



Rural Program

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO

ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

January 2024

Dear Rural Program Friends,

As we begin the new year, we are excited to present the first edition of our CUSOM Rural Program newsletter, which aims to provide you with the latest updates and resources to support you in your partnership with our program - while also hopefully decreasing the number of emails in your inbox!

In this edition, we have included info on topics including:

- The 2023 Rural Preceptor Tax Credit
- Tips for upcoming midpoint evaluations
- Becoming a CUSOM Volunteer Clinical Faculty member
- Workshops with the Rural Program MS1 students

Thank you for your continued dedication to supporting the next generation of rural healthcare professionals. We appreciate all you do!

Sincerely,

The CUSOM Rural Program Team

Mark Deutchman, MD - Director of Rural Program, Associate Dean of Rural Health

Roberto Silva, MD - Assistant Director of Rural Program

Megan Lykke, MD - Rural Program Liaison, Western Slope

Mandy Swanson, MD - Rural Program Liaison, Eastern Colorado

Melanie DeHerrera, MPA - Rural Program Manager

Melissa Darzins, MBA - Rural LIC Coordinator

Lu Heimerl - Rural Program Coordinator

Julia Kendrick, MA - Rural Program Coordinator

[Rural Program Website](#)



COLORADO
Department of Revenue
Taxation Division

Rural and Frontier Health Care Preceptor Tax Credit

Primary Care preceptors who teach for 4 weeks/20 days in a rural or frontier county may be eligible for a \$1000 tax credit.

If you are eligible for this tax credit, please complete the 2023 form and return it to a representative of the institution your students attend for certification. For CU Rural Program preceptors, please submit your completed form using the link below. Our team will be notified of your submission and will return your certified form via email. You will then need to submit the certified form to the CO Department of Revenue via email:

dor_preceptor@state.co.us

If you receive notification from the DOR that the credit has been issued to you, you can claim the credit on your Colorado income tax return.

Please feel free to share the links below with anyone in your practice who might also be eligible for this tax credit:

[Click here for eligibility information](#)

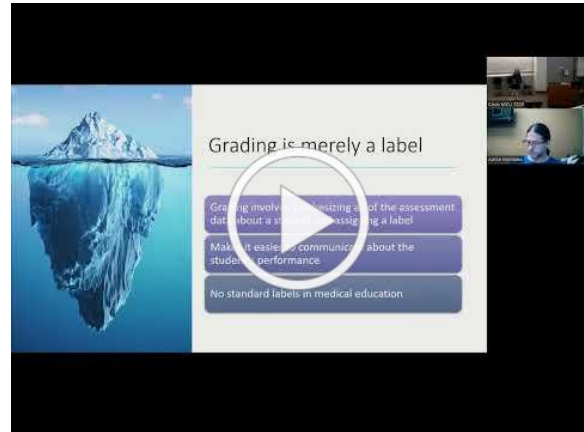
[Click here to download the 2023 form](#)

[Click here to submit your completed form for certification by the CU Rural Program team](#)

Midpoint Evaluations are Coming Up!

Preceptors will be receiving midpoint evaluations for current students on **February 21**. These evaluations are critical for determining a student's grades. Now that USMLE Step is Pass/Fail, the comments that you provide impact their future (e.g., matching into residency) even more than before. Midpoint evaluations will close on **March 6**.

If you have any issues accessing or completing the evaluation, please notify Rural LIC Coordinators [Melissa Darzins](#) or [Julia Kendrick](#), or another member of our team. If you would like to discuss the student's performance, please reach out to [Dr. Silva](#), [Dr. Deutchman](#), [Dr. Lykke](#), or [Dr. Swanson](#).



Check out the CUSOM Faculty Development video above about Assessment and Feedback!

Making Assessment Meaningful: The main thing to accomplish in an evaluation is to **describe what you saw the student do and how they do it**. See below for some examples of less helpful and more helpful comments!

| Less Helpful | More Helpful |
|---|---|
| Best student I've ever had and functions at the level of an intern. | Completed a complex laceration repair under my direct supervision. |
| Empathetic. | When patient became upset and was crying, student handed her a box of tissues and briefly rested her hand on the mother's shoulder. |
| Proficient physical exam. | When approaching a 15-month-old child, student allowed the child to touch the otoscope. The child was then more cooperative with the ear exam. Student appropriately had mother help with restraining the child's arms and had good technique looking in the ear. Next step will be to try insufflation, which was necessary to rule out ear infection. |
| Good presentations. | Student consistently gathers and accurate history and is able to pick up most physical findings on exam, and then presents this information in an organized fashion. For |

| | |
|---|--|
| | each patient, she provides a differential diagnosis of at least 3 items, but sometimes the differential focuses more on unlikely diagnoses. |
| Provides management plans and is very advanced. | Student is able to provide a basic management plan for many common pediatric cases, including asthma, bronchiolitis, viral URI, and gastroenteritis. However, he still requires assistance for less common complaints. |

Claim Your Volunteer Clinical Faculty Appointment!

Preceptors involved in teaching and evaluation of CU School of Medicine students are required by our accrediting body to have a Volunteer Clinical Faculty (VCF) appointment. The online application takes about 10 minutes to complete:

https://ucdenverdata.formstack.com/forms/cu_volunteer_clinical_faculty_application

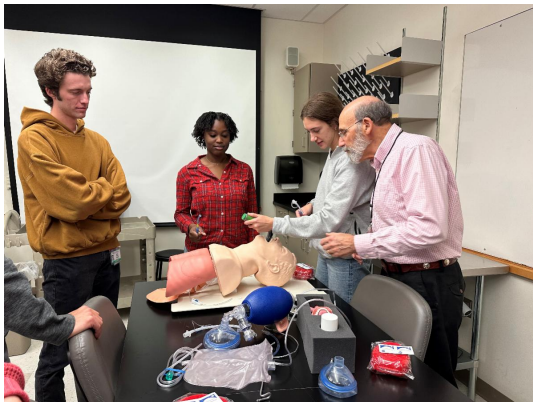
The faculty appointment looks great on a CV and offers various benefits, including free CME opportunities, and access to the Strauss Health Sciences Library which includes free access to online resources including UpToDate, PubMed, Dynamed, Micromedex, and hundreds of medical journals.

Need additional teaching resources or have questions about the process? Visit the [Office of Community Based Medical Education \(OCBME\) website](#)

First Year Rural Program students get hands on practice with airway management

Students enjoy getting to practice techniques and procedures as part of the first year Rural Program elective. Dr. Deutchman and Dr. Silva lead didactics and workshops each week to prepare the students for the unique challenges and opportunities they will experience practicing medicine in rural areas.

In a recent workshop, the students learned about airway anatomy, intubation techniques, and emergency airway management. Being able to practice these techniques in a simulated environment provides an opportunity for students to gain confidence and familiarity with specialized instruments before encountering them in real-life situations.



Dr. D oversees Kathryn King intubating a dummy while classmates (right to left) Tamara Anoruse-Thomas and Henry Haller assist and observe.



Kennan Janowski works on his patient as Dr. Silva advises not to break any teeth, and Mason Bliss is ready to jump in with the bougie.



Roopa Bhat successfully locates her dummy's trachea.

Our rural preceptors are always welcome to come help with these workshops if you happen to be in Denver! Please reach out to a member of our team if you are interested in getting involved.

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