

Please read the following carefully if you are interested in the Greater Seattle Option (GSO). We fully support the strength of the WWAMI model, which offers students valuable clinical experiences across five states and a range of patient populations and practice settings. GSO provides an opportunity for students to complete up to 24 of the 42 weeks of the Patient Care Phase (PCP) in the Greater Seattle area. Selection is competitive and determined by UWSOM deans based on the criteria outlined below.

GSO is typically considered for students with extenuating personal circumstances such as being the **primary** caretaker of a dependent with high care needs.

Legal constraints related to state and federal laws and how they pertain to individuals and protected class status also impact selection.

- Personal health-related issues **cannot** be considered by the student affairs team for GSO placement and must go through Disability Resources for Students (DRS). Do not include any personal health information in your application, as student affairs does not manage or store health records. We strongly recommend starting the DRS process for clerkship accommodations now. DRS will determine if a location-based accommodation is appropriate and how much time in Seattle may be granted. As a reminder, DRS accommodation letters that are not received by the registration team before September when PCP scheduling begins may not be able to be implemented for the PCP phase that starts the following Spring. This may result in delay of graduation to allow for scheduling at DRS-required sites.

<https://education.uwmedicine.org/information-for-incoming-uw-school-of-medicine-students/uw-disability-resources-accommodations/>

- Students with personal safety concerns are not automatically placed in GSO but may be able to avoid certain WWAMI locations. Please contact Dr. Melinda Frank (mmfrank@uw.edu) now to discuss options.

The number of GSO spots changes each year based on clerkship availability and the number of applicants. Each application is reviewed individually, and circumstances vary widely. Even if a peer was granted GSO in a previous year for similar or less significant reasons, that does not guarantee placement or approval in your case.

Due to limited availability, the following criteria are NOT used to influence selection:

- Responsibility for pets/animals
- Housing/home ownership
- Students planning for future pregnancy
- Partners' jobs/needs
- Research or career considerations

- Presence or absence of social support

Should there be leftover spots after initial selection, a second lottery may take place for any student interested in GSO for any reason to fill the remaining spots.

If you have any questions about the GSO process, please email gesarah@uw.edu and sardesai@uw.edu. Thank you!