

Montana Area Health Education Center (AHEC)

AHEC Scholars Program

Welcome Packet – Spring 2021

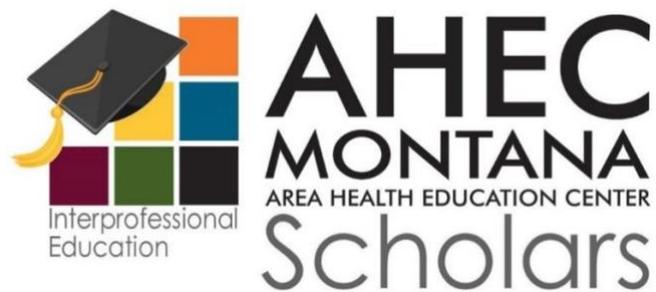


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Dear Health Professions Student,

Congratulations! You have been accepted into Montana's Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Scholars Program. We are excited to have you in our Community of Scholars. **Please read this packet carefully and thoroughly, as it contains all the information you need to be successful in this program.** [AHEC Scholars](#) is a nationwide certificate program for students in health professions programs who are interested in enhancing their interprofessional skills in rural and underserved settings. AHEC Scholars focuses on six core topic areas that enhance the knowledge of every health student, regardless of profession. The core areas include:

- Interprofessional Education
- Behavioral Health Integration
- Social Determinants of Health
- Practice Transformation
- Cultural Competency
- Current and Emerging Health Issues

EMPLOYERS ARE SAYING...

"The importance of having trained staff able to contribute to the interprofessional team is essential. The ability to professionally discuss the complete spectrum of patient needs with providers in the development of the care plan is a prized skill set." – Bradley Howell, CEO, Pioneer Medical Center

Montana AHEC Scholars:

The National AHEC Organization hosts more than 300 AHEC program offices which serve over 85% of the counties within the U.S. AHEC Scholars is a unique initiative designed by the National AHEC Organization for health professions students interested in supplementing their education by gaining additional knowledge and experience in rural and/or underserved urban settings. This is a longitudinal program with interdisciplinary curricula to implement a defined set of clinical, didactic, and community-based activities.

The Montana chapter of the AHEC Scholars Program has been nationally recognized for the diversity in health professions programs participating and for our exceptionally high student enrollment. **Currently, we have about 200 AHEC Scholars across Montana representing 10 different health profession programs within the Montana University System.** Our success reflects the commitment to interprofessional education and collaborative practice demonstrated by faculty and leadership at the universities. Please see the Academic Program Contacts list (pg. 11) to find the point of contact within your academic program. An AHEC Advisor will also support you throughout the AHEC Scholars Program (pg.9). Finally, in an effort to bring our AHEC Scholars community together, we host state-wide virtual meetings once a month where we cover an AHEC core topic area, and announce upcoming events and learning opportunities. Make sure to mark your calendars (pg.9)!

Upon receiving this packet, you are also granted access to the AHEC Scholars Online Platform, where you will engage with one another and submit required documentation for the program. In the email that accompanied this packet, you will find instructions for logging into the online platform. If you have any problems, Mandy Hedstrom will assist you: amanda.hedstrom@montana.edu

We look forward to assisting you over the next two years as you become an AHEC Scholar!

Kaye Norris, PhD
Scholars Director
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Bonnie Bishop, MPH, ATC, CHES
Scholars Program Manager
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AHEC Scholars Syllabus

*All dates are tentative and subject to change

*For-Credit Educational Logs are only due for those who took a credited course as their educational pathway.

Due Date	Title	Description
September 15 th , 2020 at 5:00pm OR September 18 th , 2020 at 12:00pm	Virtual Meeting – Social Determinants of Health	* Each virtual meeting covers an AHEC core topic area and can be logged on the Online Platform to count towards your educational hours. All meetings are recorded.
October 13 th , 2020 at 5:00pm OR October 16 th , 2020 at 12:00pm	Virtual Meeting – Cultural Competency	Same as above
November 10 th , 2020 at 5:00pm OR November 13 th , 2020 at 12:00pm	Virtual Meeting— Interprofessional Education	Same as above
January 15 th , 2021 at 12:00pm OR January 19 th , 2021 at 5:00pm	Virtual Informational Meeting – Community Health Worker (CHW) Opportunity	* Get 1 educational hour for attending as we discuss a unique opportunity to get a CHW certification for FREE
February 9 th , 2021 at 5:00pm OR February 12 th 2021 at 12:00pm	Virtual Meeting – Practice Transformation	Same as above
March 9 th , 2021 at 5:00pm OR March 1 th , 2021 at 12:00pm	Virtual Meeting – Current and Emerging Health Issues	Same as above
April 13 th , 2021 at 5:00pm OR April 16 th , 2021 at 12:00pm	Virtual Meeting – Integrated Behavioral Health	Same as above

