

## **Labor, Health & Social Services**

4/29/2024 - 4/30/2024

8:30 AM

Afton Community Center, Room 125 A&B

416 S. Washington Street

Afton, Wyoming

Agenda Item #11 – University of Wyoming re: WICHE, WWAMI – 10:30 AM Tuesday, April 30

General Medical Education Timeline

Wyoming WWAMI 101

2024 WWAMI Executive Summary

2023 WWAMI Legislative Report (Required by Statute, Delivered to Labor and Appropriations)

Wyoming WICHE PSEP 101

WICHE PSEP Calculating Return Rates Appendix

WICHE PSEP Budget Data 1991-2023

Wyoming WYDENT 101

Administrative Office Support Narrative

## General Medical Education Timeline for MD/DO Programs

- WWAMI and WICHE medical students will have similar timelines after completing bachelor's degree programs and acceptance into medical school.
  - Note: While the timeline below is specific for medicine, many other professional programs are now requiring residency and/or fellowship more commonly as well.

### **Medical School Education Program** (aka Undergraduate Medical Education or UME)

- Length: 4 years is most common
- For WWAMI: All students attend the University of Washington School of Medicine
  - Just under 2 years of this training occurs in Laramie at the University of Wyoming completing the classroom phase of medical education
    - This is referred to as the pre-clinical (or foundation) phase
  - Just over 2 years of this training occurs across the 5-state WWAMI region completing required and elective clinical rotations (aka clerkships)
    - This is referred to as the clinical phase
- For WICHE medical education, there will also be pre-clinical and clinical phases, although the length and details will vary by institution.

### **Medical Residency** (aka Graduate Medical Education or GME)

- Length: 3-7 years depending upon medical specialty
- ACGME-accredited medical residency training is required for almost all providers (MD or DO) to be licensed to practice medicine and to be eligible to be Board Certified
  - A table with common residency lengths from common specialties is included
- Residency matching for all graduating MD and DO students and ACGME-accredited residencies is managed through the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP)

### **Fellowship Programs** (also considered GME – not all physicians will complete a fellowship)

- Length: 1-3 years depending upon the specialty or additional training
  - Following completion of residency
- Physicians in any specialty can pursue a fellowship or multiple fellowships

**To summarize:** a fully licensed, board certified physician (MD or DO) generally requires at least 7 years of UME/GME medical education, with some specialties requiring more than 10 years of training including medical school, residency, and fellowship education.

- This also suggests that for any changes made to the WWAMI or WICHE program (e.g. teaching the first two years in WWAMI rather than only one year beginning with E2018 class) will require many years before evaluation of those changes can responsibly occur.

\*Data tables below summarize publicly available information from Washington University in St. Louis and the Mayo Clinic to provide examples.

## Medical Residency Training

- Minimum years of GME training for eligibility for board certification by specialty

<b>Specialty</b>	<b>Length of Training</b>
Anesthesiology	4 years
Dermatology	4 years
Emergency Medicine	3-4 years
Family Medicine	3 years
General Surgery	5 years
Internal Medicine	3 years
Neurology	4 years
Neurosurgery	7 years
Obstetrics/Gynecology	4 years
Ophthalmology	4 years
Orthopedic Surgery	5 years
Otolaryngology	5 years
Pathology	4 years
Pediatrics	3 years
Physical Medicine	3-4 years
Plastic Surgery	6 years
Psychiatry	4 years
Radiation Oncology	5 years
Radiology, Diagnostic	5 years
Urology	5 years

## Medical Fellowship Training

- This is not a cumulative list, but includes some internal medicine fellowships to provide examples and an understanding of fellowship program timing.

<b>Fellowship</b>	<b>Length of Training</b>
Allergy & Immunology	2-3 years
Cardiology	1-3 years
Endocrinology	2-3 years
Gastroenterology	1-3 years
Geriatrics	1-2 years
Hematology	1-3 years
Hospice and Palliative Care	1-2 years
Infectious Disease	2-3 years
Nephrology	2-3 years
Rheumatology	2-3 years
Rural Obstetrics	1-2 years

## Wyoming WWAMI 101

### What is Wyoming WWAMI?

The Wyoming WWAMI Medical Education program is our in state medical school for Wyoming residents. To accomplish this, the State and University of Wyoming have a contract to partner with the University of Washington School of Medicine in their WWAMI (Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, Idaho) regional medical education program. All of the students in the Wyoming WWAMI program are required to certify Wyoming residency to apply for the program, but can complete their undergraduate studies at any accredited institution.

The Wyoming WWAMI program in its current form admitted their first class of 10 students in the fall of 1997. At this time, the students completed their first year in Laramie at UWyo, their second year in Seattle at UWash, and their final two years of clinical training across the 5-state WWAMI region. Since this time a few noteworthy changes have occurred:

- *2004 legislative special session:* in partnership with UWSOM, legislation was enacted to expand the size of the WWAMI program by two students each year until the WWAMI class size reached 16 students.
  - This expansion began in 2005 and proceeded through 2008, which was the first entering class with 16 students.
- *2010 legislative special session:* in partnership with UWSOM, legislation was enacted to expand the size of the WWAMI class by four students bringing the total number of students to 20.
  - The WWAMI entering classes since 2011 have consisted of 20 entering students.
- *Fall 2019 term:* in partnership with UWSOM, Wyoming WWAMI began delivering the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the pre-clinical (classroom) phase in Laramie as compared to the previous delivery of only the first year of medical school.
  - This allows our Wyoming WWAMI students to complete the entire pre-clinical (aka foundation) phase at the University of Wyoming in Laramie.
  - The entering class of 2018 were the first students to complete their entire pre-clinical phase in Laramie.
  - This includes one additional semester of coursework and a quarter of faculty/staff support for our students to prepare for and pass their USMLE Step1 board exam.

