH RHPP emphasizes community-based, service-learning experiences for its students in graduate level, intensive week-long courses:

- [Family & Child Health in Urban Settings \(HPS 597A\)](#) gives students real world and applied experiences in Tucson and Pima Co. about issues affecting the health of families and children. Partners include Clinica Amistad, Primavera Foundation, Pima Co. Housing Center, and others.
- [Maternal and Child Health in Rural Settings \(HPS 597B\)](#) – is done in the vast frontier and rural areas of northern Arizona, including participants from the Navajo and Hopi Nations.
- [Border Health Service Learning Institute \(PHPM 597C\)](#) – is in Yuma, AZ and San Luis Colorado, Mexico. Students learn about the health and their social determinants along the US-Mexico border with the Regional Center for Border Health.
- [Rural Health Service Learning Institute \(PHPM 597D\)](#) – takes place in Safford, Thatcher, and Morenci, AZ where students are introduced to some of the major industries in rural Arizona and their workforce – including copper mining, cotton farming, and ranching.
- [Phoenix Urban Underserved Service Learning \(PHP 597F\)](#) – brings together students and faculty with safety net health and service organizations – Circle the City Healthcare for the Homeless, St. Mary's Food Bank, Vitalyst Foundation, Maricopa Co. Dept. of Public Health and others.

crh.arizona.edu/programs/health-professions

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HPS 597A



HPS 597B



PHPM 597C



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