



MONTANA WWAMI
TRUST
UW SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



Montana TRUST – Montana WWAMI Produces Physicians to Help Meet Montana's Workforce Needs

Montana WWAMI graduates both return to the state and choose primary care specialties (internists, pediatricians and family docs) at a higher rate than the national average. Montana, with its large landmass and sparse population, benefits from these more generalist physicians who return to practice in Montana's small towns.

Montana TRUST (Targeted Rural Underserved Track) – a rural focused track bringing physicians home to rural Montana!

TRUST provides students with a longitudinal continuity connection between rural/underserved communities, faculty and patients. There are 13 TRUST communities in the state. The program promotes and supports students' interests in rural/underserved health workforce training. Current student return data shows half of the TRUST students are returning to rural locations after their residency training. Fifty-three percent match into primary care specialties; this number goes to 74% when the needed specialties in the state of surgery, Ob/Gyn and psychiatry are included.

Teaching Montanans to Become Montana Physicians – Yearly ROI

For each year a physician practices in a community they provide \$3 million of economic stimulus. In 2024 there were 417 WWAMI graduates practicing in Montana, equating to \$1.25 billion of economic stimulus to the state of Montana. AMA 2018 Economic Impact Study and How Physicians Improve U. S. Economic Health.

Why TRUST?

TRUST was created to provide a physician workforce for rural and underserved communities in Montana. **Key components:**

- 12 of the 30 MT WWAMI students are admitted as TRUST scholars
- Targeted admissions of students with background and knowledge of rural underserved communities in Montana
- Longitudinal continuity experiences with TRUST communities in Montana, starting with a two-week community immersion prior to medical school and additional continuity experiences during the first two years including one month between years one and two
- Completion of WRITE (WWAMI Rural Integrated Training Experience) for 21-24 weeks of clinical training at students' TRUST sites during the third year of medical school
- Options to complete rotations during their 4th year at students' TRUST sites
- Rural/underserved-focused curriculum during years 1 and 2
- Specialized leadership retreats for TRUST scholars
- Assistance with specialty choice and career planning during TRUST
- Assistance with recruitment back to Montana

TRUST First Summer Experience (FSE)
Rural/Small City Continuity Community Experience (varies by location, approx. 4-12 days,

Foundations Phase

- Continuity Community Visits
- Participation in Pathways encouraged
- TRUST Leadership Retreat
- Rural/Underserved Opportunity Program (RUOP)
- Continuity Community Oriented Scholarly Project (4 weeks)

Admissions

Students apply to the UMSOM and are admitted as TRUST Scholars via a targeted admissions process

Rural & Underserved Communities

TRUST aspires to take students from rural or under-resourced communities with an interest in medicine, nurture a connection, and improve workforce needs in WWAMI states



Patient Care Phase

Continue Continuity Community Linkages

WWAMI Rural Integrated Training Experience (WRITE)

Primary Care Clerkship at Continuity Community (21-24 weeks)

Pathways Encouraged

TRUST Faculty
Faculty Development offered to TRUST faculty to continually improve TRUST experience.

Regional Residency Programs

Encourage students to pursue residency programs that are in rural-needed specialties like family medicine, primary care internal medicine, general surgery & psychiatry

Explore and Focus Phase

- Continue Continuity Community Linkages
- Rural Clinical Elective
- Residency Linkages
- Pathways Encouraged



Integrating into a Community. The Touchpoints of TRUST:

FSE (First Summer Experience): a 14-day community immersion at designated TRUST site that occurs prior to matriculating.

RUOP (Rural Underserved Opportunities Program): a four-week summer experience after first year of schooling that provides an opportunity to put didactic training into practice and includes a community-oriented project.

WRITE (WWAMI Rural Integrated Training Experience) runs 21-24 weeks at TRUST site & occurs during clinical phase of training.

The TRUST program mentors students as they choose a specialty and residency.

TRUST PROGRAM

2024-2025



UW Medicine
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11/1/24



Entering 2024 TRUST Class

Montana WWAMI welcomed 12 Montana students to the TRUST program. Their hometowns are Belfry, Billings, Bozeman, Box Elder, Cascade, Helena, Park City, Philipsburg, Plentywood, Red Lodge, and White Sulphur Springs. These new TRUST students spent time over the summer getting to know their communities and the medical teams. Over their medical school careers, these students will periodically circle back to these sites including during foundations phase, for RUOP, and then to complete WRITE during their patient care phase.

TRUST Student Comments

I chose TRUST because I have always dreamed of returning to eastern Montana as a rural physician. This program has shown me what it really means to be a small-town doctor: hands-on experience with nursing home rounds, deliveries, and hospitalist work has offered an incredible educational experience thus far. Since TRUST students still receive plenty of time in Seattle at a world-class academic institute, we truly have the best of both worlds. – Trey Dschaak, E21 TRUST Scholar, Miles City. Hometown, Volborg

What I love the most about the TRUST program are the continuity opportunities. When I was heading into clinical rotations, I already knew the doctors that I would be working with, their expectations as well as the hospital system, taking away a lot of the anxiety of preparing for rotations. I was able to follow patients and their progress over the four years, which is such a unique experience! I had patients that I worked with since I started my time at my TRUST site and was able to build a relationship with them, so that they regarded me as their provider and trusted me. The doctors that trained me took pride in the education they gave me and are excited that I plan to return to work with them in the future. I felt well trained heading into residency, as I felt I had the best of both worlds: incredible autonomy and procedural experience from my TRUST site, which allowed me to work at an intern level when I reached the big hospitals of Seattle. When doing residency interviews, programs were impressed at the level of training I had received, my confidence in procedures, and my relationship with my patients. My community project on suicide prevention that I completed during my time in the program was the jewel of my residency application, and personally rewarding as I was able to see a real impact on my community. I look forward to my future goal of returning to a rural practice. – Kelsie Delaney, E17 TRUST Scholar, Polson. Hometown, Polson

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