### Wyoming WWAMI Data

Since the first Wyoming WWAMI class that entered the program in the fall of 1997:

- 423 Wyoming students will have entered the WWAMI program as of July 2023
- 336 Wyoming students have graduated from the UWSOM as of June 2023
- 242 Wyoming-WWAMI students have completed their residency/fellowship and are now practicing medicine
- Return Rate: 148 out of 242 Wyoming-WWAMI graduates (61.2%) have completed residency and returned to Wyoming to practice medicine as of September 2023.
- Non-Wyoming WWAMI in Wyoming: Even though Wyoming does not spend money on non-Wyoming WWAMI students, a benefit of the program is that WWAMI students

from other states have an opportunity to do clinical rotations in Wyoming, thus exposing them to Wyoming communities. To date, 13 WWAMI students from other states practice in Wyoming, meaning that 161 WWAMI graduates are practicing or have practiced in Wyoming and fulfilled their contracts. This equates to an overall WWAMI return rate of 66.5%.

- **Retention Rate:** Of the 148 Wyoming returnees, 117 remain in Wyoming practicing medicine as of September 2023 for a retention rate of 79.1%.
- **Primary Care Practice Rate:** Of those 117 currently practicing in Wyoming, 53 (45.3%) are in family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics or OB/GYN as of September 2023.
- Thirty-one of the 148 Wyoming returnees are no longer practicing in Wyoming. Twenty-two completed the three years required of their contract (and often several more years), five left without completing the full three years, one Wyoming physician is no longer practicing. Sadly, three Wyoming physician alumni have passed away (one had left after completing their contract, and two were still practicing in Wyoming when they died). Those 31 physicians practiced in Buffalo, Casper, Cheyenne, Cody, Douglas, Gillette, Jackson, Lander, Laramie, Riverton, Rock Springs, and Sheridan.
- The average length of stay for all Wyoming returnees is over 6 years. This average is over 8 years for those who complete their return requirement.

### **Wyoming WWAMI Cost**

University of Washington School of Medicine tuition and contributions per student for four years of medical education.

<b>Entering Year</b>	<b>UWSOM Tuition</b>	<b>Appropriation from the State Legislature</b>	<b>Student Contribution<sup>§</sup></b>
<b>2018</b>	\$302,594	\$258,331	\$57,898
<b>2019</b>	\$310,523	\$260,272	\$64,431
<b>2020</b>	\$318,297	\$266,367	\$66,677
<b>2021</b>	\$315,671	\$259,972	\$72,854
<b>2022</b>	\$321,779	\$263,852	\$75,770
<b>2023</b>	\$333,598	\$273,354*	\$78,801*
<b>2024</b>	\$345,773	\$283,119*	\$81,953*

\*These values reflect the contributions if anticipated legislative appropriations are made for the full tuition increase in 2026.

§All student contribution values include the contract payments to cover tuition paid in year 1 to the University of Wyoming (not included in UWSOM tuition value) and in years 2-4 to UWSOM.



### **Admissions Committee**

The Wyoming WWAMI Admissions Committee consists of four Wyoming Physicians who volunteer their time to review all applications for the Wyoming WWAMI Program. They then participate in group interviews of selected applicants. These interviews take place virtually in February. Students have the opportunity to tour our WWAMI facilities in Laramie and UWSOM in Seattle if they desire. Our admissions committee members are:

**Gregory McCue, MD**  
Family Medicine – Cody  
**Heith Waddell, MD**  
Family Medicine - Sundance  
**Michael Miller, DO**  
Family Medicine - Casper  
**Jason Weyer, DO**  
Family Medicine - Thermopolis



Wyoming Entering Class of 2023

## Wyoming's Medical School

The WWAMI program is Wyoming's medical school. The program is a partnership between the University of Washington, the University of Wyoming, the Wyoming Medical Society, and Wyoming hospitals and physicians. WWAMI involves the states of Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana and Idaho.

In 1997 Wyoming began its affiliation with the University of Washington School of Medicine and 10 Wyoming medical students began their medical education. The exceptional success of the Wyoming WWAMI Program led the Wyoming Legislature to increase the class size to 20 students beginning in 2011.

WWAMI emphasizes rural healthcare and the return of Wyoming WWAMI graduates to the practice of medicine in Wyoming. As of September 2023, 423 Wyoming students have entered the WWAMI program. 84 Wyoming students are currently enrolled in the MD program at the UWSOM. 242 students have finished residency training, and 148 of the 242 (61.2%) have returned to Wyoming to practice medicine.

Wyoming medical students spend the first 18 months of medical school at The University of Wyoming in Laramie for their Foundations curriculum, and then travel throughout the WWAMI region for their clinical training. The Wyoming WWAMI program provides many opportunities for medical students to train in clinics and hospitals across Wyoming, and in 2024, 208 Wyoming physicians have WWAMI faculty appointments and teach medical students.

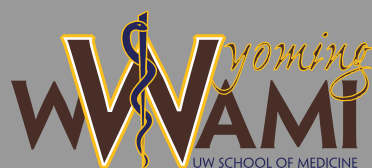
Now in its 26<sup>th</sup> year, WWAMI is Wyoming's medical school.

## E-2023 Wyoming Class

Chantelle Barr – Worland  
 Clara Bouley – Sheridan  
 Quinton Brooks – Sheridan  
 Bradford Burns – Story  
 Brandi Carreau – Laramie  
 Annaliese Fitzsimmons – Greybull  
 Sabrina Gay – Pinedale  
 Dean He – Casper  
 Rafael Homer – Laramie  
 Anh Huynh – Cheyenne  
 Emma Miller – Lander  
 Kaden Moore – Powell  
 Sai Kit Ng – Laramie  
 Aaron Nichols – Cody  
 Rylie Pilon – Gillette  
 Matthew Rasmussen – Burlington  
 Hyrum Ruby – Buffalo  
 Tatiana Smith – Casper  
 Victoria Toscana – Gillette  
 Anna Ujvary – Green River



Learn more about  
 WWAMI ~ Wyoming at  
[www.uwyo.edu/wwami](http://www.uwyo.edu/wwami)



## WWAMI 2023 Graduates Residency Match By the Numbers

Family Medicine: 5  
 Internal Medicine: 3  
 Emergency Medicine: 2  
 General Surgery: 2  
 OB/GYN: 2  
 Dermatology: 1  
 Orthopedic Surgery: 1  
 Radiation Oncology: 1

