

Colorado **Rural Healthcare** Workforce Initiative

Winter 2025 Catalog

A key objective of Colorado Rural Healthcare Workforce Initiative (CORHWI) is to collaboratively develop, share, and develop classroom curriculum that provides a rural viewpoint for students in 15 learning institutions in Colorado. The curriculum is delivered via eLearning modules, which can be found at the CORHWI website, CORHWI.org.

This learning management system offers over 30 modules to support the professional development of current and prospective healthcare professionals interested in rural healthcare, with more modules added continuously.

HEALTHCARE TOPICS



Introduction to Rural



Healthcare Delivery



Special Rural Populations



Behavioral Health

Integration







Public Health

CORHWI eLearning modules available for our partner institutions for Winter 2025 include:

Introduction to Rural

What is Rural?

This module explains the different definitions for rural urban, and frontier communities; identifies the Colorado urban, rural and frontier areas; and discusses some of the factors that often distinguish rural communities from urban communities. Module author: Mark Deutchman, MD

Snapshot of Healthcare in Rural Colorado

This module explores the demographics of rural Colorado; discusses the unique challenges of healthcare in rural Colorado; identifies areas of healthcare shortages and how students can make a difference; and discusses specific populations and the disparities they face. Module author: Amanda Bristol Swanson, MD

Healthcare Workforce

This module provides information about the rural healthcare workforce. The context of rural healthcare workforce is provided, along with definitions of health professions shortage areas. National and Colorado data are presented, including possible solutions to enhancing the rural healthcare workforce. Module author: Amy J. Barton, PhD, RN, FAAN, ANEF

Behavioral Health Integration

Opioid Use Disorder

This module defines opioid use disorder (OUD) and identifies factors that may contribute to opioid use. It describes the effects of OUD on rural communities and recognizes barriers to treatment. Module author: Stacie Schreiner DNP, FNP-BC

Practicing Harm Reduction

This module, you'll learn about harm reduction, a set of practical strategies that minimize the negative health and social impacts associated with risky behaviors, such as substance use. You'll discuss how harm reduction practices are focused on positive change and you'll learn how to help your patients and clients without judgement, coercion, or discrimination. Module author: Jessica Eckhardt, PhD

Introduction to Suicide Prevention with Rural Consideration

This module begins with recent data regarding incidence of suicide in the U.S. and the associated human and monetary costs, but quickly moves to examine risk factors for suicide and preventative measures health professionals can take. Module author: Jennifer Zohn PhD, MA, RN-BC, LPC, NCC

Farmer Mental Health

This module defines key terms such as agrarian imperative and ecological validity as they relates to agricultural-based clients; discusses the impact of the agrarian imperative as a cultural consideration when building therapeutic rapport with a agricultural-based client; and demonstrates three evidence-based clinical behavioral health skills and techniques for utilizing The LandLogic Model[™]. Module author: Kaila S. Anderson, LMSW

Mental Health Crisis Intervention

This module covers the mental health crisis and the intervention for the mental health crisis, address the intervention techniques and effectiveness as well as the potential risks. Besides, the Mental health crisis intervention in rural communities and challenges will also be discussed. Module author: Xiaohui You, PhD

Naloxone Administration

This module defines the use for Naloxone (Narcan); identifies resources to obtain Narcan and additional training; describes Colorado law regarding obtaining and administration of Narcan. Module author: Stacie Schreiner DNP, FNP-BC

Ethics

Considerations in the Treatment of Minors in Rural Communities

This module covers the special ethical considerations around treating minors, including their rights and your responsibilities. Module author: Denise Ogden, M.A., PA-C

Healthcare Delivery

Telehealth

This module addresses how telehealth technologies can improve healthcare and the potential benefits and limitations of telehealth are discussed with a focus on rural communities. Module author: Xiaohui You, PhD

Clinical Care with Rural Focus

Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs): Rural Considerations, Epidemiology, and Prevention

This module discusses care of STIs in rural areas; describes risk factors for STIs and education and counseling of persons at risk; describes STI vaccinations and appropriate evaluation treatment, and counseling of sex partners of persons infected with an STI. Module author: Denise Ogden, M.A., PA-C

Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs): Treatment and Diagnosis

This module discusses effective diagnosis, treatment, counseling, and follow-up of persons infected with common STIs. Module author: Denise Ogden, M.A., PA

Unintended Pregnancy and Rural Considerations

This module identifies common reasons for unplanned pregnancy and common outcomes; identifies common barriers to care for family planning services in rural areas; provides patient centered language for contraception discussions; and discusses the ethical implications of conscientious objection in family planning. Module author: Amanda Bristol Swanson, MD

Zoonotic Diseases and Rural Considerations

This module identifies populations at highest risk for zoonoses; describes the "one health" concept of zoonotic disease; identifies the eight highest priority zoonoses from the CDC and the ones of concern in Colorado; and provides prevention and treatment plans for patients at risk and affected with zoonoses. Module author: Amanda Bristol Swanson, MD

Firearm Injury Prevention

This module describes the epidemiology of firearm injuries in the U.S, including risks in rural areas; discusses how firearm safety is a risk factor for suicide, homicide, and unintentional injury and death; and recommends evidence-based approaches to firearm injury prevention. Module author: Joseph Simonetti, MD, MPH

Motor Vehicle Crashes

This module examines common hazards on rural roadways, how behavioral, environmental, and healthcare related factors contribute motor vehicle crashes (MVCs), and strategies to prevent MVCs. Module author: Whitney Erickson, DNP, RN, CEN

Human Trafficking

The realities of human trafficking are challenging for all communities to address. Factors such as geographical isolation, interstate transportation routes, industries with seasonal workers, lack of economic security, lack of victim resources and support, and lack of training for front line professionals impact rural responses to human trafficking. This module equips students with tools to understand Colorado trends; identify and provide effective and compassionate care and rural-tailored resources for survivors of human trafficking. Module author: Annjanette R. Alejano-Steele, Ph.D.

Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (ADRD)

Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRD) are progressive conditions that impair memory, thought processes, and executive functioning that affect daily living. This module will discuss risk factors for ADRD, risk reduction strategies, evidence-based practices for culturally sensitive ADRD care, and important rural considerations. Module author: Hillary Lum, MD, PhD and Rebecca Mullen, MD, MPH

Agricultural Toxicology

People who work in agriculture are at risk for exposure to a variety of agricultural and chemical toxins, contributing to making farming one of the ten most dangerous occupations. This module explores the physiology and management of injury due to fermentation gases and several classes of agricultural chemicals. Module author: Eliza Lockwood, MD, FACMT

Aging in Place

This module aims to provide an understanding of the challenges and opportunities associated with aging in place in rural areas. Participants will explore strategies to support the aging population in maintaining their independence and quality of life as they age. Key themes will be explored including trends and challenges, technological solutions, financing, policy, caregiver considerations, housing issues, and community-based supports. This module addresses common misconceptions about aging in rural areas, culminating in a set of recommendations aimed at refining and advancing aging in place initiatives within rural communities. Module author: Amy Dore, DHA

Public Health

Health Equity and Social Justice

This module will provide students foundational concepts, terms and frameworks to address rural health disparities in Colorado. Students will gain an understanding of social determinants of health that lead to health disparities for minoritized communities; and explore how power, privilege, and oppression manifest at individual, interpersonal, and institutional levels. Students will also learn how their individual and interpersonal actions can promote social justice, along with working with existing rural Colorado-focused programs and policies that promote health equity. Module author: Annjanette R. Alejano-Steele, Ph.D.

School Nursing in Rural Colorado

This module explores how school nursing in rural areas of the state differs from what is seen in urban areas. It focuses on socioeconomic, ethnic, and health disparities seen in rural schools. Also addressed are issues related to staffing, EMS availability, and proximity to health care services. Module author: Dr. Alice M. Burch, DNP, RN

Special Rural Populations

Immigrant, Migrant, and Refugee Healthcare in Rural Colorado

This module explores policies and data relevant to the health status of the nearly 600,000 people in Colorado identified as immigrants, migrants, or refugees. These populations face considerable health inequities that are compounded by living and working in rural settings. Strategies for improving immigrant health outcomes are suggested with a special focus on the importance of advocating for rural populations. Module Author: Natalie Pool, PhD

Native American Health

This module will discuss the historical and contemporary influences on Native American health; identify the most pressing health concerns within the Native American community; and explores culturally safe clinical practices to enhance the care of Native American individuals, families, and communities. Module Author: Natalie Pool, PhD

Rural LGBTQIA2S+ Care

This module identifies and defines gender identity, sexual orientation, sexual behavior; discusses some of the unique challenges and barriers to care in rural communities for LGBTQIA2+ patients; and identifies best practices for inclusive health care. Module author: Amanda Bristol Swanson, MD

Oral Health

Navigating Ethical Challenges in Rural Dentistry

Rural dentists encounter multifaceted challenges arising from limited access to care and the distinctive dynamics of community relationships. This course empowers dental professionals to navigate these complexities by making informed, ethical decisions in rural practice. The principles discussed are also applicable to other healthcare professions. Specifically, it delves into the American Dental Association guidelines tailored for rural settings, emphasizing patient trust and community welfare. Through engaging case studies, participants apply ethical principles to real-world scenarios. Additionally, the course explores cultural nuances within rural contexts, shedding light on how beliefs and values influence patient care. Module Author: Deidre Callanan, RDH, DC, MPH

Dental Practice Management and Provider Wellbeing in Rural Settings

This module explores the unique challenges and opportunities of managing dental practices in rural settings. Students will analyze financial, operational, and staffing considerations, while discovering strategies to enhance provider wellbeing and prevent burnout. Emphasis is placed on community engagement, sustainability, and the rewarding impact of rural practice, equipping learners to thrive in underserved areas. Module Author: Amisha Singh DDS, EdD

Dental Care for those with Special Healthcare Needs in Rural Communities

This module explores dental care for those with special healthcare needs living in rural communities. The module will review various common special healthcare conditions and adaptations to help facilitate care for patients with special healthcare needs. This module will also explore decisional capacity and various types of situations (guardianship, medical proxy, etc) that may be employed when a patient lacks decisional capacity. Module Author: Susan Somerset DMD, PharmD, MS

Oral Health in Older Adults

This module is designed for both dental and nondental professionals who work in rural communities. Key concepts and strategies to improve the oral health of older adults who are either aging in place or living in long term care facilities are described. The focus is on the supportive role of the collaborative team and the