WWAMI Medical Education Program

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Program Description
Sponsored by the University of Washington School of Medicine and
leading to an M.D. degree from that school, the WWAMI program is

designed to provide medical education for citizens of the participating
states (Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana and Idaho), to provide
a physician workforce for these states, and to encourage physicians to
practice in locations where they are most needed.

WWAMI is a medical school program, not a premedical program. The
program is supported by the State of Montana and guarantees that 30
qualified Montana residents can be admitted to the Medical School at the
University of Washington School of Medicine each year.

Students who enter the program complete their Foundations Phase (18
months) at the participating university in their home state. First year
programs exist at University of Washington-Seattle, and Spokane, the
University of Wyoming-Laramie, the University of Alaska in Anchorage,
Montana State University-Bozeman, and the University of Idaho-
Moscow. The curriculum at each site has been standardized and is
compatible with the University of Washington School of Medicine
curriculum which integrates the basic and clinical sciences, and includes
rural health care at an early time in medical education.

Course subject matter at MSU includes seven, 3-10 week Blocks and
five Threads that will continue throughout the 18th month foundations
phase.

At the conclusion of the foundations phase, students enter the Patient
Care Phase of their education. During this phase students have the
opportunity to complete their third year and part of their fourth year of
medical school at either Billings, Bozeman or Missoula. Students receive
training from physicians in the communities where the physicians live
and practice (community phase). These "Clerkships" are established for
a given educational need (e.g., pediatrics, family medicine). Clerkship
sites have been established all over the State:

Billings: Emergency Medicine, Family Medicine, Internal Medicine,
Neurology, OB/GYN, Pediatrics, Psychiatry, Surgery
Bozeman: Emergency Medicine, Family Medicine, Internal Medicine,
Neurology, OB/GYN, Pediatrics, Psychiatry, Surgery
Butte: Family Medicine
Dillon: Internal Medicine
Great Falls: Emergency Medicine, Internal Medicine, Neurology, OB/
GYN, Pediatrics
Helena: OB/GYN, Pediatrics, Psychiatry
Kalispell: Neurology, OB/GYN, Pediatrics, Surgery
Lewistown: Family Medicine
Libby: Family Medicine
Missoula: Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Neurology, OB/GYN,
Pediatrics, Psychiatry, Surgery
Whitefish: Family Medicine

To be eligible for the Montana State University WWAMI program, the
prospective medical student must be certified by the Montana University
System as a resident of Montana and must satisfy the admission
requirements of the University of Washington School of Medicine. It is
not necessary for a student to complete the premedical (undergraduate)
education at MSU in order to be eligible for the WWAMI program.
Students are selected by the Admissions Office at the University of
Washington School of Medicine and are registered at the University
of Washington School of Medicine as well as at their home institution
for the first year and a half of the program. To learn more, please see
the WWAMI program website (http://www.montana.edu/wwami/).

Foundations Medical School Curriculum
The following courses are completed in Bozeman over an 18-month
period from August in the first year through December of the following
year. Student then study for and take Step I of their National Board
exams and then continue to the Patient Care Phase of the curriculum.

Required Courses: First Fall Semester
Block I: Molecular & Cellular Basis of Disease (MCBD)
MEDS 510
This course teaches the principles of cell and molecular biology,
physiology, biochemistry and genetics. Aspects include the organization
of the genome and units of heredity, properties of macromolecules, and
cytarchitecture. Students will gain an understanding of intracellular
communication, cell-cell interactions, properties of differentiated
cells, and the diversity of their physiological properties and functions.
Introduction to anatomy, histology and pharmacology content will be
incorporated into the course.

Block II: Invaders & Defenders
MEDS 520
This course will involve integrated content in immune system, microbial
biology, infectious diseases, inflammation and repair, and skin and
connective tissue. Introduction to anatomy, histology and pharmacology
content will be incorporated into the course.

Required Courses: Spring Semester
Block III: Circulatory Systems (CPR)
MEDS 530
Circulatory systems will present students with an integrated approach
to the key supply chain and waste management systems of the body.
Students will follow the movement of oxygen from the environment to
the tissues, and movement of waste products of metabolism along the
opposite path, examining the coordinated roles of the lungs, heart and
kidney in the control and regulation of these processes. Introduction to
anatomy, histology and pharmacology content will be incorporated into
the course.

Block IV: Energetics & Homeostasis
MEDS 550
This course will involve integrated content in metabolism, nutrition,
obesity, diabetes, gastrointestinal/liver physiology, and endocrinology.
Additionally, this course includes relevant fundamental scientific principles in anatomy, pathology, and pharmacology.

**Required Courses: Summer Term**

**Block V: Blood, Cancer, and Musculoskeletal**

MEDS 540  
This course familiarizes students with the basic pathophysiologic mechanisms leading to disturbances of red cell, white cell, and platelet production, as well as abnormalities of hemostasis presenting clinical problems, with an emphasis on pathophysiology. Additionally, this course will include relevant fundamental scientific principles in anatomy, pathology, and pharmacology.

MEDS 595

**Required Courses: Second Fall Semester**

**Block VI: Mind, Brain & Behavior**

MEDS 560  
In this course, students will learn the fundamental scientific principles of the structure and function of the normal human nervous system in situ, define major neurologic, psychiatric and behavioral disorders, and develop a systematic approach to their differential diagnosis and management.

**Block VII: Lifecycle & Reproduction**

MEDS 570  
This course will cover normal and abnormal human development, reproductive functions including formation and maturation of ova and sperm, menstruation, normal pregnancy, and labor and delivery. Additionally, this course includes relevant fundamental scientific principles in pelvic anatomy, pathology, and pharmacology.

**Threads**

Human Form and Function (Anatomy and Imaging), Pathology, Pharmacology, and Foundations of Clinical Medicine take place throughout the 18-month Foundations Phase. A Primary Care Practicum, in which students are paired up with a local physician, is scheduled for one day every other week throughout the entire foundations phase. Ecology of Health and Medicine is taught through all 4 years of the curriculum; four separate weeks in the foundations phase are devoted to this topic.

***The WWAMI Medical Education Program is constantly working on refining the curriculum with the University of Washington School of Medicine. New courses may be added to the catalog, such as Research Methods in the Summer of 2018.

**Further Information**

Contact Kayla Ouert (WWAMI Program Manager) at MSU or follow the URL [http://www.montana.edu/wwami](http://www.montana.edu/wwami) for the complete application, admissions, and program requirements.
Font Notice

This document should contain certain fonts with restrictive licenses. For this draft, substitutions were made using less legally restrictive fonts. Specifically:

Times was used instead of Adobe Garamond Pro.

The editor may contact Leepfrog for a draft with the correct fonts in place.