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# GOOD MEDICINE FOR OUR COMMUNITIES

*Students and Scholarships at the UW School of Medicine*

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**UW Medicine**

UW SCHOOL  
OF MEDICINE

## GOOD MEDICINE FOR OUR COMMUNITIES

**T**HE UW SCHOOL OF MEDICINE is nationally recognized for excellence in training primary-care physicians and for advancing medical knowledge through scientific research. We have a long-standing commitment to this dual focus, and we are proud to be one of the very few medical schools in the nation that succeed on both fronts.

We also are recognized for our regional scope. As the only allopathic medical school serving Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana and Idaho (WWAMI), we place special emphasis on educating physicians who go on to serve rural and under-represented communities across this vast region.

Our medical program attracts top students with exceptional minds and compassionate hearts. To their studies, they bring intellectual rigor and curiosity. With patients, they demonstrate compassion, empathy and dedication to service.

Our students face many challenges as they pursue their dreams to become physicians — chief among them the increasing burden of debt from educational loans.

With your help, we have an opportunity to invest in aspiring physicians. When we do, we make an investment in *our* health, the health of *our* families and the health of *our* community.

STUDENTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS AT THE UW SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

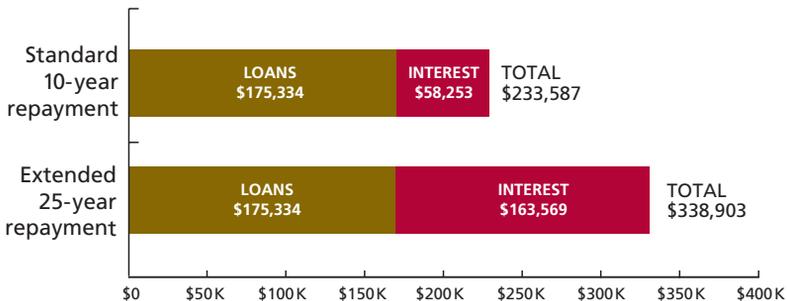
## THE BURDEN OF DEBT: A SNAPSHOT

For nearly 45 years, the UW School of Medicine has provided both a high-quality *and* cost-effective medical education through our WWAMI program. While proud that our cost is lower than many of our peer institutions, it remains expensive — more than \$254,000 for four years — with the result that most of our students rely heavily on loans to pay for their education.

The Class of 2015	
Total number of students	216
Total debt, entire class	\$31,122,652
Total number of students with debt	191
Students with debt exceeding \$100,000	156 (82%)
Students with debt exceeding \$150,000	119 (62%)

### *Debt affects choices.*

The median educational debt for 2015 graduates was more than \$175,000. With re-payment timelines that can extend to 25 years, the total with interest can grow to nearly \$340,000. The prospect of this long-term financial burden can influence students' choices of specialty, location of practice — even whether to pursue medicine at all.





## Commitment

### **HAZEL BROGDON**

*First-year Site: University of Alaska Anchorage. Norman James and Ethel Jenisch Rose Endowed Scholarship*

“I’m enjoying getting to know the other 200 students in my class — much different than my first cohort of 20 in Anchorage. Thankfully, I’ve been accepted into the Alaska track. This means I’ll spend the second half of medical school near a strong support system. I hope that, one day, I’ll be able to help students achieve their goals just as scholarship contributors have helped me.”



## Service

### **JOSHUA MARSHAK**

*First-year Site: University of Washington. Dr. William Field Mead Endowed Scholarship*

“I’m a member of the Targeted Rural Underserved Track (TRUST) program, which admits students from rural backgrounds and prepares them for a career in rural areas with physician shortages. I would like to pursue a career in primary care — a choice I believe is well-suited for a career in rural medicine. Thanks to donors’ generous support, I’m able to follow my passion and not worry about the financial consequences. Decreasing the barriers for individuals to pursue their dreams is the greatest gift one can give.”



## Inspiration

### **CAROLINE PIHL**

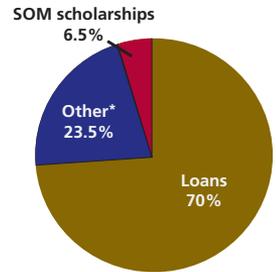
*First-year Site: Montana State University. Albert D. Rosellini Endowed Scholarship*

“Classes this year have gotten to the heart of our medical education and reaffirmed my interest in family medicine. I like focusing on the social determinants of health: working not just to combat diseases, but to bolster the health and happiness of the entire community. I’m so grateful to be experiencing the joys of medicine, despite its costly price tag. Having a scholarship eliminates some stress and has helped me find peace of mind.”

## Debt affects which school a student selects.

When students choose a medical school, an excellent reputation and a unique regional training program are just two considerations. Students also weigh the financial assistance schools can offer through scholarships, funds that do not require repayment. And, for some students — especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds — medical school is simply out of reach without substantial scholarship support. With just 6.5 percent of our financial aid package derived from UW School of Medicine scholarships, we are at a competitive disadvantage to other medical schools, especially private schools outside our region, that offer more attractive scholarship packages.

### Our aid package



\*Gift and grant aid from federal, state and other external sources.

## THE LOOMING PHYSICIAN SHORTAGE

Investing in students helps counteract a severe physician shortage. Projections by the American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC) place the shortfall of physicians in the U.S. at nearly 91,000 by 2025.\* This shortfall is acute in the WWAMI region, where the number of primary-care physicians is already insufficient to meet demand.

We are working hard to address this shortage in our region. Our graduates do return to the WWAMI region. All five states have return rates well above the national median of 39 percent.

*How can you help? See back panel.*

\*AAMC Physician Workforce Policy Recommendations, March 2015.

The Shortage Across WWAMI	State Ranking of No. of Active Physicians Per 100,000 People
Washington	18
Wyoming	48
Alaska	24
Montana	34
Idaho	49

From the AAMC's 2015 State Physician Workforce Data Book

## SCHOLARSHIPS: A POWERFUL INVESTMENT

As a public institution, we are committed to continuing to make an outstanding medical education accessible to our students, regardless of their financial circumstances.

The UW School of Medicine has an international reputation for excellence, and our graduates — physicians, researchers, policy-makers and educators — will be this nation's future medical leaders. We must reduce their debt burden — **by increasing scholarship support** — so that they can pursue their passion in medicine based on interest and fit, rather than on financial considerations.

**Join us. An investment in scholarships is not only an investment in an aspiring physician. It's also an investment in the health of our families, communities, region and world.**

For more information about UW Medicine's scholarship program, please contact UW Medicine Advancement at 206.543.5686. Thank you for your interest in our students and our communities.

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