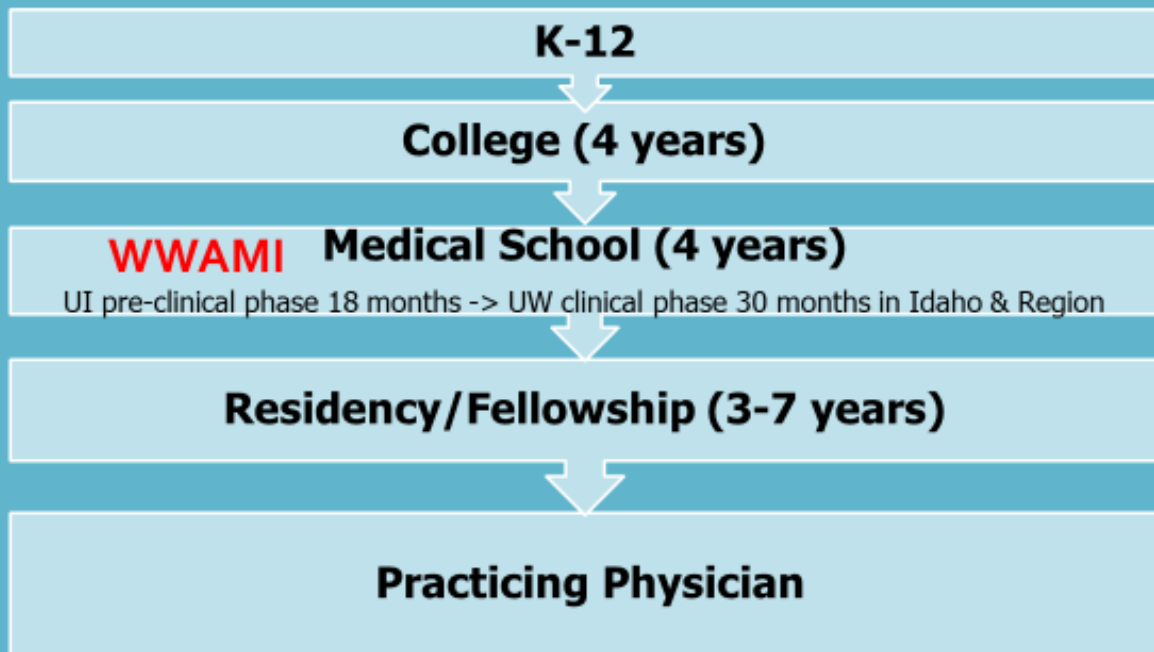


Physician Pipeline



Terms

Clerkships= Clinical rotations done in hospitals and clinics with physician faculty teaching the students

Preceptors= Physicians teaching medical students on their clinical rotations

Pre-Clinical Phase= The classroom phase of medical school, the first 18 months in WWAMI, this is done at UI in Moscow

Clinical Phase= The clinical rotation/clerkship phase of medical school done in hospitals and clinics throughout Idaho and the WWAMI region; physicians do the teaching.

GME/residency= medical training that happens after graduation from medical school in the specialty of choice.

UWSOM= University of Washington School of Medicine

WWAMI History

- WWAMI is 53-year partnership between Idaho, University of Idaho, University of Washington School of Medicine (UWSOM) that initially started with 10 Idaho students per class and one clinical site in Idaho.
- As of 2025, Idaho WWAMI provides 260 clinical rotations “clerkships” at 42 different sites across Idaho.
- Idaho WWAMI students do their first 18 months of pre-clinical instruction at University of Idaho in Moscow.
- Idaho WWAMI students then complete the next 2.5 years doing clinical clerkships in Idaho and across the 5-state WWAMI region.
- All the required clinical rotations, also called “clerkships” are offered in Idaho: emergency medicine, family medicine, internal medicine, neurology, OBGYN, pediatrics, psychiatry, and surgery.
- An economic impact study done by UI showed that for every dollar that Idaho invests in WWAMI, the State gets \$5.10 in return.
- Idaho WWAMI: 747 graduates; 367 have returned to Idaho to practice for 51% rate of return.
- Since 1972, the ROI is 73% (counting WWAMI students from other states who have come to Idaho to practice).
- WWAMI/UWSOM clinical faculty in Idaho: 611, plus hundreds more who haven’t gone through process of applying for faculty appointment.
- UWSOM is recognized as a national leader for excellence in rural and primary care training.
- Idaho WWAMI has a strong focus on rural training, with the TRUST (Targeted Rural Underserved Track) with special training sites in Sandpoint, Moscow, Orofino, McCall, Nampa, Jerome, and Hailey.
- More than 50% of Idaho WWAMI graduates have chosen to practice in primary care specialties.
- In the 2024 graduating class, 18 UWSOM students matched into residency programs in Idaho, including 8 Idaho students (16 categorical, 2 preliminary).

Expansion

- From 2013-2016, the class size was incrementally increased by 5 students per year, starting with a class size of 20 and ending with 40.
- In 2013 Idaho increased the Utah class size from 8 to 10 students per year.
- In 2016, the UWSOM-Gonzaga site in Spokane expanded to 60 students per year and has stayed at that size ever since.
- In 2016, the Governor and the Idaho State Board of Education (ISBOE) put together a task force to make recommendations for Idaho Medical Education. This group's report recommended prioritizing increasing residency (GME) positions over all other budgetary requests.
- In 2017, the ISBOE started the Graduate Medical Education Committee, a group of stakeholders, including all the residencies in Idaho, which developed the 10 Year GME Plan. All health education budget requests are vetted by this group prior to advancing them to DFM.
- ICOM started taking 162 students per year in 2018 and graduated their first class in 2022. This increased the number of medical students in Idaho dramatically.
- 2022 House Concurrent Resolution 38 asked Idaho WWAMI to expand by five students with the entering class of 2025 and five students with the entering class of 2027. No funding was provided for this expansion.
- 2022 Idaho legislature passed WWAMI/Utah student payback requirement: upon completion of training, any Idaho student in these programs owe Idaho four years of service; if they don't return to Idaho for four years, they pay the state back the money appropriated for their education.
- UWSOM is committed to expanding the Idaho WWAMI class when enough clinical clerkship sites are found for the expansion.
- There are currently not enough clinical training sites to provide all the clinical training for all 40 Idaho WWAMI students per class in Idaho.
- Idaho WWAMI lost clinical training sites during the pandemic and has been working to develop additional training sites.
- UWSOM must request class expansion from the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME, the national accrediting body for allopathic medical schools)

for a class expansion of 10% at a regional campus. This request includes listing where additional clinical training will occur for the additional students.

- If a new allopathic medical school partner intends to matriculate a class in 2027, their LCME accreditation application will require the demonstration of adequate quantity of clinical clerkship sites by December 2025.
- Developing and supporting new clinical clerkships without established relationships with the hospitals and physicians of Idaho will be challenging.

Curriculum

- All U.S. medical students are required to take 3 USMLE (U.S. Medical Licensing Exam) exams during their training to become a licensed practicing physician.
- The USMLE exam includes questions on pregnancy, childbirth, the post-partum period, including obstetrical complications and abortion.
- No Idaho dollars are spent on abortion training. The UWSOM signed an amendment to the ISBOE confirming this on 2/14/25.

Questions?

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