## WWAMI Physicians Return to Wyoming

(updates since last publication)

**2022**

**John (Jake) Barnes, MD**  
 Anesthesiology – Cheyenne

**Kayla (Morrison) Whitson, MD**  
 Emergency Medicine – Casper

**2023**

**Marcus Bailey, MD**  
 Radiology – Casper

**Tyler Baldwin, MD**  
 Radiology – Gillette

**Makenzie Bartsch, MD**  
 Emergency Medicine – Casper

**Brittany Christensen, MD**  
 Internal Medicine – Powell

**Liam Clark, MD**  
 Neurology – Cheyenne

**2023**

**Glen Clinton, MD**  
 Emergency Medicine – Cheyenne

**Allie Dawson, MD**  
 Internal Med, Palliative – Sheridan

**Claire (Korpela) Enriquez, MD**  
 Internal Medicine – Cheyenne

**Brittney Goeken, MD**  
 Pediatrics – Gillette

**Megan Olson, MD**  
 Family Medicine – Thermopolis

**Justin Romano, MD**  
 Psychiatry – Cheyenne

**Brian Schlidt, MD**  
 Psychiatry – Casper

**WELCOME BACK TO WYOMING!**

## Scholarship Recipients for 2023

### WMS Centennial Scholarship ~ Top WWAMI Graduate:

**Hayden True, MD**

### WAFP – Graduates:

**Megan Olson, MD**

### Gruden WWAMI Scholarship Recipients (E-22):

**Jenni Ebersberger; Caleb Hoopes**

### Phenegar Scholarship (E-23):

**Aaron Nichols; Brandi Carreau**

### Wyoming Women in Medicine

**Annaliese Fitzsimmons; Rylie Pilon**

### Phenegar Community Health Award:

**Samantha Britz; Tazle Markovich (E-21)  
 Cale Hinkle; Casey Pikla (E-22)**

### Howard Willson, MD

### Excellence in Primary Care Award:

**Tristan Bohlman (E-21)  
 Tom Robitaille (E-22)**

## Wyoming Office for Clinical Medical Education

The Wyoming Office for Clinical Medical Education, under the direction of Robert Monger, MD, is responsible for all Wyoming-based clinical activities for WWAMI medical students. The office works in close coordination with the WWAMI Medical Education Program at the University of Wyoming, the University of Washington and the Wyoming Medical Society. Working together these groups work to provide clinical medical education in Wyoming. The office works together with WMS, Univ. of Wyoming and the WWAMI Advisory Council and other stakeholders to promote appropriate clerkships, electives and development of graduate medical education programs in Wyoming.



## Wyoming Clerkship Sites

*Students may attend third and fourth year required clerkships as well as fourth year electives in any of the five states.*

*Wyoming has the following clerkship sites:*

### Third Year Clerkships

#### Family Medicine

**Buffalo** – Brian Darnell, DO  
**Torrington** – Norma Cantu, MD  
**Cheyenne** – Ron Malm, DO  
**Douglas** – DeeAnn Johnson-Engle, MD

#### Internal Medicine

**Jackson** – Mike Menolascino, MD  
**Douglas** – Joseph Gutman, MD  
**Sheridan** – Juli Ackerman, MD

#### OB/GYN

**Cheyenne** – Samantha Michelena, MD  
**Sheridan** – Rebecca Franklund, MD / Lindsay Capron, MD  
**Powell** – Jenkins Clarkson, MD

#### Pediatrics

**Cheyenne** – Andrew Rose, MD  
**Jackson** – Travis Riddell, MD  
**Sheridan** – Michael Sanderson, MD  
**Gillette** – Kyle Sabey, DO

#### Surgery

**Casper** – Aimee Gough, MD  
**Gillette** – Jacob Rinker, MD

#### Psychiatry

**Cheyenne** – JJ Chen, MD  
**Casper** – David Martorano, MD

### Fourth Year Clerkships

#### Emergency Medicine

**Casper** – Morgan Johnson, MD  
**Cheyenne** – Matt Loptein, MD  
**Riverton** – Grant Berry, MD

#### Neurology

**Casper** – David Wheeler, MD  
**Cheyenne** – Tracie Caller, MD

### Electives Offered

#### Surgery

**Buffalo** – Blaine Ruby, MD  
**Powell** – Nathan Rieb, MD  
**Rock Springs** – Augusto Jamias, MD  
**Casper** – Aimee Gough, MD

#### Orthopaedic Surgery

**Jackson** – David Khoury, MD

#### Family Medicine

**Cheyenne** – Ron Malm, DO  
**Casper** – Blaine Levy, DO  
**Thermopolis** – Travis Bomengen, MD

#### Anesthesiology

**Cheyenne** – Landon Bluemel, MD

#### Dermatology

**Casper** – Scott Bennion, MD  
**Sheridan** – Amber Robbins, MD

#### Radiology

**Casper** – Jeff Rhea, MD

#### Pediatrics – Sub-I

**Lander** – Shalini Forbis, MD

#### Otolaryngology

**Jackson** – Martin Trott, MD  
**Laramie** – Paul Johnson, MD

#### Cardiology

**Gillette** – Nicholas Stamato, MD



## **2023-2024 UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING WWAMI FACULTY**

WWAMI science faculty members work with physicians and other clinicians through the year planning curriculum and collaborating with others across the WWAMI region. Many Wyoming WWAMI science faculty teach primarily in their home departments and for some their instruction in WWAMI occurs on a voluntary overload basis. WWAMI does have three faculty who have WWAMI as their home department and many joint hires with the Kinesiology & Health Department, the School of Pharmacy, and the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies. The physicians and other clinicians involved with teaching science material are contracted on an individual basis. We are grateful for the efforts and dedication of our entire WWAMI faculty!

