The Northwest AHEC region extends west from the piedmont into the Blue Ridge Mountains, spanning 17 counties. Northwest AHEC has its primary affiliation with the Wake Forest University School of Medicine in Winston-Salem and is guided by a steering committee with representatives from Wake Forest University School of Medicine; the University of North Carolina at Greensboro School of Nursing; Winston-Salem State University School of Nursing and Allied Health; regional health agencies; and regional health professional advisory committees. As one of nine centers in the state, the Northwest AHEC carries out its mission with state as well as local funding.

Northwest AHEC serves seventeen counties: Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Davidson, Davie, Forsyth, Iredell, Rowan, Stokes, Surry, Watauga, Wilkes, and Yadkin. In order to serve its large geographical area effectively, Northwest AHEC has three regional bases at community hospitals in addition to its Winston-Salem office. The bases are located at Catawba Memorial Hospital, Hickory; Rowan Regional Medical Center, Salisbury; and Watauga Medical Center, Boone. The regional bases house library collections, staff, and classroom facilities for continuing education programs. Continuing education staff and the fourth AHEC library are located in Winston-Salem in offices near Wake Forest University School of Medicine.
Health Workforce

In recognition of the central importance of recruitment and retention issues, the Northwest AHEC has established a Health Workforce Development Section. Among other activities, academic year and summer internships are provided for high school students/faculty, dislocated workers, displaced homemakers, and other interested individuals. Internships include presentations, work-observation experiences, and tours of the various health agencies. Special emphasis is given to the recruitment and retention of minorities, specifically African Americans, Hispanics, and American Indians, into the health professions. The establishment of a Council on Health Manpower Development will be pivotal in our efforts to address minority representation and to bring about parity. The Allied Health Section of this Council has established the only regional council to interact with the Council on Allied Health in North Carolina around issues such as recruitment and retention.

Northwest AHEC Administration

Addresses: Northwest AHEC
Wake Forest University School of Medicine
Medical Center Boulevard
Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27157-1060

Boone: Watauga Medical Center
336 Deerfield Road, PO Box 2600
Boone, NC 28607

Hickory: Catawba Memorial Hospital
810 Fairgrove Church Road
Hickory, NC 28602-9643

Salisbury: Rowan Regional Medical Center
612 Mocksville Avenue
Salisbury, NC 28144

URL: http://www.northwestahec.wfubmc.edu/

University Affiliation: Wake Forest University School of Medicine

Allied Health Education: Vacant

Housing: Office of Regional Primary Care Education
Phone: (336) 713-7043; Fax: (336) 713-7027
Ashley Dunham, ORPCE Director

Sherry Raiford, ORPCE Administrative Secretary and Housing Contact Person
TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATIONS

Housing in Northwest AHEC is comprised of AHEC apartments and accommodations in private homes. It varies from city to city and according to seasonal demand. The AHEC office has excellent contacts within the community that they have worked with towards the goal of housing all of the students desirous of coming to the area. Unfortunately, in the popular areas, such as Hickory, where Catawba Memorial Hospital is located, housing is not always available.

REMEMBER THAT ALL HOUSING MUST BE SCHEDULED THROUGH JULIE CANNEFAX AT UNC-CHAPEL HILL

This is an example of an AHEC apartment located close to Watauga Medical Center in Boone.
Boone

Two-bedroom apartments, each with full size bed. The bedroom doors have locks and, if okay with each occupant, there may be the need to have male and female living in the apartment (separate bedrooms, of course!) during the same time period. Apartment keys and information are at the Emergency Room/Security Office in the rear of Watauga Medical Center. There will be a check-in sheet to fill out when you pick up your keys and info. In the winter months, remember to bring warm clothing, boots, gloves, and a hat. Also check your car’s antifreeze. Linens are at the apartment, but you are welcome to bring your own. There is no television, but there is a hookup to cable if you should bring your own. The apartment and the linens, if used, must be cleaned prior to leaving the apartment. Remember to turn in the key at the AHEC office, the AHEC library or, after 5pm, to the Security Office at the hospital before you leave.

No pets or overnight guests.

Directions to NW AHEC at Boone in the Watauga Medical Center

Entering Boone on Hwy 421 (from Winston-Salem/Wilkesboro): Turn left at 4th stoplight (Dollar Mart convenience store on left). You will be on Hwy 105 extension. Go to the next stoplight and turn left onto State Farm Road. Go to the end of State Farm Road. At STOP sign, you will see the medical center in front of you (Deerfield Road). Cross Deerfield Road into the medical center parking lot.

Winston-Salem

Two-bedroom apartments, each with full size bed. Apartment keys and information should be picked up between the hours of 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, M-F, from Sue Ratcliffe (336) 716-9891 at the NW AHEC. Sue’s office is located at the Piedmont Plaza One, First Street, Winston-Salem (directions below). There will be an inventory sheet to fill out and return to Sue as well. In the winter months, remember to bring warm clothing, boots, gloves, and a hat. Also check your car’s antifreeze. Linens are at the apartment, but you are welcome to bring your own. There is no television, but there is a hookup to cable if you should bring your own. The apartment and the linens, if used, must be cleaned prior to leaving the apartment. Remember to turn in the key and the “Items to be Completed Before You Leave” sheet to Sue Ratcliffe or Martha Shouse before you leave.

No pets or overnight guests.

° Apartment details for one area generally similar to all Northwest AHEC apartments.
Directions to NW AHEC at Piedmont Plaza One in Winston-Salem

Business I-40 West from Greensboro: take the first Stratford Road Exit. Turn right and go through the first stoplight. Piedmont Plaza One (at 1920 West First Street) will be the second building on your right. Limited visitor parking is available at the rear of the building. Enter the building through the revolving doors and take the elevator to the second floor. When you get off the elevator, turn left. Family & Community Medicine Conference Room B is down the hall.

Salisbury

One, one-bedroom apartment, with two single beds. Two to three students can stay in the apartment, but must share one bath. For key information, pick-up, and directions please call Nancy Stine (704-638-1069) at the Salisbury AHEC DURING BUSINESS HOURS. Linens are at the apartment, but you are welcome to bring your own. There is no television, but you may bring your own (there is no cable). The apartment and the linens, if used, must be cleaned prior to leaving the apartment. Remember to turn in the key at the AHEC office during business hours, or make prior arrangements with the Salisbury AHEC.

No pets or overnight guests.

Morganton

One, two-bedroom apartment. One bedroom has two twin beds and the other has one. Three students can stay in the apartment, and there are two full baths. For key information and directions please call Barbara Sigmon (HICKORY AHEC) at 828-326-3492 DURING BUSINESS HOURS. Linens are at the apartment, but you are welcome to bring your own. There is no television, but you may bring your own (there is no cable). The apartment and the linens, if used, must be cleaned prior to leaving the apartment. Remember to turn in the key at the AHEC office during business hours, or make prior arrangements with the Barbara Sigmon at the HICKORY AHEC.

No pets or overnight guests.

Hickory

There is housing in Hickory but only on a case by case basis. Please bring your own towels and sheets.
In addition to NW AHEC’s housing in the aforementioned cities, there is also housing that is potentially available in the following areas: Banner Elk, Blowing Rock, Boone, Conover, Elkin, Jefferson, Lenoir, Lewisville, Mooresville, Mount Airy, North Wilkesboro, and Sparta.