



Rural Nursing Education Program (RNEP)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Prospective & Current Students

What is RNEP?

The Rural Nursing Education Program (RNEP) is a fully remote pre-licensure nursing education model designed to prepare nurses to live, learn, and work in rural communities. Coursework is delivered online, with clinical experiences completed locally in rural healthcare settings.

Who is RNEP designed for?

RNEP is designed for individuals who live in rural communities and want to become registered nurses committed to rural nursing practice.

Is the program fully online?

All didactic coursework is delivered remotely. Clinical experiences are completed in person in the student's local rural community.

What degree will I earn?

Students earn an Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) through RNEP's academic partner.

What support does RNEP provide?

RNEP provides advising, coordination between students, academic partners, and clinical sites, and comprehensive wraparound services—including tutoring, tuition assistance, and travel support to students.

Am I required to work in a rural community after graduation?

Students are expected to seek employment with a participating rural healthcare partner, supporting RNEP's grow-your-own workforce mission.

How are students selected?

Students are nominated by their Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) to apply to the Rural Nursing Education Program (RNEP). Nominated students must complete an RNEP application, which includes meeting academic admissions requirements and demonstrating a commitment to rural nursing practice.