<p>April 13th, 2021 at 5:00pm OR April 16th, 2021 at 12:00pm</p>	<p>Virtual Meeting – Integrated Behavioral Health</p>	<p>Same as above</p>
<p>Fall Virtual Meeting Schedule will be updated before Fall Semester 2021</p>		
<p>End of 2021</p>	<p>Final Year 1 Evaluation Due; Year 1 Clinical Log Due; 40 Didactic hours of due</p>	<p>Complete evaluation, clinical log, and log hours via the online AHEC Scholars platform</p>

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

AHEC Scholars is a two-year program designed to supplement and broaden a student's healthcare training in rural and underserved populations. In order to become an AHEC Scholar, students are required to complete a minimum of 40 hours of both educational and clinical training each year, for a cumulative total of **80 educational hours and 80 clinical hours over the course of the two-year AHEC Scholars program**. The AHEC Scholars Program has provided many pathways to meet these program requirements, which are discussed below.

We have created an **AHEC Scholars Online Platform** where you will submit completed materials for approval, access your gradebook as you complete requirements, and engage with one another and our AHEC staff. We have enrolled you. In the email that came with this Welcome Packet, you will see your login and temporary password. Please login and create your own password. If you have problems logging in, please email amanda.hedstrom@montana.edu.

PROFESSIONALISM

There are fundamental values of professionalism that are universal and apply to all disciplines. These include, but are not limited to, moral values such as honesty, respect, integrity and trustworthiness; values that are specific to one's profession (e.g., confidentiality, self-determination), to society (e.g., commitment to excellence and cultural awareness), to oneself (e.g., self-reflection); and humanistic values such as empathy and compassion. Throughout the AHEC Scholars Program you will engage in conversations with other disciplines around complex health topics, we expect these universal values to be present in those discussions.

Meeting program deadlines with the appropriate documentation is also required to maintain eligibility in the program. In instances of non-responsiveness, we operate on a 3-mark-system. The AHEC Scholars team will reach out to the student to submit necessary documentation (1), then will reach out to the program contact and scholar (2), and finally the scholar will receive a final warning (3). If the scholar does not respond at this point, they will then be dropped from the AHEC Scholars program. Please be sure to check your e-mail regularly for communication from the AHEC Scholars leadership team and your AHEC Scholars advisor.

CLINICAL

For most academic programs, clinical hours are embedded within the curriculum for health professions students and far exceed 40 hours a semester. If your program requires at least 40 hours per academic year of interprofessional clinical/community-based work then you do not need to complete additional clinical hours. In situations where your academic program does not already require clinical/community-based rotations where a service is provided, then you will need to arrange that opportunity with your faculty contact **PRIOR** to applying to the AHEC Scholars program.

Below are the criteria for what can count towards clinical hours:

- All clinical hours counted towards the AHEC Scholars program must be **interdisciplinary**, meaning that you must interact with at least one other health professional or health profession student from a different discipline.
- **A health service must be delivered** in order to count towards your clinical requirement.

- Community-based-experiences such as health fairs, practicums, internship, job shadows can also count as clinical hours as long as a health service is provided and the experience is interdisciplinary.

At the end of each academic year all Scholars are required to submit a **Clinical Hours Log** through the AHEC Scholars Online Platform. In the Clinical Hours Log we ask you to log the following:

- All students must indicate the total clinical hours completed over the academic year. Please list the actual clinical hour amount, even if exceeds the 40-hour clinical requirement for AHEC Scholars.
- **Individual Clinical Site Data** (This is required for reporting to federal funders).
 - * *Nursing students are not required to complete this part of the Completion Log. This data will be gathered internally for nursing students.*
 - Name, City and State of the Clinical or Community-based Site
 - Hours spent at each clinical site you visited in the past academic year
 - Types of clients served

Please see Appendix C for a visual representation of the AHEC Scholars Clinical Requirement

EDUCATIONAL

AHEC Scholars requires educational training in six core topic areas including: Interprofessional Education, Behavioral Health Integration, Social Determinants of Health, Cultural Competency, Practice Transformation, Current and Emerging Health Issues. **In order to be an AHEC Scholar you must complete a minimum of 40 hours of elective educational training each academic year, for a cumulative total of 80 hours over the course of the two-year AHEC Scholars program.** At least one hour of educational training must be spent in each of the six core topic areas to meet this requirement.

