

Carefully read the following if you are interested in the Greater Seattle Option (GSO).

The WWAMI educational model offers students valuable clinical experiences across five states with a range of patient populations and practice settings. We find this experience to be unparalleled in the world of undergraduate medical education.

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 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. State and federal laws and how they pertain to protected class status also impact selection.

- Personal health-related issues **cannot** be considered for GSO placement. You must go through Disability Resources for Students (DRS) for location-based accommodations.
- Do not include any personal health information in your application, as academic 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, location-based 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 sites that meet your accommodation needs.

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

- Students with personal safety concerns based on identity are not automatically placed in GSO but may be able to avoid certain WWAMI locations. Please contact Dr. Melinda Frank ([mmfrank@uw.edu](mailto: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 is/was granted GSO for reasons you find to be similar or less significant to your own, 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
- Constraints related to health insurance or location of current or future medical providers

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 remaining spots.

If you have any questions about the GSO process, please email [gesarah@uw.edu](mailto:gesarah@uw.edu) and [sardesai@uw.edu](mailto:sardesai@uw.edu). Thank you!