

Greetings Montana WWAMI applicant, for class of E'09,

We would like to inform you of a new opportunity for students applying to the Montana WWAMI program. With the class of E'08, we have initiated the opportunity for a group of students to participate in a focused rural and urban underserved track. The goal of this track, called Montana TRUST (Targeted Rural Underserved Track), is to allow for a focused medical school experience in rural and urban underserved care, with the eventual goal of returning physicians to practice in the rural and urban underserved areas of Montana. Montana TRUST students will have multiple opportunities to experience first hand the joys and satisfaction of practicing medicine in a rural or urban underserved community.

As a Montana TRUST student, you will be linked with a rural or urban underserved practice in Montana. You will have the opportunity to participate in this practice for two weeks during the summer before matriculation and then have opportunities during the first year to return to this practice for extended weekend experiences. After the first year you will return to participate in a Rural Underserved Opportunities Program (R/UOP)<sup>1</sup>, a one month rural or urban underserved opportunity, in this community and complete your Independent Investigative Inquiry (III)<sup>2</sup> research requirement during this time. Also during the first year at MSU-Bozeman you will complete a selective entitled- Rural Health Care Delivery. It is possible to substitute an IHOP (International Health Opportunities Program) experience for the R/UOP described above. This is an international experience in the summer between first and second years.

Upon matriculation, all students are assigned a College mentor<sup>3</sup> with significant rural or underserved experience. Although students will have contact with this College mentor throughout all four years, they will work intensively with them during the second year in the Introduction to Clinical Medicine course. The College mentor will likely become the faculty member with whom the student will have the most connections throughout all four years. TRUST students will also participate in the Underserved Pathway<sup>4</sup> at the UWSOM. This pathway focuses on educating students about the needs and opportunities for underserved populations.

In the third year, Montana TRUST students will return to Montana either at a WWAMI Rural Integrated Training Experience (WRITE)<sup>5</sup> site or to a Billings or Missoula TRACK<sup>6</sup>. The TRACK experience allows students to complete most of their third year in the assigned TRACK community. Those participating in a TRACK experience either in Billings or Missoula and who are interested in rural medicine will do a rural experience away from Billings/Missoula, and those interested in an urban underserved practice will have that emphasis while in Billings/Missoula.

In addition to these opportunities, in the fourth year we will be helping with residency selection and sub-internship experiences at residency programs. Throughout the four years of medical school your mentor and those of us overseeing the Montana-Trust program will continue to mentor and guide your medical school experience.

We currently have grants submitted to be able to provide funding to send Montana TRUST students to regional and national meetings emphasizing rural or urban underserved practice.

Finally, Montana TRUST students will be expected to participate in a moderated online journal club and monthly seminars on topics of rural and underserved care throughout their four years of medical school.

There is a separate one-page application for the TRUST program that is included in the secondary application materials. This application includes a commitment statement, indicating that upon admission to the program the participant intends to complete the program as described.

Students applying to the TRUST program will be interviewed during the first admissions period in Seattle. The interview will emphasize questions regarding an applicant's suitability for completing this program. If a student is not found to be suitable for the TRUST program his/her application will still be considered for

routine admission to the Montana WWAMI program. We will be accepting 5 students into this pathway for the E'09 class.

We understand that students may not be fully familiarized with some of these programs, but if you have significant interest in rural and/or urban underserved medicine and would like to focus your curriculum and medical school experiences around rural/urban underserved medicine, this is the program for you. This is a new and exciting program for the UWSOM and the Montana WWAMI program, and we would be delighted to have you join us!


