



Tobacco Facts

- * Annually, 443,000 people in the United States die prematurely from tobacco.
- * Although known to cause cancer, heart disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and emphysema, tobacco is still used by 1 out of every 5 American adults.
- * Almost 40% of tobacco users made a quit attempt the preceding year.
- * Approximately 70% of tobacco users want to quit. Brief advice to quit from healthcare providers is associated with a 30% increase in the number of people who quit.

Contact Information

Direct questions about the USF AHEC ICBS Program to:

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About USF AHEC

The **USF AHEC Program** connects students to careers, professionals to communities and communities to better health. We inspire, train, recruit and retain a diverse and broad range of health professionals to practice in communities where the need is greatest.

The **USF AHEC Program** began in 1993 and covers a nine-county area on the central west coast of the state. Community activities are carried out by our two local AHEC Centers, **Gulfcoast North AHEC** in Land O' Lakes serving Citrus, Hernando, Pasco, Hillsborough and Pinellas counties and **Gulfcoast South AHEC** in Sarasota, which serves Charlotte, Desoto, Manatee and Sarasota counties.

The **USF AHEC Program** and its Centers coordinate clinical training opportunities at community-based sites for students who are enrolled in a health professions training program. The AHEC sites bring health disparities to life for students, who see first-hand the needs of uninsured and underinsured patients.

We recruit talented, dedicated health professionals who want to make a difference in the community and match them with positions in medically underserved communities. And we support local health care by providing resources such as continuing education programs, library services and technical assistance to meet health professionals' needs in order to retain them in the communities who need them most.

Sponsored by the University of South Florida AHEC Program and the Florida Department of Health



Interdisciplinary Community Health Scholars

USF AREA HEALTH
EDUCATION CENTER
PROGRAM



Connecting students
to careers, professionals to
communities and communities
to better health.



Who are Interdisciplinary Community Health Scholars?

Interdisciplinary Community Health Scholars are health professions students interested in working with rural and medically underserved populations. They use the training and skill sets of their respective disciplines to create unique, comprehensive solutions to health disparities impacting local communities.

ICHS participants spend eight weeks of their summer working part time on four-person teams. These teams develop and implement projects that have a direct impact on the health status of medically underserved communities.

Who is eligible?

Health professions students from a variety of primary care and related disciplines are eligible to participate:

- * Allopathic, osteopathic and physical therapy students during the summer between their first and second years
- * Graduate nursing students in adult, family, geriatric, women's health, pediatric or psychiatric nurse practitioner programs
- * Graduate public health and/or social work students
- * Undergraduate nursing students
- * Dental hygiene/assistant students
- * Select undergraduate pre-health professions students

When does ICHS take place?

June 8 - July 31, 2009. Participants will attend an orientation and additional seminars throughout the 8-week experience. Mandatory attendance is required at all seminars.

Where will ICHS take place?

Teams will work in the [Gulfcoast North AHEC](#) service area (Citrus, Hernando, Pasco, Hillsborough and Pinellas counties); and the [Gulfcoast South AHEC](#) service area (Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte and Desoto counties).

Two teams will be based at each Center and will work there (and in the service area) 8 hours/day, three days each week.

What are the components of the program?

ICHS participants will work with medically vulnerable populations and the community partners who care for them.

ICHS projects will focus on tobacco's impact on medically vulnerable populations. As the leading contributor to morbidity and mortality in the United States, healthcare professionals are regularly confronted with the consequences of their patients' tobacco use. ICHS projects will address health conditions related to tobacco use, youth tobacco prevention, cessation services for tobacco users and tobacco counter marketing via social networking applications.

Teams will present results of their efforts to community partners, AHEC staff and guests upon completion of the program.

What are the benefits of participating in ICHS?

- * Students will receive a **\$2,500** stipend
- * Students *may* be eligible to receive elective course credit/field experience from their respective academic programs for their participation (pending approval of advisor and/or field placement coordinator)
- * Participation provides an excellent experience to include on résumés and contacts for possible future career opportunities
- * Travel stipends (beyond commuting to/from the AHEC office) are provided

How do I apply for ICHS?

- * Complete an application for [Gulfcoast North AHEC](#) or [Gulfcoast South AHEC](#), available online at www.health.usf.edu/ahec/ICHS
- * Include a letter of recommendation from an advisor/instructor familiar with your ability.
- * Enclose a set of official transcripts along with your completed application and letter of recommendation.

ICHS is limited to 16 participants (four teams of four). Following review of applications, individuals will be informed of their status. Select candidates will then be invited to interview with AHEC staff.

The application deadline for ICHS is April 10, 2009