

Going Rural: Opportunities in Rural Healthcare



Event Information

Presented by:

Rural eMentoring BC and UBC Health

Register for free

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THE UNIVERSITY
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Office of the Vice-President, Health
UBC Health



We would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we gather, work and learn upon is the unceded territory of the Coast Salish Peoples, including the territories of the xwməθkwəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), Stó:lō and Səlílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil- Waututh) Nations. The land has always been a place of learning for the Indigenous peoples, who for millennia have passed on their culture, history, and traditions from one generation to the next. Unceded means that this land was never surrendered, relinquished or handed over in any way.

Land acknowledgment is a part of reconciliation, and as such we give you all the responsibility to continue your self-education by asking questions and learning more about reconciliation. Questions like: What can you do to better care for the land? And Who lived on this land before you?

Land acknowledgment is about reflecting on the places where we reside and work and play, while respecting all peoples and their experiences, but in recognition of the Indigenous traditions and ties to the land.

Land acknowledgment can help build understanding about our relationships and responsibilities to the Indigenous people and lands where we live and work. It is a living celebration of Indigenous communities and relationships, and appreciation for the rich history and culture of the lands where we live and work.

We also invite you all to research what traditional lands you live, work and play in so that you can in your own way give acknowledgment.

Written by Angela Nash ([Wəlastəkweyik](#))

eMentoring Indigenous Initiatives Manager

Everything you need to know about the event:

Click to navigate to each section

[Event Schedule](#)

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[Exhibitors: Meet the programs and schools that will be at the event](#)

[Panel sessions: Meet the Presenters](#)

Register for free

https://ubc.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_838NLg5ZbuiTbGS



Event Schedule: January 28th, 2025

Come and go as you please! Join whichever sessions you want, no need to attend the entire event.

4:30-5pm Check-in - Please join a few minutes early to check-in to the event and confirm the sessions you will be attending. This is also a chance to get familiar with the platform and find where you are going, as we will be starting the sessions right on time!

5-6pm Panel Session: Rural rotations and careers

- Hear from students about working in healthcare settings in rural communities. Learn about what different health professionals do day-to-day, how different professions work collaboratively, and what to expect when going on a rural rotation.
- [Learn more about the panelists here.](#)

6-7pm Virtual booths and exhibitors - Visit virtual booths hosted by a variety of schools and programs from across BC to learn about degree options, admission pathways, and other opportunities. [View the schools and programs attending and learn more.](#)

6-6:20: School and program information session: Short presentations from health professions programs in BC about what degrees they offer and their admissions processes. [View the schools and programs attending the session and learn more.](#)

6:30-7: Rural rotations mixer session – Find your community! Meet other students going on rural rotations. Find students going to the same location as you, so you don't have to go it alone.

- This is a facilitated session where session attendees will introduce themselves and say when and where they are going on rotation.
- When introductions are over, you will be able to freely mix and mingle with other session attendees to find other students going on rotation near you.

7-8pm Panel Session: Going to school for a healthcare career

- Hear from current students in health professions programs who are from rural communities. Learn about the different educational pathways to different degrees, what school is like, and how these students made the transition from rural to urban.
- [Learn more about the panelists here.](#)

Virtual Venue Overview

The event will take place at our virtual space on the Gather.town platform. Imagine if a conference were in a video game!

Joining the venue

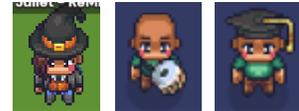
We will send you the link to join the event.

- You **do not** need to sign in or create an account.

Your avatar

Create an avatar that will allow you to interact with the virtual space.

- The panelists, exhibitors, and staff will have custom accessories on their avatars to help you identify them.



Move your avatar to get to the different event sessions, video chat with other attendees, visit virtual booths, and interact with objects.

Instant video chat

Chat with panelists, exhibitors, staff and other attendees

- When you move your avatar close to another person's, your audio and video will automatically connect to theirs, allowing you to chat.
- You will be able to turn your video and mic on and off.



Interact with objects

Like in a video game, you can interact with objects by walking up to them and clicking.

