

# Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship Program



In 2007, after discussions between doctors and legislators on how best to address the shortage of primary care physicians in underserved areas of the state, the Legislature created the **Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship Program (MRPSP)**. The goal of the program was to reach out to students from rural areas as they would be more inclined to return to those areas to practice. The program provides academic enrichment, faculty and physician mentoring, plus financial support for medical school, all of which enable young Mississippians to be ready to address the challenge of Mississippi's health care crisis upon completion of their training. In its 14 years, the program has been a resounding success, sending primary care physicians to areas of Mississippi that were in need of primary care providers, with many more on track to go to more areas in the coming months and years.

## Program Phases

- **PRE-MATRICULATION (Undergraduate Phase):** 15-25 students selected will receive two years (junior and senior year) of undergraduate academic enrichment, plus mentoring by a rural physician, MCAT prep materials, medical encounters, rural clinical experience, opportunity of early assurance to the UMMC School of Medicine, and consideration for a \$30,000 per year medical school scholarship.
- **MEDICAL SCHOOL:** Each MRPSP Scholar shall be eligible to receive \$30,000 per year for medical training, based on available funding. MRPSP scholars also benefit from academic support and continued medical mentoring.
- **RESIDENCY TRAINING:** MRPSP scholars must enter residency training in one of the six primary care specialties: Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Internal Medicine-Pediatrics, OB/GYN, Pediatrics, or Psychiatry.

## Application Information

### UNDERGRADUATES

September 1 – application opens; February 1 – application deadline

### ADMITTED/CURRENT MEDICAL STUDENTS

September 1 – application opens; April 1 – application priority deadline



*Growing Our Own Physicians*

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## Success Matters

- **55 practicing primary care physicians** serving Mississippians in Amory, Batesville, Bay St. Louis, Booneville, Brookhaven, Carthage, Clarksdale, Cleveland, Columbia, Corinth, DeKalb, Ercu, Ellisville, Eupora, Forest, Greenville, Grenada, Houston, Indianola, Iuka, Kosciusko, Laurel, Louisville, Maben, Magee, McComb, Mendenhall, Mound Bayou, New Albany, Purvis, Poplarville, Prentiss, Richton, Senatobia, Starkville, Water Valley, Waynesboro, West Point, Wiggins, and Yazoo City
- **77 practicing physicians** after the Summer of 2022 with 220 practicing physicians projected in 2030
- **56 physicians in residency**, with 64% training at programs in Mississippi
- **Primary care specialties represented in the practicing physicians and residents:**
  - 61% - Family Medicine
  - 14% - Internal Medicine
  - 8% - Medicine/Pediatrics
  - 4% - OB/GYN
  - 11% - Pediatrics
  - 2% - Psychiatry
- **67 undergraduate students in the Pre-Matriculation Program**
- **13 Mississippi Universities and 14 Mississippi Community Colleges** represented among physicians and students, with more than 240 undergraduate students mentored by MRPSP practicing physicians, residents, medical students, and staff

## Service to Mississippi

- As of summer 2021, MRPSP practicing physicians have served a combined 206 years in rural areas of the state
- MRPSP physicians have had more than **875,000 visits with rural patients**.
- 24 MRPSP practicing physicians have completed their service requirements. 21 of those physicians, or **87.5%**, are still practicing in rural towns in Mississippi

## Economic Benefits:

- **Approximately \$114 million in economic benefits** produced by practicing MRPSP physicians (\$2 Million/physician), with an **estimated \$440 million by 2030**
- The average physician creates 9.3 jobs, meaning MRPSP physicians have contributed more than **530 jobs across Mississippi**
- Tax revenue to the local communities and the state from MRPSP practicing physicians of nearly \$2 Million