### **Foundations Integrated Science**

#### **Block Leader**

Pam Langer, PhD	Fundamentals of Medical Science and Research
John Willford, PhD	Infections and Immunity
Emily Schmitt, PhD	Cancer, Hormones, and Blood
Cameron Walker, PhD	Muscles, Joints, Bones, and Skin
Danielle Bruns, PhD	Cardiovascular System
John Willford, PhD	Respiration and Regulation
Brenda Alexander, PhD	Head, Neck, and Gut
Cameron Walker, PhD	Mind Brain & Behavior (2 <sup>nd</sup> year)
Esther Gilman-Kehrer, DNP, MS, FNP, CNM	Lifecycle (2 <sup>nd</sup> year)
Lindsay Rettler, PhD	Medicine, Health, and Society
Emily Schmitt, PhD	Research Advisor

#### **Thread Leader**

Cameron Walker, PhD	Anatomy and Embryology
Brian Menkhaus, MD	Histology/Pathology
Sreejayan Nair, PhD	Pharmacology

### **Foundations Clinical Skills**

Dana Govaerts, MD – College Head	Foundations of Clinical Medicine
Dan Radosevich, MD	Foundations of Clinical Medicine

#### **College Faculty**

Julie Carlson, MD	Internal Medicine
Tyler Gallo, DO	Internal Medicine
Hope Richards, MD	OB/GYN
Nate Valencia Still, DO	Hospital Medicine & Critical Care
Timothy Govaerts, MD	Nephrology & Internal Medicine
Dana Govaerts, MD	Pediatrics
Danielle Borin, MD	Pediatric Critical Care
Tracy Haas, DO	Family Medicine

#### **Hospital Teaching**

Julie Carlson, MD	Internal Medicine
Marty Carlson, MD	Internal Medicine
Lars Peterson, MD, FACP	Internal Medicine
Nathan Valencia Still, DO	Hospital Medicine & Critical Care

In addition to learning foundational science as it applies to medicine (i.e. integrated science), students are taught foundations of clinical medicine. Foundational clinical skills are taught in four small groups – each with five medical students that are mentored by a physician (i.e. college faculty member) and a hospitalist that teaches clinical skills at the bedside. Students meet with their college faculty mentor on odd weeks and with their hospitalist on even weeks. The mentoring that these physicians provide for our students is expected to continue through the entire four years of medical school.



## **2023/2024 Preceptors**

**Emma Bjore, MD**  
**Derek Ewell, MD**  
**Carol Fischer, MD**  
**Aaron Freeman, MD**  
**Tyler Gallo, DO**  
**Tim Govaerts, MD**  
**Jordan Greer, DO**  
**Andrea Habel, MD**  
**Amy Harnish, MD**  
**Samuel Hart, MD**  
**Samantha Herriott, DO**  
**Brian Horst, MD**  
**Darren Mikesell, DO**  
**Nate Moore, MD**  
**Daiva Olipra, MD**  
**Stephen Pecevich, MD**  
**Danae Stampfli, MD**  
**Ketura Talbot, MD**  
**Amy Tortorich, MD**  
**Kim Westbrook, MD**

Laramie and Cheyenne physicians serve as Primary Care Practicum preceptors.





## RUOP

Several WWAMI students participate in RUOP (Rural/Underserved Opportunities Program), where they spend four weeks working with rural physicians in the summer following their first year of medical school. The purpose of the program is to encourage medical practice in rural communities by providing students with hands-on experience in clinical practice and intimate exposure to a rural community. Students also have the opportunity to discover how patients receive health care away from the highly specialized resources of the academic medical center in Seattle.

### Participants and the Communities

#### They Served in 2023

Brayden Feusner – Cody	Galen Tribble - Evanston
Hannah Mills – Torrington	Hyrum Hopkin - Sundance
McKenzie Stampfli – Rawlins	Ross Cook - Sheridan
Shayna Bauer – Buffalo	Thomas Robitaille – Gillette
Casey Pikla – Fremont Co.	Franklin Powell - Thermopolis
Aaron Erickson – Powell	Andrew White – Douglas

## RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

On October 24, 2023, E-2022 students presented their summer research projects at the WWAMI Research Symposium at Ivinson Memorial Hospital in Laramie. Award recipients are pictured below with Emily Schmitt, WWAMI’s Research Advisor. Left: Maddy Prince, Top Scholarship of Discovery Project; Center: Caleb Hoopes, People’s Choice Award (Caleb conducted research in the Bruns lab at the University of Wyoming); Right: Franklin Powell and Tom Robitaille, Top Community-Engaged Projects.



## WRITE 2.0

WRITE (WWAMI Rural Integrated Training Experience) is a unique program that promotes and emphasizes rural healthcare to medical students in their third year of medical education. The WRITE program has 40 slots for students, 32 of which are for TRUST students with 8 open sites available for non-TRUST students. WRITE will be initiating some exciting changes for the 23-24 Academic Year. Students will spend 2 academic quarters at their WRITE site, 21 weeks for those sites without an OB/GYN clerkship and 24 weeks at those sites with OB/GYN. As well, the students will be assessed for a single clerkship grade for WRITE for each quarter, so no more evaluations for each individual clerkship (Family Medicine, PEDS, Psych, etc.). WRITE will be moving to competency-based assessments, using Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs) as a guide. Ultimately, we are confident using competency-based EPA assessments will be more objective and simplify the evaluation process. At the end of the WRITE experience the students are very knowledgeable about the practice of medicine in a rural environment. Wyoming’s WRITE/TRUST Sites are located in Powell, Douglas, Fremont County and Thermopolis. These communities have dedicated physicians and other healthcare professionals who are committed to training future rural primary care physicians.

### Wyoming Rural Clinical Experience

This clinical program for all third-year WWAMI students brings them to Wyoming when they do their third-year clinical rotations. This program is available for up to six students per year. Students may come from any of the WWAMI states, and they qualify for the program if they do five or more of their six required third-year clerkships in Wyoming. The Wyoming Regional Clinical Dean’s Office makes final selection, and students participating in the program receive preference for their required clerkships. This program will promote the practice of medicine in rural Wyoming and increase the number of physicians in our state.

