The East Tennessee State University Rural Primary Care Track (RPCT) is a 4-year community-based experiential curriculum whose core goals emphasize community, rural culture, interdisciplinary team interactions, and leadership development. Rural Medicine is at the very heart of the mission of the Quillen College of Medicine at East Tennessee State University. The Quillen COM is ranked third in the nation for excellence in rural medicine education by U.S. News & World Report in its “America’s Best Graduate Schools” 2011 edition. For several consecutive years, ETSU has been ranked among the top 10 schools in the country for rural medicine. U.S. News & World Report also ranked ETSU in the top 25% of medical schools for primary care education. In 2007 the National Rural Health Association (NRHA) bestowed the “Outstanding Rural Health Program of the Year” award to the Community Partnerships for Health Professionals Education Program at ETSU.

- Began in 1992 in Johnson and Hawkins counties, as a result of a grant by the Kellogg Foundation and continues as a key initiative at ETSU.
- Comprised of health science colleges (medical and undergraduate nursing, public health, and other health professional students) in interdisciplinary teams.
- Experiences are community/patient-oriented with lots of time for feedback and discussion with rural faculty.
- Teaches community-based participatory research, community assessment, and program planning and evaluation skills.
- The educational experiences occur in rural communities located approximately one-hour drive from the main campus.
- Available to all students who have been admitted to the James H. Quillen College of Medicine.
- This program is ideal for students who prefer early rural clinical and community experiences.
- 74% of Rural Primary Care Track students are from rural counties.

Of the 252 medical graduates who have completed the RPCT curriculum
- 75% have chosen primary care residency training
- 45% chose to stay in Tennessee for residency training

Of the first 35 Rural Primary Care Track graduates who have completed their residencies:
- Twenty (80%) are now in practice in towns of less than 25,000 persons
- Thirteen practice in Tennessee
- Five practice in rural counties in Virginia, North Carolina, Kentucky and West Virginia
- Two are members of the ETSU faculty

For more information on the Rural Primary Care Track and other programs of the Rural Programs Division of the ETSU Department of Family Medicine can be found at [http://www.etsu.edu/com/ruralprograms/rpct/introduction.aspx](http://www.etsu.edu/com/ruralprograms/rpct/introduction.aspx) or contact Rural Programs Coordinator Carolyn Sliger at (423) 439-6737, sliger@etsu.edu.