The Targeted Rural Underserved Track (TRUST) is an award-winning longitudinal medical school experience in rural and small city underserved communities, with a goal to produce physicians committed to practicing in rural and underserved areas of Idaho and the WWAMI region.
TRUST Curriculum and Opportunities

After a targeted TRUST admissions process, TRUST scholars are linked to small city, underserved or rural communities in Idaho for a series of educational experiences throughout four years of medical school.

TRUST First Summer Experience (FSE)
- TRUST scholars spend 1 to 2 weeks in their TRUST continuity community for a summer experience before the beginning of the Foundations Phase.

Foundations Phase
- First 18 months of medical education is based at University of Idaho in Moscow, Idaho. TRUST scholars complete one or more selective courses during each term with a focus on underserved rural or underserved small city practice, while returning to their continuity community for short periods of the Foundation Phase.

Rural Underserved Opportunities Program (RUOP) Experience
- Occurs during the summer months of the Foundations Phase.

Patient Care Phase
- Patient Care clinical clerkships in Seattle or throughout the WWAMI region.

WWAMI Rural Integrated Training Experience (WRITE)
- 5 to 6-month longitudinal, integrated clerkship training that allows students to provide continuity care for a panel of patients within their continuity community.

Opportunities and Support
- Linkage with existing UW programs such as the Rural Underserved Opportunities Program (RUOP) and the Underserved Pathway (UP), in addition to unique curricular elements, allows TRUST scholars to immerse themselves in the care of the underserved.

- TRUST scholars are encouraged to attend regional and national meetings related to caring for the underserved in rural or small cities in Idaho and the WWAMI region.

- TRUST scholars have the opportunity to participate in the Underserved Pathway, are assigned mentors with underserved experience, and receive extra guidance from TRUST faculty and staff as they progress through medical school and on to residency.

TRUST scholars will have multiple opportunities to experience first-hand the joys and satisfaction of practicing medicine in a rural or urban underserved community. TRUST scholars are matched with continuity communities in Idaho and benefit from the expertise of physician preceptors over the course of their medical school career.

“Being part of the TRUST program has provided me a unique opportunity to experience continuity of care and a sense of community as I have gotten to know patients, providers, and staff over the years I have spent at my TRUST site.

Andrew Nilsen, E-17 Nampa”

“I didn’t realize the uniqueness of being a TRUST scholar until I was interviewing for residency and hearing about other students’ rotation experiences. It became obvious that TRUST provided me with an early, intimate view into patient care, healthcare in general, and the specific need for rural physicians.

Colby Brower, E-15 Twin Falls”

“TRUST is an added bonus to medical school. Being able to have a mentor in an underserved area and having more clinical experience reminds us along the way why we wanted to become doctors.

Demsie Butler, E-18 Jerome”

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