### Participants ~ 2023-2024

Bethany Shotts - Cody

**Wyoming WWAMI Office**  
**“Clinical Education”**  
 122 E. 17<sup>th</sup> Street  
 Cheyenne, WY 82001  
 Phone: 307-432-9264  
 Fax: 307-632-1973  
[monger@uw.edu](mailto:monger@uw.edu)

**Robert Monger, MD**  
 Assistant Clinical Dean  
 Wyoming WWAMI

**WWAMI Medical Education Program**  
 University of Wyoming  
 1000 E. University Ave., Dept 4238  
 Phone: 307-766-2497  
 Fax: 307-766-2492  
[willford@uwyo.edu](mailto:willford@uwyo.edu)  
 WEBSITE: [www.uwyo.edu/wwami](http://www.uwyo.edu/wwami)

**John D. Willford, PhD**  
 Assistant Director  
 Wyoming WWAMI

## TRUST in Wyoming

The Wyoming WWAMI program participates in TRUST (Targeted Rural Underserved Track) which is a program that encourages students interested in working in rural and underserved communities in the WWAMI region. All WWAMI states participate in the TRUST program. Four students from the E-23 class are participating as scholars in the TRUST program, Chantelle Barr in Thermopolis, Bradford Burns in Fremont County, Annaliese Fitzsimmons in Douglas and Matthew Rasmussen in Powell. The Wyoming WWAMI program will currently accept up to four students into the program every year.



*Bradford Burns, Chantelle Barr, Annaliese Fitzsimmons and Matthew Rasmussen*

**UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING**  
**WWAMI (Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho) Program Report**  
**From the College of Health Sciences**  
1 OCTOBER 2023

[Pursuant to W.S. 21-17-109 (e)]

To the Joint Labor, Health and Social Services Interim Committee

**Program update**

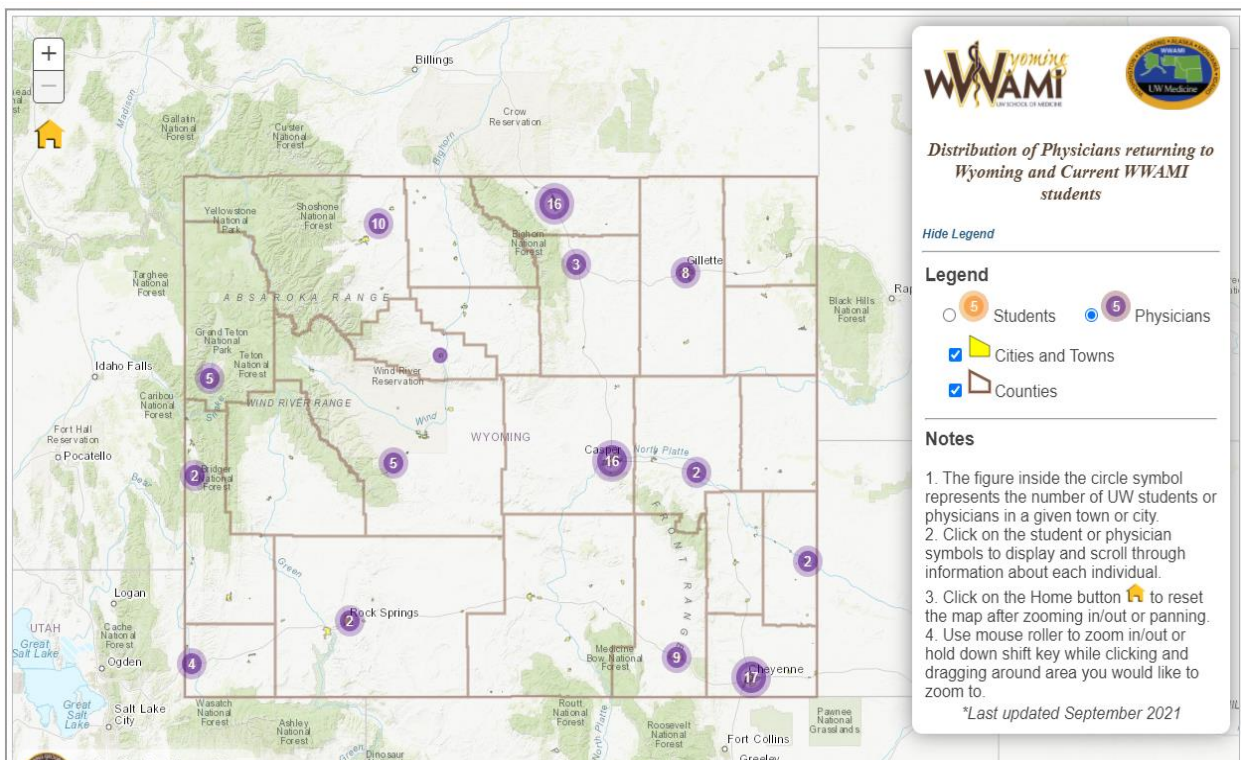
The WWAMI (Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho) Program is the current program by which the state provides a loan to students covering the bulk of the cost of attendance to a medical school (since 1997, the University of Washington School of Medicine- UWSOM). Students have the option of repaying the loan either by practicing medicine in Wyoming or by repaying in the money with interest. The program is authorized under W.S. 21-17-109. In prior years, students attended medical school under this provision at Creighton and Utah Medical Schools.

Loan repayment does not begin until the physician has completed residency training, which can last from 3 to 8 years, or more. 423 Wyoming students will have entered the WWAMI program as of July, 2023. The program continues to be very successful:

- 336 Wyoming students have graduated from the UWSOM as of June 2023
- 242 Wyoming-WWAMI students have completed their residency/fellowship and are now practicing medicine
- Return Rate: 148 out of 242 Wyoming-WWAMI graduates (61.2%) have completed residency and returned to Wyoming to practice medicine as of September 2023.
- Non-Wyoming WWAMI in Wyoming: Even though Wyoming does not spend money on non-Wyoming WWAMI students, a benefit of the program is that WWAMI students from other states have an opportunity to do clinical rotations in Wyoming, thus exposing them to Wyoming communities. To date, 13 WWAMI students from other states practice in Wyoming, meaning that 161 WWAMI graduates are practicing or have practiced in Wyoming and fulfilled their contracts. This equates to an overall WWAMI return rate of 66.5%.
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Sadly, three Wyoming physician alumni have died (one had left after completing their contract, and two were still practicing in Wyoming when they died). Those 31 physicians practiced in Buffalo, Casper, Cheyenne, Cody, Douglas, Gillette, Jackson, Lander, Laramie, Riverton, Rock Springs, and Sheridan. The average length of stay for all Wyoming returnees is over 6 years. This average is 8 years for those who completed their return requirement.