Sincerely,



Linda Hyman, Ph.D.  
Assistant Dean  
University Phase/Montana  
lhyman@montana.edu



Jay S. Erickson, M.D.  
Assistant Dean  
Clinical Phase/Montana  
jerick@u.washington.edu



Frank Newman, Ph.D.  
Director Montana TRUST  
fnewman@montana.edu

1. <http://depts.washington.edu/fammed/predoc/programs/ruop>
2. <http://depts.washington.edu/fammed/predoc/programs/ruop/iii3>
3. <http://courses.washington.edu/colleges/>
4. <http://courses.washington.edu/upathway/>
5. <http://depts.washington.edu/write/>
6. <http://www.billingstrack.org/>

## Montana TRUST Questions

### 1. Why would I want to participate in the Montana TRUST program?

For those students entering medical school with a desire to practice medicine in a rural or urban underserved practice, this pathway offers an excellent opportunity to nurture and nourish that desire. It will offer opportunities not available to all Montana WWAMI students. You will have a mentor who will be present throughout your medical school journey. The TRUST staff will help and advise as you progress through medical school and on into residency. We also hope to offer attendance at regional and national meetings of importance to rural and urban underserved health.

### 2. Will participating in Montana TRUST require significantly more time in medical school?

Not generally. The observation experience before starting medical school is an extra time experience as are the observation experiences during the first year. The evening seminars and journal club will require some additional time. But most WWAMI students choose to participate in the RUOP experience, and the III research requirement is required of all students. Completing either WRITE or the TRACK is a part of the third year required curriculum. Attending a national or regional meeting would require some additional time. So, while the additional requirements do necessitate some additional time, we feel that they represent unique opportunities that will help guide you on your path to becoming a physician who practices in a rural or urban underserved community.

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

No. Students who participate in TRUST will generally choose a primary care specialty (Family Medicine, Internal Medicine or Pediatrics). But other specialties lend themselves to rural and urban underserved practices, such as: Surgery, Psychiatry, Obstetrics and Gynecology, ER, and possibly others.

### 4. Do I get to choose where I will spend my mentorship time?

Yes and no. We will allow you to choose whether you wish to be in a rural or underserved practice but the exact locations will be made after reviewing your application and in consultation with you. We have a limited number of sites and therefore we will make placements based on the above criteria.

### 5. What are urban underserved practices in Montana?

While many varieties of practices in Montana could be considered underserved, for the purposes of this program, urban underserved practices will be Community Health Centers (CHCs). CHCs are operational in most of the larger communities within Montana as well as in some rural areas. We will generally place students in CHCs within those larger communities.

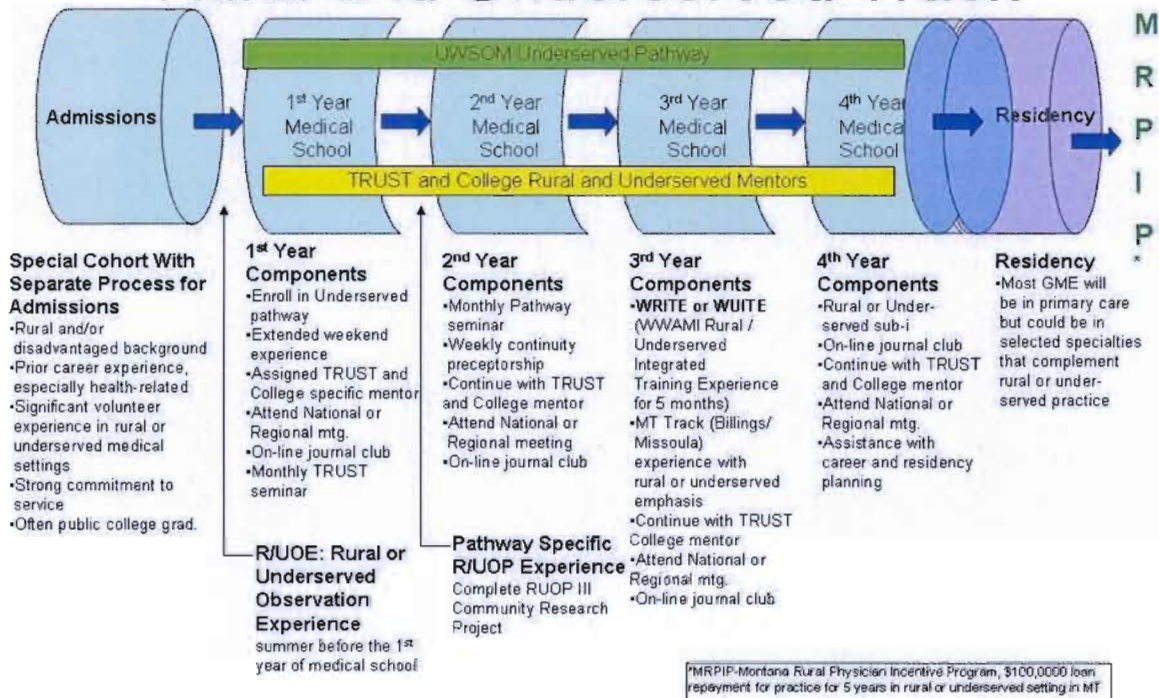
### 6. Do I have to go to Montana for my third year?

