



Are you interested in rural and underserved medicine?

If the answer is **YES**, consider the [Montana WWAMI TRUST](#) program!

The Targeted Rural Underserved Track (TRUST) curriculum is a longitudinal medical school experience in rural and small city underserved communities, with a goal to produce physicians committed to practice in the rural and underserved areas of Montana and the WWAMI region.

What I love the most about the TRUST program are the continuity opportunities. When I was heading into clinical rotations, I knew the doctors that I would be working with, their expectations and the hospital system - it took a lot of anxiety out of preparation for rotations. I also have been able to follow patients and their progress over the four years, which is such a unique experience! I have patients that I have worked with since I started my time at my TRUST site; I 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 were excited that I plan 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. I had 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 the relationship with my patients that I can talk about with passion. My project that I completed during my time in the program was the jewel of my residency application, and personally rewarding as I was able 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**

TRUST offers a unique opportunity for students to make intimate connections with a small community early-on in their medical school continuum. Students become an integral part of the system essential to helping small communities to maintain access to healthcare in rural areas. TRUST students also benefit from a TRUST community of faculty, providers, and peer colleagues.





Understanding the WWAMI Rural Medicine Program

What is TRUST?

(Targeted Rural UnderServed Track)

TRUST provides Montana WWAMI students with a longitudinal continuity connection between rural/underserved communities, TRUST preceptors and their patients.

With admission through a targeted admissions process, TRUST students are linked to their rural/underserved communities and with existing UW courses and programs, such as the Underserved Pathway, Rural and Underserved Opportunities Program (RUOP), and the 4-6 months in the WWAMI Rural Integrated Training Program (WRITE).

The TRUST program promotes and supports students' interests in rural/underserved health workforce training.

<http://depts.washington.edu/fammed/education/programs/trust>

What is WRITE?

(WWAMI Rural Integrated Track Experience)

WRITE occurs during the Patient Care Phase, when students head to their TRUST sites for 4-6 months of clerkship training in a longitudinally integrated fashion.

The length of time and the integrated training approach allows students to fully discern the day-to-day workings of a community and practice and to effectively participate as a member of the healthcare team.

Over the course of the WRITE experience, students provide continuity care for a panel of patients while meeting the clerkship requirements in a number of different clinical areas for which they receive credit. Students value the one-on-one teaching and hands-on experience offered by WRITE.

<http://depts.washington.edu/write>

Frequently Asked Questions

Why would I want to participate in the TRUST Program?

The TRUST program is for students who have an interest in a career in rural/underserved medicine. TRUST nurtures the desire to care for underserved populations by matching each TRUST scholar with a rural or underserved community for various educational experiences throughout the medical school years. TRUST scholars participate in many unique learning opportunities, such as experiencing the practice of medicine at their TRUST site, participation in the Underserved Pathway, unique TRUST curricular offerings, leadership training and opportunities to attend a variety of national meetings. Students also form a support network with fellow TRUST scholars, both within their state cohort and with the larger UWSOM TRUST scholar cohort.

Do I have to choose a primary care specialty to participate in TRUST?

No. Participation in TRUST does not require you to commit to any specialty. TRUST is for students who are interested in practicing in a rural or underserved community. TRUST scholars will often choose a primary care specialty (Family Medicine, Internal Medicine or Pediatrics). However, there are a number of other specialties that lend themselves to underserved practice. Recent graduates have matched into the primary care residencies as well as

into the following residencies: General Surgery, Psychiatry, OB/GYN, and others that are complementary to rural medicine.

Participating in TRUST has been advantageous to graduates regardless of the specialty or career path chosen.

If I am not accepted into the TRUST program, am I still eligible to be considered for the regular UW Montana WWAMI admissions pool?

Yes. Not being accepted to TRUST does not preclude you from being accepted for admission into the regular class. However, if you decide at any point after applying, that TRUST may not be the best option for your particular needs, you can withdraw your application anytime up until the last afternoon of interviews.



Frequently Asked Questions

Do I get to choose where I will spend my time?

A process matching TRUST scholars and sites will occur. The exact location for your experiences will be determined after reviewing your application and in consultation with you.

We have a specific number of sites available and sites may change from year to year. Therefore, we will make placements based on information available during this matching process. Placements are based on a knowledge of the TRUST teaching sites, and the TRUST scholars' goals and aspirations for their medical education.

If I participate in TRUST does it eliminate the chance to experience big city clinical medicine?

After WRITE, in the Patient Care phase, students have the opportunity to experience learning in large academic and tertiary care hospitals in Seattle and throughout the WWAMI region.

The Explore and Focus Phase allows students to be in Seattle or in the WWAMI region. TRUST Scholars often comment that they have the best of both worlds in regards to learning experiences: the extended longitudinal learning experience of WRITE, which offers one-on-one and hands-on clinical learning and then time in Seattle in the large tertiary referral center with resident teams.

