

Alaska TRUST Application Invitation



Greetings to UWSOM Applicants of Class Entering 2025 (E-25)

We encourage you to consider our award-winning Targeted Rural Underserved Track (TRUST). The aim of this program is a focused medical school experience in rural underserved care, with the hope that physician graduates will return to practice in the rural underserved communities of Alaska.

As an Alaska TRUST student, you will have many opportunities to experience the joys and satisfaction of rural practice:

- Spend 1-2 weeks in a shadowing experience during the summer before you begin courses
- Return to your continuity community for short periods throughout the Foundations Phase (first 18 months of your training)
- Complete one or more selective courses in Rural Health during the Foundations Phase
- Return to your TRUST continuity community for two key experiences:
 - ~ Participate in your Rural Underserved Opportunities Program (RUOP), a one-month program during Foundations Phase
 - ~ Participate in WWAMI Rural Integrated Training Track (WRITE) during 18+ weeks of the Patient Care Phase of your medical school training



If you are strongly interested in underserved medicine in a rural or small city, you should apply to TRUST. For further details, please visit the UWSOM TRUST website or contact us directly. <http://depts.washington.edu/fammed/education/programs/trust>

Trust Objective:

To train University of Washington WWAMI medical students for careers in underserved areas in rural or small cities in Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana and Idaho.



Frequently Asked Questions about TRUST

Why would I want to participate in the TRUST Program?

TRUST is an innovative program that provides a longitudinal integrated curriculum for University of Washington applicants. Students selected for Washington TRUST will be matched to a continuity community with medical school programs incorporating outstanding existing and new programs. We are looking for applicants with a commitment to working with the underserved in either rural or small city sites. TRUST was created to help us meet the workforce needs of our region while nurturing student interest and providing an outstanding education.

TRUST offers opportunities not available to all UW medical students. Scholars visit their continuity community starting before medical school and then during the first 18 months (called the Foundations Phase), for the four week RUOP program, and for the 18+ week WRITE program, a longitudinal integrated clerkship. Students are members of our Underserved Pathway, assigned mentors with underserved experience and receive extra guidance from TRUST faculty and staff as they progress through medical school and on to residency. When funding is available, we support TRUST Scholar attendance to regional and national meetings related to caring for the underserved in rural or small cities in our region. Many TRUST Scholars have interests in international service; work outside the WWAMI region is not the focus of our program.

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

TRUST will prepare you to be an excellent physician no matter what your career choice. Experience has shown that students who complete the trust program have matched in competitive residency programs. We expect all scholars to complete the TRUST program

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

No. TRUST scholars will generally choose a primary care specialty (Family Medicine, Internal Medicine or Pediatrics). However, other specialties with physician workforce shortages lend themselves to rural or

underserved practices, such as General Surgery, OB/GYN, Psychiatry, etc. In general, participating in TRUST will be advantageous preparation for students entering most specialties.



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

The exact location for your experiences will be determined after reviewing your application and in consultation with you. We have a limited number of sites available and sites may change from year to year. Therefore, we will make placements based on all the information available during the matching process. Each of the first year campuses provide a supportive educational environment for TRUST scholars. Events are tailored to the resources and schedule of that campus.

Where will I complete my clinical years of medical school?

TRUST scholars will complete a WWAMI Rural Integrated Training Track (WRITE), an 18+ week portion of the Patient Care Phase. This final TRUST requirement is the capstone of our longitudinal curriculum.

TRUST Scholars who complete the WRITE experience usually see more patients and have a higher level of responsibility than students participating in the more traditional clerkship blocks.



Do only TRUST Scholars participate in WRITE Longitudinal Clerkships?

Non-TRUST UWSOM students also apply to participate in WRITE locations when openings are available. Students who participate in the WRITE program rate these experiences quite highly and often as the best experience they had in medical school. As a whole, students who complete the WRITE program score the same in the standardized board scores as their peers in the WWAMI region. Both TRUST and Non-TRUST students who participate in WRITE are able to complete other required clinical rotations throughout the WWAMI region.



Will participating in TRUST require significantly more time in medical school?

TRUST requires some extra time, but the activities provide opportunities and experiences that will help guide you on your path to practicing in an underserved rural or small city. There is an observation experience before starting medical school as well as visits during the first 18 months. These experiences, and monthly correspondence with your TRUST preceptor, fulfill some of the requirements of the Underserved Pathway (UP). Evening seminars and journal club will require some additional time. Many Non-TRUST students also choose to participate in the RUOP experience. Completing WRITE satisfies part of the curriculum. Attending national or regional meeting would require extra time.

Kodiak, Alaska



Kodiak Island is located 250 miles southwest of Anchorage in the Gulf of Alaska, and is the second largest island in the United States. The city of Kodiak was the original Russian Capital and now has approximately 6,130 residents. The Alutiiq, Kodiak's indigenous people, have inhabited the region for over 7,000 years. In the 1980s, the Kodiak Area Native Association developed an energetic cultural heritage program designed to revive the Alutiiq culture on the island. Kodiak is a central hub for much of Alaska's maritime systems and is home to the largest Coast Guard Base in the USA. Fishing and hunting are both major industries in Kodiak and, by some estimates, there are more Kodiak Brown Bears than people on the island.

Providence Kodiak Island Medical Center is the island's critical access hospital and provides comprehensive inpatient and outpatient care. The facility features 25 acute care beds, including four birthing suites, two psychiatric care beds and two ICU beds, as well as the Community Health Center.