Yes, this is a program for students who want to return to Montana. UWSOM students who do the WRITE program or TRACK opportunities generally rate these experiences quite highly. UWSOM students who complete the WRITE program or TRACK opportunities score the same in the standardized board scores, the USMLE, as their peers back in Seattle.

### 7. What happens if I decide to leave the TRUST program prior to graduation?

There are no payback provisions for participating in this program. The expectation is that all students that begin this program will complete it. That being said, life circumstances change and if it becomes necessary to leave the program, arrangements will need to be made with either the University Phase Dean or the Clinical Phase Dean for the Montana WWAMI program. Experience has shown that UWSOM students who participate in the WRITE program or TRACK opportunities have matched in competitive residency programs and in all specialties. So if students decide they want to go into specialties not consistent with the goals of the TRUST program, we will still encourage Montana TRUST students to complete the requirements of this program.

# MONTANA TRUST -Targeted Rural and Underserved Track



## Montana TRUST Learning Plan

- I. In the summer prior to matriculation students will spend time with a rural or urban underserved mentor in Montana.
- II. Upon matriculation the student will be assigned a Seattle-based College mentor who has a rural or urban underserved background.
- III. Year one will include enrollment in the UWSOM Underserved Pathway as well as in a required rural health selective taken at MSU-Bozeman.
- IV. Year one will include at least two weekend placements with their rural or urban underserved mentor in both the fall and spring.
- V. Participation in an on-line journal club throughout all four years.
- VI. Monthly TRUST seminars during their first year at MSU-Bozeman and monthly Pathway seminars while in Seattle.
- VII. If funding allows, participation in national and regional rural and urban underserved health conferences.
- VIII. The student will participate in a RUOP III with their rural or underserved mentor. If accepted to an IHOP this can be substituted for the above requirement.
- IX. Year three will include a WRITE (WWAMI Rural Integrated Training Experience—5 month continuity experience) in Montana or alternatively students will be required to do the Billings or Missoula TRACK in Montana. Those students who choose the TRACK alternative will be required to do a rural/urban underserved clerkship experience within Montana.
- X. In the fourth year those students who do the TRACK rather than a WRITE experience will be required to do a 4-week rural or urban underserved elective.
- XI. Fourth year will include the possibility of linkages with specific UWSOM residencies to help facilitate clerkship experiences at these residencies.
- XII. Students will participate in fourth year career counseling and assistance with residency application.

**Application for Montana TRUST**

1. Please describe in 250 words or less why you desire to participate in this program, what is your specialty choice, and where would you like to practice.

2. Indicate whether you would prefer to have a rural or urban underserved experience and mentor.

**Commitment Statement:**

I understand that I am agreeing to participate in the Targeted Rural Underserved Track of the Montana WWAMI program. Should I be accepted into this program, I am willing to make a commitment to fully participate in and complete the program. I understand the learning delivery plan and opportunities afforded in the Montana TRUST program. I understand that the Montana TRUST program is intended for those persons who fully intend to practice medicine in rural and/or urban underserved areas.

Signature/Date \_\_\_\_\_