- For example, if you interact with a TV, it might show you a video.



Attending event sessions

Panel and School and Program Information sessions

- Move your avatar to the panel session room and be automatically connected to the livestream.

Exhibitors and virtual booths

- Interact with objects at the booths to view program websites, brochures and videos.
- Chat one-on-one with program representatives.
- [See which programs are attending.](#)

If you'd like to see last year's virtual venue, visit the link below.

- <https://app.gather.town/app/X69UZntetriIoIFB/Going%20Rural>

Featured Programs and Schools

Virtual Booths area – Visit our exhibitors' virtual booths to hear about health professions programs and opportunities throughout BC.

- You will be able to interact with objects at each booth to learn more about the programs.
- Chat one-on-one with program representatives.

School and Program information session: 6-6:20pm – The programs starred below will give a quick presentation about what they offer in this virtual session.

List of Programs: click to learn more about each program

[Rural eMentoring BC*](#)

[UBC Medicine*](#)

[UBC Okanagan School of Nursing*](#)

[D'HoPE – Diversifying Health and Human Services Professions Education*](#)

[Coast Mountain College*](#)

[Selkirk College Rural Pre-medicine Program*](#)

[North Island College - Island Pre-Health Science*](#)

[Thompson Rivers University*](#)

[University of Victoria – Health Information Science*](#)

[College of New Caledonia - Health Science Programs*](#)

[UBC Pharmaceutical Sciences*](#)

[EducationPlannerBC](#)

[UBC Dentistry and Dental Hygiene](#)

Rural eMentoring BC

- **About:** Are you a rural student or a student who is interested in rural healthcare? Could you use some help or advice planning for your future? Of course you could! Join eMentoring and be mentored by a student in the health professions program of your choice. Drop by the eMentoring booth to learn about the program and to sign up for free. Everyone who signs up will have a chance to win a prize!
- **Will have program representatives at the event.**
- **Attending the program information session.**

UBC Medicine

- **About:** Are you interested in becoming a physician and practicing in northern and/or rural settings? Would you like to hear from medical students and program staff about unique pathways to becoming a doctor? Drop by our booth to learn about the program and hear directly from current medical students who currently study in our Northern Medical Program.
- **Will have program representatives at the event.**
- **Attending the program information session.**

UBC Okanagan School of Nursing

- **About:** Discover your future in healthcare at UBC Okanagan's School of Nursing! Set in the beautiful Okanagan Valley, our program combines hands-on experience, top-tier education, and a welcoming community. Prepare for an exciting career while studying close to home or exploring new horizons. Join a supportive network, learn from expert faculty, and make a difference in healthcare. Take your first step toward a fulfilling career with us!

- **Will have program representatives at the event.**
- **Attending the program information session.**

D’HoPE – Diversifying Health and Human Services Professions Education

- **About:** Bringing health profession education support to the North. D'HoPE is a summer program connecting people interested in a healthcare career to resources, role models, and information that will help support them in this goal through a fun interactive environment. D’HoPE has run successfully in Vancouver for 3 years and we are currently in the process of designing a program to fit the needs of more rural and Northern BC communities and we would love to hear from you!
- **Will have program representatives at the event.**
- **Attending the program information session.**

Coast Mountain College

- **About:** Coast Mountain College (CMTN) offers exciting options in health care training including programs to become a Registered Nurse, Licensed Practical Nurse and Health Care Assistant. Study at our campus in Terrace, BC, a northern community with abundant skiing, hiking and mountain biking as well as affordable student housing. CMTN creates a supportive environment with small class sizes, newly renovated nursing labs, and classrooms with updated technology and equipment for healthcare training.
- **Will have program representatives at the event.**
- **Attending the program information session.**

Selkirk College Rural Pre-Medicine Program

- **About:** Study with Rural Pre-Medicine (RPM) at Selkirk College and begin your path toward a fulfilling career in the health sciences. Graduates from RPM have continued on to medicine, pharmacy, midwifery, physical therapy, and more! Stop by to learn about our amazing program in the beautiful West Kootenay.
- **Will have program representatives at the event.**
- **Attending the program information session.**