I am interested in global health, why should I participate in TRUST?

The TRUST program at UWSOM offers opportunities for scholars to spend time in both rural and small city underserved experiences. With these experiences and the Underserved Pathway, our graduates are well prepared to serve underserved populations in a variety of settings including global and urban underserved populations. TRUST scholars have participated in GHIP and international experiences during the Explore and Focus Phase of medical school.

As a TRUST Scholar, do I have any additional payback requirements over a non-TRUST student?

No. All Montana WWAMI students are required to choose a payback or a claw back option through MRPIP (Montana Rural Physician Incentive Program). For students willing to commit to return to the state to practice after residency, they will pay ~\$5400/year x4 years and those unable/unwilling to commit will be assessed ~2 1/2 times that amount (~\$13,500). Amount subject to change. More information can be found at: <https://www.mus.edu/psep/Notice-to-Medical-and-Osteopathic-Applicants-2019.pdf>.

TRUST Curriculum & General Timeline

TRUST First Summer Experience (FSE) (May-August before first academic year begins)

- TRUST scholars spend 10-14 days with their TRUST mentor at their TRUST site in the summer before starting medical school.

Foundations Phase Curriculum (first 18 months)

- Maintain contact with community and site mentor through site visits during appropriate TIM sessions.
- Establish a mentoring relationship with a Big Sky College faculty mentor in Bozeman
- Participate in Journal Club and Osler's Evenings
- TRUST scholars participate in the Rural/Underserved Opportunities Program (R/UOP) and may complete an Independent Investigative Inquiry (iii3) at their TRUST continuity community. Global Health Immersion Program (GHIP) can be substituted for R/UOP, with prior approval.

Patient Care Phase (3rd Year)

- Participate in the Patient Care Phase curriculum including the WRITE experience. In addition to WRITE, TRUST scholars complete the remaining aspect of the Patient Care Phase curriculum in Seattle or throughout the WWAMI region.

TRUST Student Opportunities & Support

Conferences & Leadership opportunities

- TRUST scholars are encouraged to participate in national and regional rural and underserved health conferences at least once during their medical school career, as well as participate in a leadership retreat during both the Foundations Phase and Patient Care Phase.

TRUST scholars are supported in career exploration

- Have the option to enroll in a variety of rural/underserved electives in different disciplines
- Explore opportunities for sub-internships at UWSOM affiliated residencies to help prepare for R-1 year
- Receive residency application counseling and support, career counseling, and assistance with residency application



Watch the video featuring
Justinn Lahaye, MD - from
Saco, MT/TRUST Scholar in
Glasgow/R2 @ University of
Utah Emergency Residency:

[https://www.youtube.com/
watch?v=VIQy6Emor0A](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VIQy6Emor0A)



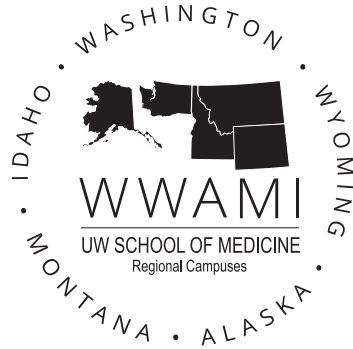
I am extremely grateful that I had the opportunity to be a part of the TRUST program. Since beginning medical school, my future plan has been to become a primary care provider in a rural community. The TRUST program allowed me to become integrated into a rural area and understand firsthand what it would be like to become a provider in a similar community. The extensive hands-on and continuity of care I was able to develop with patients during my clinical experiences in the TRUST program has allowed me to get the very best training in rural medicine and will help me succeed as a practicing physician in a rural hospital. - **Jalyn Huft, E17 Miles City TRUST Scholar/R1**



Montana WWAMI Rural Programs Trust

Like many of you, I read up all about WWAMI and TRUST long before I could even think about applying, and when the time came to decide on TRUST I really hesitated. Rumors swirled about the need to have grown up in a tiny town or sign some sort of binding agreement on specialties long before classes even started. None of that is true, though you probably ought to know a little about what rural medicine actually looks like and why you're a good fit. I'm a Missoula kid, born in Seattle, and couldn't be happier with my opportunity to be a part of TRUST—more hands on learning, more personal care relationships, earlier exposure, and the chance to tap into an apprenticeship-style medical education you'll be hard pressed to find anywhere else.

— *Cy Gilbert, E16 TRUST Scholar, Dillon*



For more information contact:

Lisa Benzel

MT WWAMI TRUST Director
MT RUOP Coordinator
C: 406-660-0246
Fax: 406-683-0438
lisabenz@uw.edu

Jay S. Erickson, M.D.

Asst. Dean for Regional Affairs
Asst. Clinical Dean, WWAMI, MT
O: 406-862-3810
jerick@uw.edu

OR VISIT

<https://education.uwmedicine.org/somrural/programs/trust/>