The figure below is a screenshot of an interactive map on the Wyoming WWAMI website (<http://www.uwyo.edu/wwami/interactivemap/index.html>) that shows where WWAMI graduates are currently practicing in the state. On the website, click on the purple circles to see the names, specialties and entering WWAMI class year of those in practice.



During the 2004 Special Session, legislation was enacted to expand the size of the WWAMI program by two students each year until the WWAMI class size reached 16 students. The entering class of 2008 was the first class with 16 students.

During the 2010 Special Session, legislation was enacted to expand the size of the WWAMI class by four students bringing the total number of students to 20. As a result, the WWAMI entering classes since 2011 have consisted of 20 entering students. Beginning September, 2019 Wyoming WWAMI began delivering the first 1.5 years of medical school in Laramie vs. the previous delivery of only 1 year of medical school.

### **Required report**

W.S. 21-17-109 (f) – Under this provision, the University’s Board of Trustees, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, may relieve a student from repayment of a loan provided under this section for undue hardship. The provision requires the University to report to the Committee the number of students who have been relieved of the obligation to repay the loan. For FY 2023, there were no formal requests for loan forgiveness.

W.S. 21-17-109 (e) Under this provision, effective July 1, 2005, all loan repayments under this program are credited to an account to be invested by the University and the earnings from the account used exclusively for scholarships and support for WWAMI medical students. This provision requires the University to report to the Committee regarding income and expenditures from this account during the preceding fiscal year.

Enrolled Act No. 37, House of Representative of the Sixty-Third Legislature of the State of Wyoming 2016 Budget Session states : (1) Modified limit on spending the investment income from the Medical School Student Fund. The amount of income expended annually shall not exceed an amount equal to four percent (4%) of the previous five (5) year average market value of the fund, calculated from the first day of the fiscal year (Medical Student Fund Endowment 4% Monies). This investment income shall be expended by the University of Wyoming solely for direct assistance for relocation costs associated with practice in Wyoming, fees and materials for medical board examinations, rural training, dislocation, student development and scholarships to medical students as authorized by the president of the University of Wyoming and the dean of the College of Health Sciences. (2) Tuition and fees received by the University of Wyoming from students participating in the medical education program under this act will be used by the university solely for the support of education and training of WWAMI students at the University of Wyoming (Tuition/Contract Payment Monies). The receipt and expenditure of these funds shall be reported in the university’s biennial budget request.

### **FY 23 – Fiscal report**

In recent years, through budget reductions and a lack of increase to the state support contract with the University of Washington (a 2-3% annual increase), we have had to budget to spend the vast majority of the Medical School Student Fund. We budget for a combination of operating expenses along with contingencies for facilities, technology, and equipment. This past fiscal year, due to good fortune and fiscal responsibility, we were able to spare using these proceeds but do have a plan for their use for the long-term sustainability of Wyoming WWAMI. This is in alignment with our long-range (25-year) vision is to have this fund grow to the point that new increases to the state support contract can come from the additional annual revenues through the fund.

### **Medical School Student Fund – FY23**

Investment Earnings	\$ 686,816.61
*Expenditures	\$ 0.00

**Tuition and Fees – FY23**

Collections	\$1,300,876.40
Reimbursement from UWSOM (for program expenditures)	<u>\$ 981,620.00</u>
	<u>\$2, 282,496.40</u>
Expenditures	\$1,991,701.76

\*Expenditure for the Medical Student fund was zero for fiscal year 2023, as we are actively sparing this fund in order to create long-term sustainability and/or offset any future funding shortfalls of the WWAMI program.

## WY WICHE PSEP 101

### What is WICHE PSEP?

Wyoming is a founding member of the Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education (WICHE). One of the WICHE programs Wyoming uses to create a health care workforce and provide Wyoming residents access to graduate education is the Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP).

PSEP was founded in 1953 and has evolved in which graduate health care fields it includes. Other WICHE programs have also provided support for some graduate fields. PSEP is currently undergoing review and may adjust the professions supported in the near future.

PSEP participation allows Wyoming residents more competitive access to nine graduate health professions fields (including veterinary medicine) in dozens of programs across 13 Western States. It also provides an additional recruiting tool for the Univ. of Wyoming's College of Pharmacy.

#### **Principles of PSEP are:**

1. Students having the flexibility to apply to programs that match their interests and priorities.
2. Programs selecting students who are good fits for their missions and areas of emphasis from the sending states (and Pacific territories).

#### **Participation in WICHE PSEP is a two-step process for Wyoming residents.**

**Step 1:** Wyoming residents interested in PSEP must certify as a Wyoming resident while applying to professional schools. This is a similar process to WWAMI and WYDENT. Most WWAMI and WYDENT applicants also apply for PSEP. Certified, students apply to participating



programs they are interested in. The professional schools then make all admissions decisions, while giving some preference to WICHE PSEP students. The value of that preference varies by program and changes over time as programs' priorities change.

**Step 2:** When a student chooses to attend a PSEP school, they commit to paying non-resident or private school tuition and fees. Students may, *or may not*, be offered a contract based upon state funding levels, which health care fields are most needed in Wyoming, numbers of previously supported students, and the student's ranking against other Wyoming applicants in the same field. Students who do not sign the contract do not receive funding.

PSEP supported veterinary medicine students do not have contracts per state statute. Currently the WY WICHE Commissioners are limiting veterinary medicine funding to 5 new students per year.