North Island College – Island Pre-Health Science

- **About:** Do you want to prepare for professional health science programs, but with a Vancouver Island focus? Are you interested in how you can complete all the required university-level courses and credits you need in 3 years, so you have OPTIONS? Are you looking for a personalized education experience and want to live in the beautiful Comox Valley? North Island College’s Island Pre-Health Science program may be the right choice for you! Come chat to learn more.
- **Will have program representatives at the event.**
- **Attending the program information session.**

Thompson Rivers University

- **About:** Are you interested in Health Care related fields and need some help deciding what pathway is best for you? Explore your options with Thompson Rivers University, we have a variety of options to choose from!
- **Will have program representatives at the event.**
- **Attending the program information session.**

University of Victoria – Health Information Science

- **About:** We are global leaders in health informatics education, research, and our programs are a model that has been implemented around the world. With the current global changes and demands in health care, this is a dynamic and rapidly expanding field of study. This impacts the planning, design, implementation, and evaluation of the latest health information systems in diverse health care settings. In our programs, students will benefit from small classes, internationally-renowned faculty members and instructors who bring their extensive experience into the classroom, a strong cohort experience, and hands-on paid work experience. They will learn how to help health care professionals by utilizing and optimizing technological solutions within the health industry.
- **Will have program representatives at the event.**
- **Attending the program information session.**

College of New Caledonia – Health Science Programs

- **About:** Are you ready to launch your career in health science? The College of New Caledonia offers over 10 exciting, fast-track health science programs that can be completed in 2 years or less—plus, each program includes built-in practicums to give you invaluable hands-on experience! Get ready for a rewarding career with great pay and job stability. Our programs include: -Medical Radiography (X-Ray Technician) -Dental Hygienist -Sonography (Ultrasound Technician) -Practical Nurse (2-year program) -Nursing Baccalaureate (4-year Bachelor of Nursing) -Dental Assisting -Medical Laboratory Technology -Medical Device Reprocessing -Health Care Assistant (Free education + stipend provided!) Don't miss out—take the first step toward a fulfilling, in-demand career today!
- **Will have program representatives at the event.**
- **Attending the program information session.**

UBC Pharmaceutical Sciences

- **About:** Founded in 1946, the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences at UBC enjoys an international reputation in pharmacy education, innovation in pharmacy practice, and research in the pharmaceutical sciences. Each year, we educate close to 900 undergraduate students and train more than 50 graduate students. Our alumni, numbering close to 7,000, have established themselves as successful pharmacists, scientists, teachers, entrepreneurs, leaders and innovators the world over.
- **Will have program representatives at the event.**
- **Attending the program information session.**

EducationPlannerBC

- **About:** Are you curious about going to post-secondary in B.C.? Come explore our website! EducationPlannerBC is home to the provincial post-secondary application service and valuable resources. Learn how to create an account, save programs, paths, and careers to My List, and apply to institutions in B.C. Search thousands of programs, get to know trades, and discover career paths. Find helpful resources, including financial aid options, admission requirements, FAQs, the Glossary, and more. Find Your Path at EducationPlannerBC. www.EducationPlannerBC.ca

UBC Dentistry and Dental Hygiene

- **About: Dentistry Program** – The Doctor of Dental Medicine degree is a full-time, four-year didactic and clinical educational program that prepares students to enter the profession of dentistry. Applicants for admission must have completed all required courses and 90 credits by the end of August of the year the candidate submits the application. Successful graduates of the program will be evidence-informed and technically competent practitioners with an understanding of the role of the dentist as an ethical health professional and a leader in the community.

Dental Hygiene Program: The Entry-to-Practice Admission Option is a full-time, four-year degree program at UBC-Vancouver that includes didactic and clinical instruction and leads to a Bachelor's Degree in Dental Science (Dental Hygiene). The program is open to both secondary school graduates and applicants with post-secondary experience.