Before the thought of 80 additional educational hours causes you stress, we have good news! There are a variety of pathways you can take to meet this educational requirement. Scholars can explore credit and non-credit options, and even combine the two pathways in order to meet the educational requirements while accommodating a busy academic schedule.

Credit Option

If AHEC Scholars are interested in taking either an online or in person IPE course for credit, then **any approved IPE course of 1.0 credit or more equates to 40 hours of educational learning.** Please see Appendix A for all of the approved IPE courses for the AHEC Scholars program, and note that several of these courses are available at different campuses during different semesters. If you choose to take the credit pathway to meet your educational hours, you will have to **submit a For-Credit Educational Log at the end of the semester that you take that course.** For-Credit Educational Logs can be found on the home page of the Online Platform, see Syllabus for due dates (pg.4).

**If you have taken an IPE course that covers all, or the majority, of the six core topic areas and would like it to count towards your AHEC Scholars educational requirement, e-mail the course syllabus to the AHEC Scholars Program Staff for approval at ahescholarsMT@mso.umt.edu **

Non-Credit Option

AHEC Scholars interested in self-directed education, can utilize the Library of Learning within the Online Platform, which has educational activities on each of the core topic areas (Ted Talks, Podcasts, Webinars, etc.) In order to receive credit for the educational activity completed in the Library of Learning an evaluation is submitted, and then all completed hours show up in the scholars' gradebook. Each AHEC Scholar can find your gradebook under "Grades" on the Online Platform (see *Online Platform Tutorial* pg.12). Educational logs are not required to be submitted for this pathway since the online platform tracks educational activity.

In addition to the Library of Learning, Scholars are also able to submit relevant IPE experiences for approval. Any conference, presentation, training, webinar, continuing education, etc. that covers at least one of the core topic areas can count towards your educational requirements.

If you find IPE materials or attend events on one of the six core topic areas, and would like it to count towards your educational requirement, please "Submit Activity for Approval" on the home page of the Online Platform

Please see Appendix B for a visual of the AHEC Scholars Educational Requirement

Community of Scholars

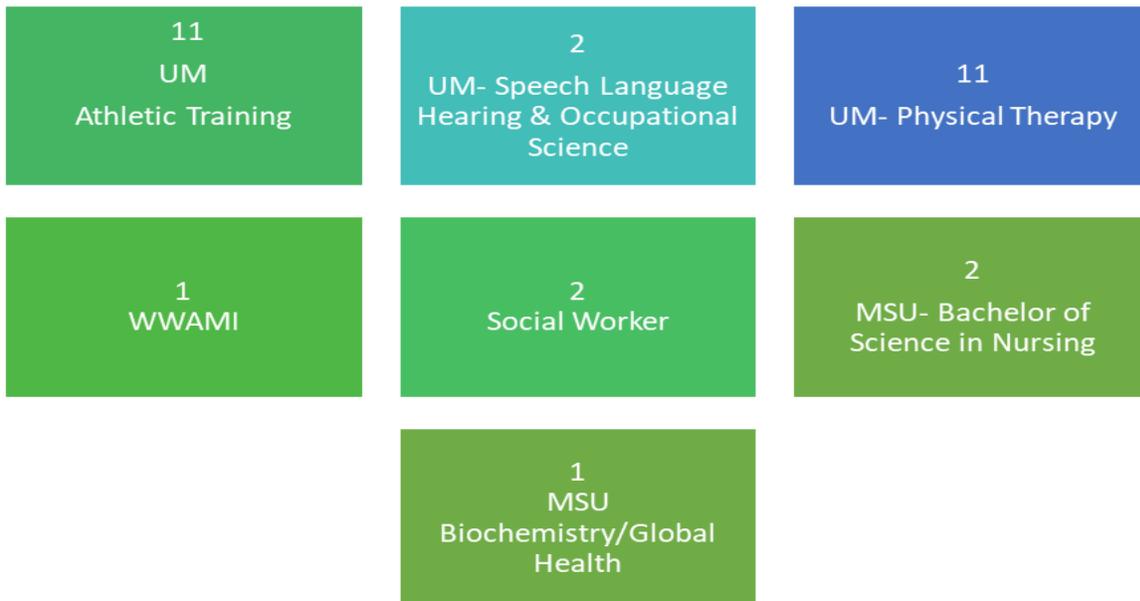
Be active in our community! We offer several ways to interact with other health professions students participating in the AHEC Scholars program.

