
Purpose

To outline guidelines followed by AHEC staff when selecting training sites for community-based education suitable for SEARCH scholars.

Scope

- East Texas AHEC personnel involved in community-based education. Community-based education of health professions is a core mission of the East Texas AHEC.

Criteria

- Training site recruitment focus is on generalists practicing in medically underserved areas with appropriate learning opportunities for student/resident to serve in an interprofessional educational environment.
- Training site should offer patient populations that heighten the awareness of health disparities and cultural diversity in the presence of disease, health outcomes or access to health care.
- Preceptor must be willing to engage the learner in community activities providing service-learning experiences.
- Training site must be appropriate for primary care and allied health professions learners, specifically medical students, physician assistant students, nurse practitioner students, dental and dental hygienist students, behavioral and mental health students and family practice residents who are eligible for SEARCH community placements.
- Site assignments will be determined by school program requirements.
- Consideration will be given to the needs of all health professions schools in the East Texas AHEC region during SEARCH site development and student placement.

Suggested Guidelines

1. East Texas AHEC staff will establish initial contact at a potential training site. Possible methods of contact include peer referral, office visit, mail-out, or presentation of AHEC programs.
2. The East Texas AHEC SEARCH Project Mentor Selection Criteria form and Universal Organization Worksheet should be completed to assist in determining the appropriateness of the site as a teaching location.
3. The Mentor Selection Form is forwarded to the East Texas Program Office for acceptance as a SEARCH site.
4. Information regarding the site is forwarded to the program / course contact.
5. Correspondence between the teaching institution and training site takes place to coordinate student placement(s).
6. The AHEC project coordinator serves as an ongoing liaison between the practice site and the educational program(s).
7. If site is not appropriate as a SEARCH training site, AHEC will continue to support the site through other program areas.