While the percentage of costs paid varies by program students select, PSEP support fees on average cover 35% of tuition and fees for fields other than allopathic (MD) and veterinary medicine, where support fees cover an average of 54% of tuition and fees. For fields available to Wyoming residents, AY 23/24 support fees , and average percentage of cost covered, please see Chart 1:

**Chart 1:**

<b>Professional fields, support fees, and percent of nonresident &amp; private school tuition and fees covered by WICHE PSEP Support fees – AY 2023/2024</b>		
<b>Professional Field</b>	<b>Approved Fees for AY23/24</b>	<b>Average % of Non-resident &amp; private school tuition &amp; fees covered by AY23/24 Support Fee</b>
Dentistry	\$29,250	31.2%
Medicine (MD)	\$34,950	55.1%

Occupational Therapy*	\$15,300	34.2%
Optometry	\$20,125	37.0%
Osteopathic Medicine (DO)	\$25,050	36.0%
Physical Therapy	\$16,850	34.8%
Physician Assistant	\$19,950	36.6%
Podiatry	\$17,375	33.7%
Veterinary Medicine	\$34,650	52.9%
<b>Average % of Non-resident &amp; Private Tuition and Fees Covered by AY23/24 Support Fee, All Fields – including Pharmacy</b>		<b>37.1%</b>
<b>Av coverage for DENT, OT, PT, PA, OPT, OSTEO, POD =</b>		<b>34.8%</b>
<b>Average coverage for MED and VM</b>		<b>54.0%</b>

Chart modified from WICHE document: Support fees setting, AY2025 and AY2026 (for May 2024 Comm Mtg)\SupportFeesSettingfor AY2025and2026-chartsByField)

\* The Univ. of North Dakota runs a satellite occupational therapy program at Casper College in close coordination with Casper College's pre-OT associates degree. Wyoming residents automatically receive in-state (UND) tuition without Wyoming expending PSEP funds. UND/Casper reports that recently 70 to 80% of the class (7 to 8 students) have been WY residents. With projected increases in class size it is expected this number will grow to 11 or 12 WY residents per year.

For current listings of programs participating in WICHE PSEP, and support fees for AY 2024/2025, please see [www.wiche.edu/psep](http://www.wiche.edu/psep). The WICHE Commissioners will set support fees for the next 3 years (AY 2025/2026 through AY 2027/2028) in their May 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024 meeting.

PSEP students who receive support are responsible for all other costs of attendance. Students may accept financial aid such as scholarships and Federal loans that do not carry contractual obligations or pay tuition that would otherwise be paid by PSEP.

Like WWAMI and WYDENT students, PSEP students who sign the contract are required to return to WY and pursue full time practice in their professional field for three years. The contract

generally requires them to be seeing patients in person in Wyoming and living in Wyoming. If the student does not return to Wyoming, they are required to repay the amount expended on their behalf and make interest payments. Interest does not begin accruing until the student leaves their program or eight years after starting. The eight year criteria rarely applies to anyone but physicians (MD and DO). Interest is based upon the Federal Stafford Loan rate but is capped at 8%.

**Historical Data and Return Rates:**

The Wyoming WICHE Certifying Office is unable to locate consistent data going back to the start of PSEP in 1953. Fields supported by PSEP and other WICHE programs have changed repeatedly since the inception of the program. Data in Chart 2 (below) is based upon budget tracking spreadsheets going back to 1991.

**Chart 2:**

<b>Funded Wyoming Enrollments since 1991</b>			
<b>PSEP Field</b>	<b># Started since 1991 – Funded students only</b>	<b># Graduated</b>	<b># Enrolled as of Spring 2024</b>
Dentistry	122	115	7
Medicine (MD)	115	102	9
Occupational Therapy	76	71	3
Optometry	87	78	8
Osteopathic Medicine (DO)	46	40	4
Physical Therapy	389	365	18

Physician Assistant	65	63	2
Podiatry	6	6	0
Veterinary Medicine	73	46	26

### WICHE Student Return Rates:

The University of Wyoming calculates return rates for students who signed contracts.

WICHE PSEP calculates return rates for all students entering programs who certified as a resident of a sending state. The assumptions behind these rates can result in significant differences. To better understand these differences, please see the *Calculating Return Rates* document. For all contract student return rates (2013 to present), please see table 3 (below). For the most recent WICHE PSEP calculations, please see the *WICHE Student Access Programs: By the Numbers AY-2022-23* report at: <https://www.wiche.edu/resources/student-access-programs-by-the-numbers-ay-2022-23/>

**Table 3**

#### Wyoming Contract Return Rate

Field	In Grace Period	Not returned	In Residency	Returned to practice	Total	% returned
Allopathic Med	1	3	8	1	13	25%
Dental	1	2		4	7	67%
Occupational Therapy	3	2		12	17	86%
Optometry		6		6	12	50%
Osteopathic Med	2	4	4	2	12	33%
Physical Therapy	5	11		49	65	82%
Physicians Assistant	1	4		13	18	76%
<b>All Fields</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>73%</b>

## **WICHE PSEP Costs**

Please see the attached chart “WICHE Budget Data 1991 to 2023”.

WICHE PSEP has typically seen 25% to 45% of expenditures go to vet med funding, with the balance going to funding human health care professions. WICHE expenditures peaked in 2007, after the creation of WWAMI had reduced the demand for allopathic medical (MD) funding, and just before the creation of WYDENT sharply reduced the demand for dental funding through WICHE PSEP. With the recent increase in PSEP funding, we expect an increase in expenditures for the next few years as students enroll for programs last 2 to 4 years.

## **Notes on Return Rate Calculations**

### **How are return rates calculated?**

It has been noted that return rates as calculated for WICHE PSEP by the Univ. of Wyoming vary from those reported from by the WICHE Office. This is due to different priorities and perspectives of the two organizations.

The WICHE Office uses a single method of calculating return rates for a variety of states and the fields that they fund. WICHE PSEP states vary by: whether or not they require return-for-service, the number of students receiving funding in each state, and each state's grace periods and/or loan forgiveness clauses in contracts. Essentially WICHE seeks to answer the question "of all the students who receive WICHE PSEP funding what percentage return to their home state to practice within a decade of completing their program?".

The University of Wyoming for WICHE return rates (and WYDENT and WWAMI return rates) focuses on the question "Of the students who Wyoming provided financial support to, what percentage return to Wyoming to practice per the terms of their contracts?". This criteria more accurately reflects the length of time needed for individuals to complete advanced training (residencies and fellowships), and the grace period built into the WY contracts. Both return rate calculations reflect a "snapshot" as students complete their educations and practitioners make decisions about where to work.

