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 is the continuity opportunities. I am heading into rotations knowing the doctors that I will be working with, their expectations and the hospital system - it takes a lot of anxiety out of preparation for rotations. I also appreciate that I have been able to follow patients and their progress over the past two years. I have patients that I have worked with since I started my time at my TRUST site, and will continue to work with them during my WRITE. It is also very beneficial to spend the time learning the system and community in the area where I want to return to practice. The doctors that are training me take pride in the education they give me and are excited that I will return to work with them in the future. These doctors have trained me well and I feel well prepared - I have noticed my experience has made a big difference in my confidence and capabilities clinically.

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 5-6 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 5-6 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 are accepted into TRUST, you cannot later opt into the regular class instead.
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.
TRUST Curriculum & General Timeline

TRUST First Summer Experience (FSE) (May-August before first academic year begins)
• TRUST scholars spend two weeks 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 EHM 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

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Watch the video featuring Montana’s first TRUST scholar practicing physician at Billings Clinic in Miles City, KayCee Gardner, MD, and her preceptor, Laura Bennett, MD, speak about her TRUST experience in Lewistown: http://youtu.be/La4wc_XYELk

I am from a rural area and plan on practicing in a rural area, so my choice to apply for the TRUST program was an easy one. Through my training as a TRUST student, I have been able to get extensive hands-on experience and have significant continuity with patients. This 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.

Watch the video featuring Justinn:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VlQy6Emor0A
— Justinn Lahaye, E15 TRUST Scholar, Glasgow
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:

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www.uwmedicine.org/education/md-program/admissions/trust