The Montana AHEC Scholars Program is ranked amongst the most successful in the nation. We have one of the most diverse number of professions involved (10 different programs) as well as one of the programs with the most students enrolled (216). The immediate success of Montana AHEC Scholars demonstrates how Montana’s health professions students are willing to go above and beyond what is required to enhance their interprofessional knowledge and experience. Below is a table with our 2019-2020 enrollment and one showing our Montana students who graduated in the Spring from their health profession programs as AHEC Scholars.

THIS IS US!

MSU	UM	WWAMI
Nursing: 108 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 53 ABSN: 5 Missoula, 18 Bozeman, 9 Great Falls, 6 Kalispell, 15 Billings ○ 55 BSN: 9 Billings, 4 Kalispell, 15 Great Falls, 7 Missoula, 20 Bozeman 	Athletic Training: 18 Missoula	24 TRUST students
	Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences: 12	1 WWAMI
	Public & Community Health Prevention Sciences: 1	
	Social Work: 11	
	Pharmacy: 15	
Biochemistry/Global Health: 1	Physical Therapy: 25	

30 GRADUATED IN SPRING 2020!



Virtual Meetings & Events

Although AHEC Scholars are spread across Montana, and often have conflicting clinical and academic schedules, we host monthly meetings together over Zoom. Our goal with the virtual meetings is to interact with each other in a meaningful way around one of the AHEC core topic areas.

We offer these meetings at two different times in one week to try to accommodate various schedules. Students only need to attend one of the times listed for each week. Each virtual meeting is recorded and uploaded to the Online Platform to make them available to those unable to attend live. During the virtual meetings, a video or a case study is presented along with a set of questions, and attendees are put into interdisciplinary breakout rooms for discussion. Students report they find these meetings informative and really enjoy the opportunity to interact with each other. Each Scholar will receive an outlook calendar invite to these meetings from ahecsolarsmt@mso.umt.edu. This semester we will meet during the following times:

SPRING 2021

Friday 1/15 at 12:00pm OR 1/19 at 5:00pm
Tuesday 2/9 at 5:00 OR Friday 2/12 at 12:00pm
Tuesday 3/9 at 5:00 OR Friday 3/12 at 12:00pm
Tuesday 4/13 at 5:00 OR Friday 4/16 at 12:00pm

Events

IPE Spring Event – The Spring 2021 seminar will focus on Interprofessional teamwork and collaboration to improve patient health outcomes. The activities will be designed for health care professional students with clinical training experience and nearing completion of their programs. Zoom link will be communicated prior to the seminar. Presentations from health profession faculty will be streamed and students will participate in small breakout room activities. Reach out to Kerry Haney for more information at Kerry.haney@mso.umt.edu.

Date: April 9th, 2021

Location: ZOOM

Time: 12:30-4:00 PM

Announcements

MUS IPE Institute – Montana State University and the University of Montana have created an Institute to support interprofessional education and collaborative practice across the state of Montana! Visit the Montana IPE Institute website [here](#).

AHEC Advisors

Each academic program has been assigned an AHEC Advisor who will assist Scholars within that profession with planning out their AHEC Scholars program requirements, as well as answering any questions about the AHEC Scholars program. To inform the advising process, **it is required that each Scholar complete an AHEC Advising survey at the beginning of every academic year in order to maintain your eligibility in the program.** The AHEC Advising survey has been designed to be completed in 3 minutes or less. The survey will be posted on the Online Platform and will be emailed out at the beginning of every academic year.

Each AHEC Adviser will introduce themselves via email when you first enroll in the program and will also follow up as needed based on your advising needs. Don't hesitate to reach out to your adviser with questions or concerns!

