GRADUATE NURSING EDUCATION PRIMARY CARE SCHOLARS PROGRAM

An Initiative to... Transform the Health of Alabama

The UAB School of Nursing (SON) wants to improve the quality of life for all Alabamians, especially those who have limited health care access. Through targeted programs, the school is devoted to increasing the number of primary care nurse practitioners (NPs), building partnerships to break down barriers, and increasing access to health care in rural and underserved areas.

In Alabama, 55 of the state’s 67 counties are rural and 62 counties have a shortage of primary care providers. This health professional shortage affects more than 1.6 million Alabamians. With support from the Daniel Foundation of Alabama, the UAB School of Nursing is working to overcome one of the most challenging issues facing our state by training providers who want to live and serve in these rural areas.

The Graduate Nursing Education Primary Care Scholars Program (GNEPCSP) has the following goals:

- Create a pipeline of nurses from rural Alabama counties for recruitment into primary care NP programs (FNP, ANP/GNP, PNP, WHNP) as Primary Care Scholars.
- Offer Primary Care Scholars additional mentoring and curricular components specific to primary care practice in rural areas.
- Establish primary care clinical training hubs in Alabama’s rural and underserved areas where Primary Care Scholars can gain hands-on experience with exceptional rural providers.
- Support Primary Care Scholars and current rural primary care NPs through a telephone-based consultation service that utilizes the expertise of School of Nursing faculty NPs.
- Provide ongoing professional development that meets the needs of rural primary care providers, preceptors, and Primary Care Scholars through activities such as webinars and an annual Summit.
- Engage a network of NPs and primary care providers across rural Alabama.
- Create primary care NP leaders in rural health for Alabama and beyond.

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