

FAST FACTS: MEL AND ENID ZUCKERMAN COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH RURAL HEALTH PROFESSIONS PROGRAM

The Arizona Center for Rural Health, Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health (MEZCOPH) Rural Health Professions Program (RHPP) is supported by the Arizona Area Health Education Center (AHEC). RHPP prepares students for public health practice in rural and urban-underserved communities through partnerships with AHEC regional centers and community-based organizations.

SERVICE LEARNING IN RHPP

RHPP uses a service learning model delivered through graduate-level courses. This community-based experiential approach integrates applied practice with reflection and research, fostering mutual learning among students, faculty, and community partners.

In 2024-2025, COPH-RHPP offered four experiential, community-based courses :

Border Health Service Learning Institute (PHPM 597C)

Held in the US-Mexico border communities of Yuma, Somerton, San Luis, and Douglas/Agua Prieta, this course explores health conditions and the social determinants in binational settings. Students engage with organizations such as the Regional Center for Border Health and Campesinos sin Fronteras.

Community Outreach: An Interprofessional Model of Service and Learning (PHP 595)

Offered in Tucson, Phoenix, and online, this course addresses health disparities among marginalized populations. Students collaborate with partners like the Prevention Mobile Health Unit, Street Medicine Phoenix, and Ventanilla de Salud.

Family & Child Health in Urban Settings (HPS 597A)

Based in Tucson and the City of South Tucson, this course explores how local organizations promote the child and family well-being through initiatives related to food access, community vibrancy, and health across the life-course. Students partner with schools, gardens, food banks, and mutual aid organizations.

Rural Health Service Learning Institute (PHPM 597D)

Taking place in in southeastern Arizona, this course introduces students are introduced to rural health systems and environmental health challenges, including heat exposure. Students work with libraries, health departments, and other local entities to understand of rural community assets.

RHPP KEY CONTACTS:

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THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
MEL & ENID ZUCKERMAN COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Center for Rural Health

crh.arizona.edu/programs/health-professions

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