Panel Sessions

Rural rotations and careers panel session | 5-6pm Pacific Time Zone

Hear from these students and recent alums about their experiences working in healthcare settings in rural communities. They will talk about what different health professionals do day-to-day, how different professions work collaboratively, and what it is like to go on a rural rotation.

Panelist Bios

Gabrielle Caillier (she/her): UBC Master of Physical Therapy Northern Program, class of 2024.



Gabrielle was born and raised in Prince George, BC and, prior to joining the Physical Therapy Program, completed a Bachelor of Health Science Degree at UNBC, majoring in Community and Population Health: Aboriginal and Rural Health. Gabrielle has done rotations at Kitimat General Hospital and Child Development Center, Prince George UHNBC IP Rehab and Prince Rupert Regional Hospital PRISM Clinic. Gabrielle is currently working in Fort St John at the Child Development Centre and Freedom Physiotherapy.

Career: Physical Therapist

Tara Luk (she/her): UBC PharmD, class of 2021



Tara was born and raised in Kitsilano/East Vancouver with no plans of ever working rurally. But she discovered the wider scope, larger impact, and lifestyle benefits of rural practice while on rotation in Port Alberni, Powell River, Penticton, and Dawson Creek during her training. She is currently working as a pharmacist in Fort St. John. She completed a residency in Prince George and is now practicing as a primary care pharmacist in Fort St. John.

Career: Clinical Pharmacist

Seamus Damström (he/him): UBC, Land and Food Systems, Dietetics Major Program



Seamus is Oneida with Czech ancestry on his mother's side and Swedish and Irish ancestry on his father's side. He was born in Cranbrook BC and grew up in Terrace BC. His post-secondary journey led him to the College of the Rockies and UBC, where he completed a 10-month placement travelling across Northern BC with Northern Health. Throughout his journey of reclaiming his Indigenous identity, he has recognized the significance of food and Land in building relationships and strengthening connection between language and health.

Career: Public Health Dietitian in Population Health with Interior Health

Mattias Wels-Lopez (he/him): UBC Northern Medical Program, class of 2025



Mattias is in his final year of medical school. He did his clerkship rural family medicine block in Haida Gwaii and is hoping to work rurally in the future as well as work in Emergency medicine in smaller towns. He grew up in North Vancouver but has come to love rural living.

Desired career: Rural physician

Going to school for a healthcare career - Panel Session | 7-8pm

These current health professions students are originally from rural communities and are eager to share their journeys to their current program and school. They will share how they chose their current program, their strategies for applying to schools as a rural student, what their degree program is like and how they made the transition from rural to urban.

Panelist Bios

Alisha Thapar (she/her): UNBC Nursing 2023, UBC Northern Medical Program Year 2.



Alisha was born in Quesnel, BC and graduated from UNBC with a Bachelor's of Science in Nursing (BScN). After working with many amazing physicians in the healthcare setting, she realized she wanted to become a physician as well, and was accepted into medical school.

Desired career: Physician

Alexis Magrath (she/her): UBC Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD) program Year 3.



Alexis is originally from Prince George, BC. Midway through completing her Bachelors of Health Sciences from the University of Northern British Columbia, Alexis decided to pursue a career as a general dentist. She took one gap year between graduating and entering the DMD program at the University of British Columbia, during which she worked full time inside the local school district as a substitute teacher.

Desired career: General dentist

Aashna Thapar (she/her): UNBC - Northern Collaborative Baccalaureate Nursing Program



Aashna graduated from her Bachelor of Science in Nursing in May 2024 and has worked as a registered nurse since September 2024. She works in Primary Care within an interprofessional team where she helps clients access assisted living, long term care, and home care.

Career: Registered Nurse

Ilianna Doornbos (she/her): UBC PharmD Program Year 4,
UNBC Health and Human Sciences BSc (Biomedical Studies major)



Ilianna is a passionate individual in the process of completing her final year of the UBC PharmD program. Born and raised in Prince George, Ilianna aspires to complete a hospital residency after graduation to practice as a clinical pharmacist and continue to advocate for the profession of pharmacy in underserved/rural communities.

Desired career: Clinical (Hospital Ward) Pharmacist.