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Program Contacts

Program	Contact(s)	Title	Email	Phone	Office
AT - UM	Valerie Moody	Program Director	valerie.moody@mso.umt.edu	2703	McGill Hall 205
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SLHS	Jennifer Closson	Director of Clinical Education	jennifer.closson@mso.umt.edu	5261	Curry 023
	Amanda Jackson	Clinical Externship Coordinator	amanda.jackson@mso.umt.edu	2377	Curry 027
PT	Jennifer Bell	Director of Clinical Education	jennifer.bell@mso.umt.edu	6728	SB 215B
	Alyssa Waters	Administrative Associate	alyssa.waters@mso.umt.edu	4027	SB 135
Pharm	Kerry Haney	Assistant Professor	kerry.haney@mso.umt.edu	4439	SB 322
	Cherith Smith	Clinical Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice	cherith.smith@mso.umt.edu	6263	SB 324
SW	Deanna Cooper	BSW Program Director, 2+2 Program Director	deanna.cooper@mso.umt.edu	5587	JRH 014
MSU Nursing	Kailyn Mock	Assistant Director/ Nursing Initiatives	Kailyn.mock@montana.edu	406-994-7709	Culbertson Hall - 306
IPAT	Stephanie Domitrovich	Director of Undergraduate Advising	stephanie.domitrovich@mso.umt.edu	6264	MCG 104
WWAMI	Martin Teintze	Director of Medical Education	mteintze@montana.edu	406-994-4411	MSU - Health Office

Public Health	Annie Sondag	Professor, School of Public & Community Health	Annie.sondag@mso.umt.edu	406- 243- 5215	Skaggs 173D
UM Counseling	Emily Sallee	Associate Professor	emily.sallee@mso.umt.edu	406- 243- 5273	ED 335
UM Psychology	Bryan Cochran	Professor of Psychology	Bryan.Cochran@mso.umt.edu	406- 243- 2391	Skaggs 310
MSU Dietetics	Coleen Kaiser	Director of Dietetics	coleenk@montana.edu	406- 994- 5002	Reid 337

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Can I complete clinical or educational hours over winter, Thanksgiving, spring or summer break?

You can complete educational and/or clinical hours over all of the academic breaks, but can only complete hours during the summer after your first year of the AHEC Scholars program. If you plan to complete clinical or educational hours during the summer months, be sure to notify your AHEC advisor, to ensure you complete all requirements before graduation.

How do I log the hour spent attending the virtual meeting?

Each virtual meeting is 1 hour and covers one of the six core topic areas. For those who attend meetings live, type your name and e-mail into the Zoom chat box to log your attendance. Each meeting will also be recorded and uploaded to the Online Platform. On the main page of the Online Platform, you will see each core topic area listed under the Library of Learning section, once you click on the correlating core topic area, there is a section titled "Virtual Meetings" where you can access the recording and fill out an evaluation to log your attendance. See *Online Platform Tutorial* (pg.12 and on the Online Platform).

How do I log the non-credit hours I complete on the Library of Learning?

After completing each activity within the Library of Learning, scholars will need to complete an evaluation form in order to receive credit. (To access the evaluation, you must check the box that indicates you completed the training.) Once you complete the evaluation form the hours will automatically be logged in your gradebook under the core topic area the activity covered. For more information on how to view your gradebook, watch the *Online Platform Tutorial* (pg.12 and on Online Platform).

How do I find out if a for-credit course I'm taking could count towards my educational hours?

In order for a credit course to count towards educational hours it must be 1) An elective course and 2) Cover all, or most, of the core topic areas (interprofessional education, cultural competency, emerging health issues, integrated behavioral health, social determinants of health and practice transformation). E-mail a class syllabus to the AHEC Program Staff, Bonnie or Kaye, for approval at ahecschemarsMT@mso.umt.edu .

Are the 40 hours of educational/ clinical hours due at the end of the semester or end of the academic year?

The 40 hours of educational and clinical work are due at the end of the summer of Year 1, and the end of the academic year in Year 2. However, scholars will submit a **Clinical Log** at the end of each semester to track their progress. Students who complete a for-credit class will submit a **For-Credit Educational Log** at the end of the semester they take that course. Educational hours on the Library of Learning, or approved activities, will be automatically logged.

As TRUST students, how do we record our involvement?

TRUST students are required to fill out an AHEC advising survey at the beginning of each academic year, a program evaluation at the end of Year 1 and Year 2, and submit clinical logs and a for-credit educational log at the end of each semester. All these items are submitted via the Online Platform. Your Year 1 educational requirement is met with RUOP iii-3; Year 1 clinical experience is met with RUOP immersion experience; Year 2 educational requirement is met through the Underserved Pathway; Year 2 clinical requirement is met through the pre-clinical, clinical, and service learning experiences in the Underserved Pathway.