### **Challenges to understanding return rates.**

Every few years, WICHE asks the Univ. of Wyoming's Health Sciences Dean's Office to help calculate return rates. Calculating return rates for WICHE PSEP students who do not have contracts is quite challenging. It relies on name searches and then trying to match up search

results via looking at educational history, provider profiles on practice websites, and sometimes even emailing individuals to ask “hey, are you this person?”. For some professions this brings us close to a 100% identification, but for some fields it is not all that reliable. Even for WICHE PSEP students with contracts, and some WYDENT or WWAMI students who didn’t return to the state, it can be difficult to find them. Some of them may be trying to be deliberately low profile if they owe money to Wyoming they are struggling to pay.

WICHE divides return rates into contract/non-contract states. Since Wyoming started requiring contracts in 2013, the most recent WICHE return rates reflect a combination of pre-contract and contract period students.

Eleven years seems like a long time, but the shortest professional programs are 2 years, and students have a grace period of 12 months before their contract requires them to return to Wyoming. For students who do long residencies or fellowships – a few might still be in school after eleven years.





## WYDENT 101

### What is WYDENT?

WYDENT is an agreement between the State of Wyoming, Creighton University School of Dentistry, and the University of Nebraska School of Dentistry. The first WYDENT cohort enrolled in dental school in the fall of 2007.

To participate in WYDENT, students must apply to be certified as a Wyoming resident and then apply to the dental schools. Participating dental schools independently make admissions decisions from certified Wyoming residents. Eligible students who choose to attend Creighton or Nebraska Dental without WYDENT offers may also be eligible to be considered for WICHE PSEP funding.

Wyoming pays tuition, dental program fees, and an incentive fee to the participating dental schools in return for preferred review of Wyoming applicants. Students participating in WYDENT are responsible for all costs of attendance outside beyond tuition and dental program fees. Students are free to accept financial aid including scholarships that can be applied to expenses other than tuition and fees, and Federal financial aid. They may not accept financial support that carries contractual obligations that would prevent a timely return to Wyoming.

WYDENT students pay a contract fee to Wyoming to participate. Fees are approved annually by the UW Board of Trustees. The contract fee for all four years is substantially less than private or non-resident tuition & fees for one year at either dental school. For students entering the program in the fall of 2024, the fees will be:

Year in program	Contract Fee Paid to Wyoming
1	\$14,515

2	\$15,099
3	\$15,702
4	\$16,330
<b>Total for 4 years</b>	<b>\$61,646</b>

Funded WYDENT students are required to return WY and pursue full time dental practice for three years. The contract requires them to be seeing patients in person in Wyoming and living in Wyoming. If the student does not return to Wyoming, they are required to repay the amount expended on their behalf and make interest payments. Students have a one year grace period after completing their education to begin practice in Wyoming or go into loan repayment.

Interest being accruing when the student leaves their dental education program or 8 years after enrolling. The 8 year criteria has only applied to individuals who specialized as oral surgeons. Interest is based upon the Federal Stafford Loan rate but is capped at 8%.

**Historical Data and Return Rates:**

Since it’s founding in 2007, the number of students admitted under the agreement has ranged from nine to two, depending upon previous commitments and funding levels. In early years of the program, available seats were occasionally not filled due to there being too few qualified applicants willing to commit to the contract. Through the Fall of 2023, WYDENT has produced the following results:

- 111 Started WYDENT (including fall 2023) less 3 withdrawals;
- 95 graduates (through spring 2023)
  - 77 Practicing in Wyoming, includes 62 completed service requirements
  - 14 Practicing outside Wyoming, includes 12 paid in full
  - 2 Enrolled in specialty residencies
  - 1 Grace period

13 currently enrolled in dental school  
 5 Creighton University  
 8 University of Nebraska

We should graduate an additional 5 students this summer and enroll 4 new students in the fall of 2024.

#### Historic WYDENT Costs

Entering Year	WYDENT Tuition Paid	Student Contributions	Net Paid
2007	\$495,000	\$94,500	\$400,500
2008	\$987,156	\$178,500	\$808,656
2009	\$1,653,649	\$283,500	\$1,370,149
2010	\$2,164,195	\$367,500	\$1,796,695
2011	\$2,312,571	\$367,500	\$1,945,071
2012	\$2,277,022	\$346,500	\$1,930,522
2013	\$2,194,512	\$327,196	\$1,867,316
2014	\$2,251,264	\$328,892	\$1,922,372
2015	\$2,147,962	\$309,164	\$1,838,798
2016	\$2,209,681	\$312,895	\$1,896,786
2017	\$2,167,573	\$309,072	\$1,858,501
2018	\$1,995,861	\$288,182	\$1,707,679
2019	\$2,058,284	\$295,362	\$1,762,922
2020	\$1,796,427	\$271,242	\$1,525,185
2021	\$1,623,451	\$248,327	\$1,375,124
2022	\$1,385,544	\$216,106	\$1,169,438
2023	\$1,188,202	\$188,163	\$1,000,039
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$30,908,354</b>	<b>\$4,732,601</b>	<b>\$26,175,753</b>

#### WYDENT Administration:

The Univ. of Wyoming College of Health Sciences manages WYDENT on behalf of the State.

Please see the "WICHE 101" document for discussion of this situation.

### **WICHE PSEP, WYDENT, & WWAMI Contract and Certification Administration:**

The Univ. of Wyoming College of Health Sciences manages WICHE, WYDENT, and the residency certification and contract tracking portion of WWAMI, on behalf of the state.

Current levels of funding in the WY State Budget are insufficient to fully offset administrative costs, provide funding for travel to the annual WICHE Certifying Officers' one day meeting, and allow for advertising the program. These funding lines were eliminated or significantly reduced in past budget cuts. Currently programs are advertised only via free forums. The Health Sciences Dean's Office absorbs administrative costs equivalent to approximately a quarter of a staff position.

Other Univ. of Wyoming offices provide support including legal guidance, IT support for the online certification database, budgeting, and invoice payment. Student Financial Services has the equivalent of a full-time position dedicated to tracking participating student debt and contract repayment.