Mission and HRSA Title VII grant objectives

The PA program will (a) increase the number of students from underserved rural areas and minority status, (b) provide enhanced training targeted at preparing more students for primary care careers for underserved populations and other high risk groups, and (c) work with outside organizations- physician and health care organizations, to increase the number of competitive employment opportunities in underserved areas.

Objectives:

1. Increase the enrollment of students who have disadvantaged backgrounds, an origin in a health professional shortage areas, or minority status. We will do this by:
   - working with the proposed SMPH Medical Scholars Program model to identify and encourage promising applicants.
   - developing a pre-entry program to provide guidance and counseling for re-applicant students who are likely to return to medically underserved communities and/or who are educationally or financially disadvantaged.
   - improving recruitment strategies at UW System universities, community colleges, health organizations and community liaisons to recruit promising students.
   - creating a mentoring program that will pair potential enrollees with a community mentor as they prepare for a guaranteed interview with the program.
   - making our program more suitable for students from non-traditional backgrounds by increasing the number of flexible training options.
   - allowing promising students to enroll in basic required medical courses in their final years of college to give them experience with the curriculum, the confidence to apply for enrollment, and completed credits when they enroll.

2. Develop a new Rural/Underserved Populations Primary Care track with curricular modules to prepare students with the skills and aptitude for care for rural and/or underserved and high risk populations. We will do this by:
   - developing a curriculum, coupled with proposed new master’s degree requirements, that will support care for rural/underserved populations.
   - developing capstone experiences that focus on rural/underserved populations.
   - developing new distance education modules applicable to all years of the curriculum.
   - linking with existing programs in the SMPH (e.g. WARM and others) to enhance our 39 existing preceptor sites with rural/underserved populations and create new ones.

3. Work with physician organizations, health care organizations and communities to (a) add to our existing teaching sites and (b) increase the number of competitive employment options for new graduates in rural/underserved areas. We will do this by:
   - using our community partners to develop new preceptor sites (facilitate housing, professional networking for student opportunities) in rural and/or underserved areas.
   - engaging in outreach and building relationships with health care organizations to expand the number and quality of job offerings serving rural/underserved populations.