The clinical training for TRUST will be based at the Kodiak Area Native Association (KANA) Clinic, the tribally operated clinical program for the Alutiiq Tribe, and Kodiak Island Medical Associates, a private practice clinic.

Primary Preceptors: Katie Powers, M.D.



Soldotna, Alaska



Soldotna, Alaska is located on the Kenai Peninsula in the southcentral region of the state, 150 miles south of Anchorage by car ~Alaska's only rural training site that is *on* the road system. Located on the mighty Kenai River, Soldotna is renowned for its world-famous Kenai River salmon fishing. With a population of just under 5,000, Soldotna is the traditional home to the Athabaskan Indigenous peoples and known as "Alaska's Playground"!

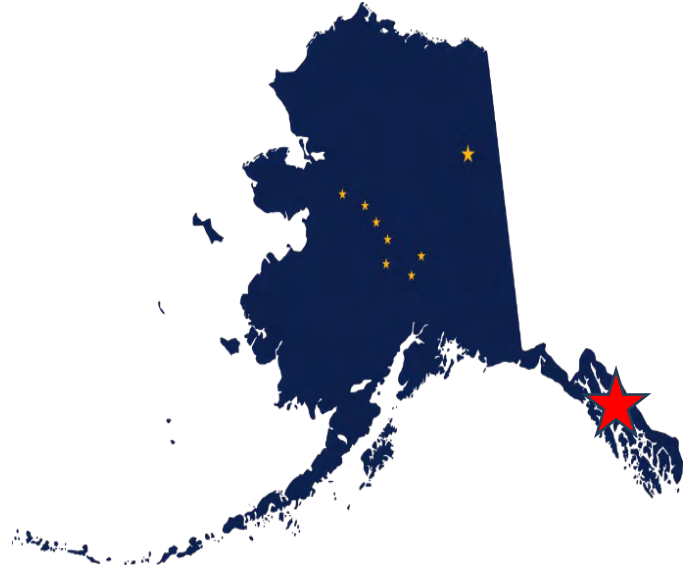
The clinical training is based at Upstream Family Medicine and is directed by Dr. Kristen Lee, a UW SoM Alaska WWAMI Graduate and former Soldotna WRITE student. Upstream is an innovative clinic for the entire family, serving patients ages birth through end of life. The clinic experience will include acute & chronic care, prevention, OB & family planning, pediatrics and minor procedures. Students will also spend time with the co-director, Dr. Katy Sheridan at her practice, with local OB/Gyn physicians, as well as at the hospital.

Students will have additional clinic experience at the Central Peninsula Hospital – a 49 bed, full service hospital that serves the Central Kenai Peninsula region.

Primary Preceptors: Kristen Lee, M.D.



Juneau, Alaska



With a population of a little more than 32,000, Alaska's coastal capital city is situated midway on the southeast panhandle, off the road system, snuggled between Mt. Juneau, Mt. Roberts & the Gastineau Channel on Tlingit Dzanti K'Iheeni lands. Juneau boasts magnificent mountains cascading into oceans teaming with sea life.

Juneau is rich in history, music, art & Alaska Native culture and is frequented by cruise ships. The lively historical downtown is compact and easy to navigate by foot. Main attractions include historical churches, museums, the state capital building & historic South Franklin Street. Juneau's pride is in its breathtaking wildlife and outdoor scenery, making it famous for the Mendenhall Glacier and world-class whale watching, fishing, hiking & kayaking.

The Juneau TRUST clinical experience is housed at Valley Medical Care Clinic with student experiences at Bartlett Regional Hospital. Valley Medical is a full spectrum family medicine practice with eight physician, five of whom are UW WWAMI graduates. Student can expect a broad range of acute, chronic & preventative experiences that include obstetrics, gynecology, pediatrics, outpatient procedures and geriatric medicine. TRUST students will accompany preceptors for inpatient procedures such as labor & delivery and newborn visits.

Primary Preceptors: Kacy Herron, M.D. & Luke Mather, M.D.

Ketchikan, Alaska



Located on the southeastern most tip of Alaska, surrounded by the Tongass National Forest and the Pacific Ocean, Ketchikan marks the beginning of Alaska's famed *Inside Passage*, a network of waterways that snake through some of Alaska's most breathtaking wilderness. Salmon fishing is one of Ketchikan's primary industries, along with tourism. The town is known as "The Salmon Capital of the World"! Whether it be commercial, sport or subsistence, fishing is central to the way of life in this quaint community.

With a population of about 14,000, Ketchikan is the thirteenth-most populous city in Alaska and is rich with Alaska Native culture; the region is home to the Haida, Tlingit & Tsimshian tribes. The rich history of the traditional native culture has been well preserved ~ native arts are alive and thriving and can be experienced in local museums, traditional cultural celebrations held locally and seen around the community in the form of totem poles.

The clinical experience for TRUST students is based out of PeaceHealth Ketchikan Medical Center, a 54-bed hospital & clinic providing comprehensive inpatient & outpatient care. Additional experiences are available within the Ketchikan Indian Tribal Health Clinic as well as at surrounding villages including Craig (pop. 1023) & the Prince of Wales Island (pop. 5650).

Primary Preceptor: Peter Rice, M.D. & Nicole Morin, M.D.



Trust Objectives

To train University of Washington WWAMI medical students for careers working in rural and other underserved areas of Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana & Idaho.



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***Available TRUST sites vary year to year depending on site capacity, physician/workforce pool, etc.**

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