As Nursing students, how do we submit our clinical hours?

Nursing students are still required to complete the **Clinical Hours Log** on the Online Platform. However, nursing students are NOT required to fill out an **Individual Clinical Site Data** form because that information will be gathered internally.

Online Platform Tutorial

Visit this link to get a tutorial on how to access and utilize the AHEC Scholars Online Platform:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EUVqHxlqZ7Q&feature=youtu.be>

Appendix A

IPE Course List – Fall & Spring Approved for AHEC Scholars Program

** Please note that this course list includes courses offered in the Fall and Spring semesters.**

All Montana University System Students

CCS 495/AHHS 491 Human Health and Climate Change in Montana, 1 or 2 cr., Online (This course is open to UM and MSU students) – Spring

While climate change is often framed as an environmental concern, it will also have significant impacts on human health. Climate change will be “the greatest threat to global health in the 21st century,” causing significant morbidity and mortality due to heat-related stress, respiratory illnesses, vector-borne infectious diseases, extreme weather events, mental health impacts, threats to food and water supplies, and damage to health care infrastructure. This course will focus on the health impacts of climate change in Montana, highlight the interdisciplinary nature of the climate-health connection, and identify steps we can take as health professionals, health trainees, and students to protect human health and promote community resilience. Course lectures will be provided by the course professors and other content experts from a variety of health-related and other disciplines in Montana. Individuals who cannot attend the lectures in real-time will be able to review them asynchronously. Discussion sections will consist of a mix of undergraduates, graduate students, and health care professionals.

- UM Students - CC495.R80 (CRN: 35107) or AHHS491.R01 (CRN: 35106)
- MSU Students - NRS 291-802 *Contact Leesha Ford for any registration questions leesha.ford@montana.edu

MSU Students Only

MEDS 581, Farm to Clinician, 1 cr., Online - Fall

This course is a hands-on Culinary Medicine course with WWAMI medical students, nursing students, and Dietetic Interns. You will learn about Food as Medicine, cook with an interprofessional team and enjoy a great meal together.

MEDS 624, Health Equity Circle, 1 cr., Online – Fall

Health Equity Circle is a student organization and class. Members act as a resource for health professionals in training, teaching them how to community organize through course work and outreach. This opportunity will be available for upper division undergraduate MSU students, as well as graduate and medical students. You will engage in conversations about social justice, housing solutions and social determinants of health in

our community. You will learn community organizing principles such as holding relational meetings and effectively using the organizing cycle, and you will have the opportunity to apply these principles to addressing pressing issues in the Bozeman community.

UM Students Only

AHHS 470 Friday Morning Medical Conference, 1 cr., Online – Fall, Spring

This weekly presentation is provided locally at Providence Saint Patrick Hospital and streamed live to Skaggs 174. A variety of relevant health care topics are presented by local, regional and national speakers. Students attending will learn about a variety of concepts, medical approaches, and health-care related issues impacting health care practitioners in a variety of settings. To receive credit for the course, a student must attend 10 sessions during the semester for a passing grade. The course meets weekly on Friday mornings from 7:30-8:50am (CRN 74231)

CSD 396 - Autism on Campus/Service Learning. 2 cr., In Person - Spring

This course educates students about autism in adults. The didactic portion addresses executive functioning and social needs. The service-learning portion allows direct mentorship to people on campus with autism and related disorders. Prerequisites: junior or senior standing, consent of instructor, and application required. Contact Jennifer Closson jennifer.closson@mso.umt.edu to get enrolled.

