Rural Health Scholars Pathway of Concentration

Student Year-by-Year Checklist

Geisel School of Medicine • 2026–2027

This checklist summarizes your key responsibilities and activities for each year of the Rural Health Pathway of Concentration. Use it to plan ahead, track your progress, and ensure you stay on track throughout all four years.

M1 — First Year – Scholars

Phase I: The RHS Foundation | Role: Engaged Participant

Getting Started

- ☐ Confirm process for enrollment in Rural Health Scholars (RHS) and apply for membership in RHS *(prerequisite for the Longitudinal Pathway of Concentration, September of M1 year)*
- ☐ Attend the M4 "Welcome Panel" in Aug/Sept to hear senior students share their Pathway journey
- ☐ Connect with M2 RHS Pathway Student Leaders for questions and guidance
- ☐ Connect with M2 Scholars/Pathway students for mentorship

Immersive Clinical Experience

- ☐ Participate in two immersion experiences to diverse rural sites – one in the Fall of M1, one in the Spring of M1 *(e.g., Maine, North Country; registration required)*
- ☐ Request a preferential match to a rural clinical site for your On Doctoring preceptorship, once you are approved for RHS membership *(subject to site availability)*

Didactics & Skills Training – required for good standing

- ☐ Attend the RHS didactic series with guest speakers and panels *(invited speakers from throughout the region, virtual or live; 80% attendance required for good standing – didactics are open to all Geisel students)*
- ☐ Participate in two "Collaborative" skills nights *(required, led by M2s and M4s; registration required)*

Community & Scholarly Engagement

- ☐ Complete one approved service/community partnership activity per semester *(e.g., Tunbridge Fair, LISTEN Dinners, St. J library outreach)*
- ☐ Participate in a structured reflection debrief following each service activity
- ☐ Attend the M4 SPIM – Rural Health Equity Scholarly Project Showcase annually in March *(required)*

- ☐ Attend a regional rural health conference *(e.g., NERHA in the Fall; required)*
- ☐ Explore funded summer research project opportunities for the summer between M1 and M2

Leadership

- ☐ Engage fully as an "Engaged Participant" — attend meetings, contribute to discussions, and build relationships within the cohort

★ Application to the Pathway of Concentration occurs in December of the M1 year, with notification of acceptance in January of the M1 year.

M2 — Second Year – Scholars and Pathway

Phase I: The RHS Foundation | Role: Program Implementer

Immersive Clinical Experience

- ☐ Continue longitudinal On Doctoring rural preceptorship *(if matched to rural site)*
- ☐ Help organize and co-lead the immersion experiences for incoming M1s
- ☐ Continue attending monthly didactic seminars *(80% attendance required for good standing – didactics are open to all Geisel students)*

Didactics & Skills Training

- ☐ Attend and help lead two "Collaborative" skills nights *(required, led by M2s and M4s; registration required)*

Community & Scholarly Engagement

- ☐ Complete one approved service/community partnership activity per semester
- ☐ Participate in structured reflection debrief following each service activity
- ☐ Attend the M4 SPIM – Rural Health Equity Scholarly Project Showcase annually in March *(required)*
- ☐ Attend a regional rural health conference *(e.g., NERHA in the Fall; required)*

Leadership

- ☐ Transition into your role as "Program Implementer" — take an active role in helping run program activities
- ☐ Serve as a formal peer mentor to an incoming M1 student
- ☐ Take the lead on recruitment activities and outreach for the Pathway

M3 — Third Year – Pathway Students

Phase II: POD Clinical Immersion & Reflection | Role: Clinical Mentor

> *M3 is your "Prism Year" — focused on applying your foundational knowledge in real clinical settings and developing the scholarly question that will drive your M4 project.*

The Rural Triad: Clerkship Rotations – guidance provided

- ☐ Rank and request through the Clerkship Lottery at least one clerkship rotation at a major rural Academic Hub *(e.g., DHMC)*
- ☐ Rank and request at least one (preferably two) additional rotations at designated rural/community "Spoke" sites *(e.g., Cheshire, Rutland, Valley, Southwestern VT, Maine sites)*
- ☐ Use the clerkship lottery system strategically to fulfill the Rural Triad requirements

Structured Reflections & Scholarly Development

- ☐ Submit a structured written reflection on a systems-based challenge after your first rural "Spoke" rotation – discussion and debrief during CEI *(required; contributes to personal portfolio)*
- ☐ Submit a structured written reflection after your second – discussion and debrief during CEI *(required; contributes to personal portfolio)*
- ☐ Write a 1-page draft proposal for your M4 SPIM scholarly project based on M3 clinical experiences *("SPIM Project Incubator"; due in spring at end of M3)*
- ☐ Begin connecting with a faculty mentor for your M4 scholarly project, if not already in process/completed

Community Engagement

- ☐ Attend M4 SPIM – Rural Health Equity Scholarly Project Showcase in March, annually *(required for all Pathway students)*
- ☐ Participate in service/community partnership events when possible

Leadership & Cohort

- ☐ Serve as "Clinical Mentor" — act as a point of contact for your rural site(s) to help orient visiting M1/M2 students if they are shadowing at the site
- ☐ Attend the mandatory M3 RHS Retreat: "Resilience & The Road Ahead" *(timing TBD, likely during CEI-C; in-person)*

M4 — Fourth Year – Pathway Students

Phase III: Scholarly Synthesis & Leadership | Role: Senior Advisor

> *M4 is your culminating year — demonstrate synthesis of your clinical and scholarly experiences, complete the Rural Triad, deliver your scholarly project, and steward the next generation of Pathway students.*

The Rural Triad: Advanced Rural Immersion

- ☐ Complete at least one advanced clinical elective in a rural setting or a field directly relevant to rural health *(completes the Rural Triad requirement)*

M4 Scholarly Project (SPIM – RH Pathway)

- ☐ Finalize your scholarly project, building on M3 clinical experiences and reflections
- ☐ Work closely with your faculty project mentor throughout the year
- ☐ Complete and submit the M4 SPIM *(fulfills the SPIM graduation requirement)*
- ☐ Present your scholarly work at the SPIM – Rural Health Equity Project at the Scholarly Project Showcase as an oral presentation *(required for all M4 Pathway students; in addition to creating the SPIM poster)*

Leadership & Mentorship

- ☐ Serve as a "Senior Advisor" — lead the M1 "Welcome Panel"
- ☐ Co-lead a preclinical skills night: "Teach a Clinical Pearl" (*fall term, after residency applications submitted)*
- ☐ Offer mock residency interviews and ERAS application review for rising M4s *(optional; schedule during TTR)*
- ☐ Serve as a role model and mentor for the M1–M3 cohort

Every Year

Ongoing responsibilities throughout the Pathway

- ☐ Maintain good standing in Rural Health Scholars (RHS)
- ☐ Attend all required Pathway events and meetings
- ☐ Engage thoughtfully in structured reflections and debrief sessions
- ☐ Cultivate relationships with peers, mentors, faculty advisors, and community partners
- ☐ Communicate proactively with your Faculty Advisor regarding program questions or concerns
- ☐ Stay informed about program updates *(the Pathway is in active development; some elements may evolve in AY26-27 and AY27-28)*