

Rural Health Curriculum Requirement
WVU Department of Dental Hygiene

Effective 11/8/95
Revised 2011, 2015, July 2018

Since the academic year 1996-97, the dental hygiene curriculum has included a rural health rotation for all students. The eight-week, rural rotation occurs during eight weeks of the summer session between the third and fourth year of the curriculum.

The curriculum plan, set forth by the Department of Dental Hygiene, is designed to give each student the opportunity to spend eight consecutive weeks at a rural site. This will provide the Dental Hygiene students with the opportunity to practice the skills learned in rural health, public health, dental health education, and clinical courses.

A principal goal of the rural rotation is to instill an understanding and appreciation of rural and primary care in health professional students. Dental Hygiene students are given an opportunity to become involved in the day-to-day dynamics that uniquely affect the rural private dental practice and community rural health clinics. Field faculties help the student in meaningful ways by putting into daily practice those clinical and educational skills they have gained in school.

The overall goals of the program can best be met when the field faculty and the coordinators involve students in as many aspects as possible of clinical practice, and community affairs. Visits to hospitals, primary care centers, community agencies, and attendance at meetings of service clubs, schools, nursing homes, etc are an integral part of the program.

This program has been a very positive experience for our dental hygiene students and we are delighted that you will have the opportunity to participate.