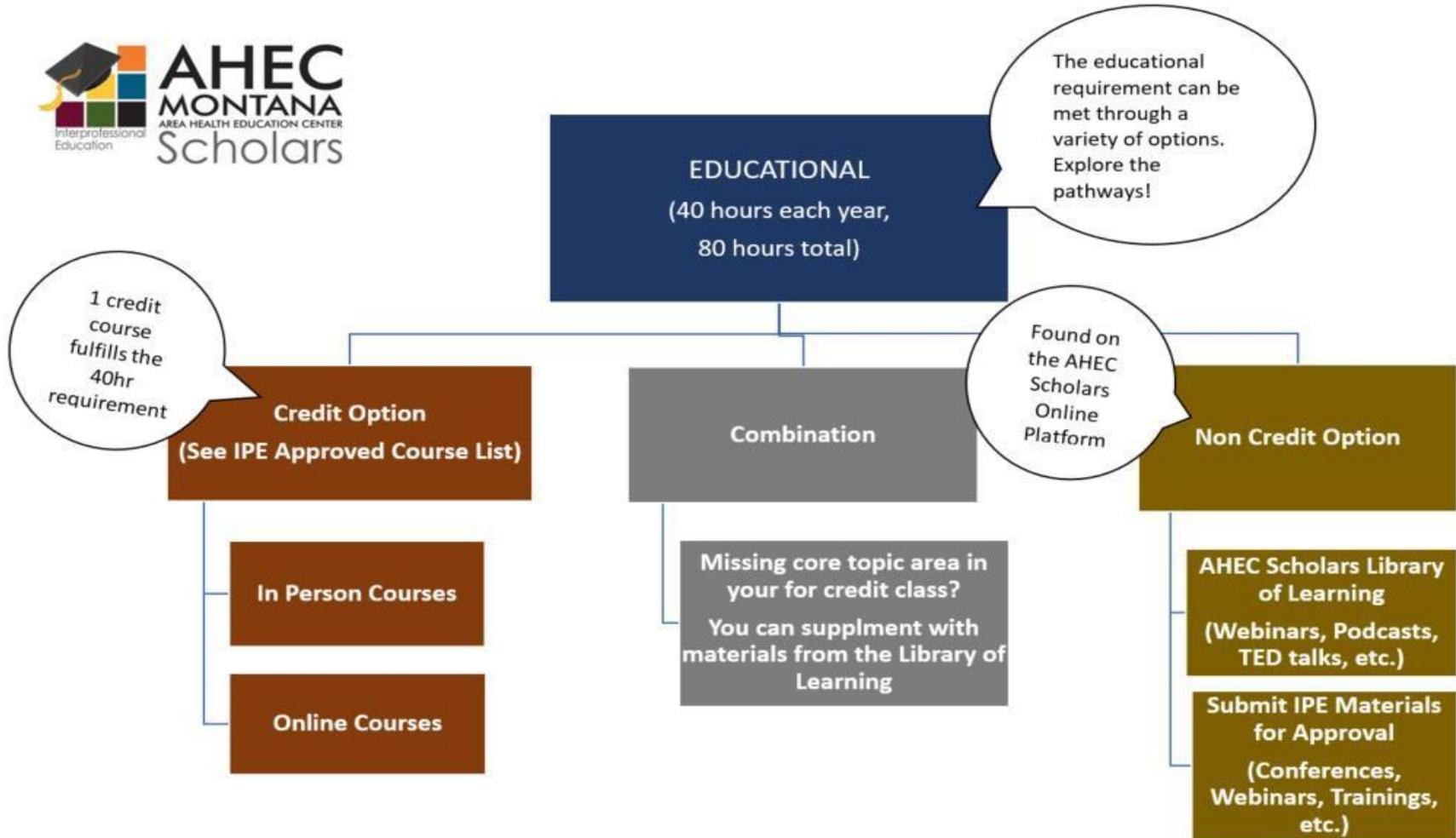
PUBH 525- Multi Cultural Public Health. 3cr., In Person – Fall

This course is intended to provide additional information about aspects of diversity, health disparities, and issues related to the public health profession. The course will at times emphasize issues pertaining to Native American populations, given the demographics and health issues in Montana. However, it will also expand to cover topics to include other populations facing health disparities and/or barriers to health services. (CRN 74382)

PSYX 604 - Integrated Behavioral Health - Fall

Behavioral health consultation and integrated care services are rapidly growing fields. Mental health professionals who have received training in integrated settings are well-suited to take development and leadership roles in the health care system. In this course, you will read some of the rapidly-expanding literature on behavioral health consultation, primary care psychology, and integrated care. You will become familiar with the competencies required of mental health professionals who work in health care.

Educational Requirement



Pathway must cover each core topic area to meet educational requirements: Cultural Competency, Interprofessional Education, Social Determinants of Health, Integrated Behavioral Health, Practice Transformation, and Emerging Health Issues. If pathway does not cover all of those areas, then Library of Learning can be used to supplement information on any missing core topic area

Clinical Requirement

