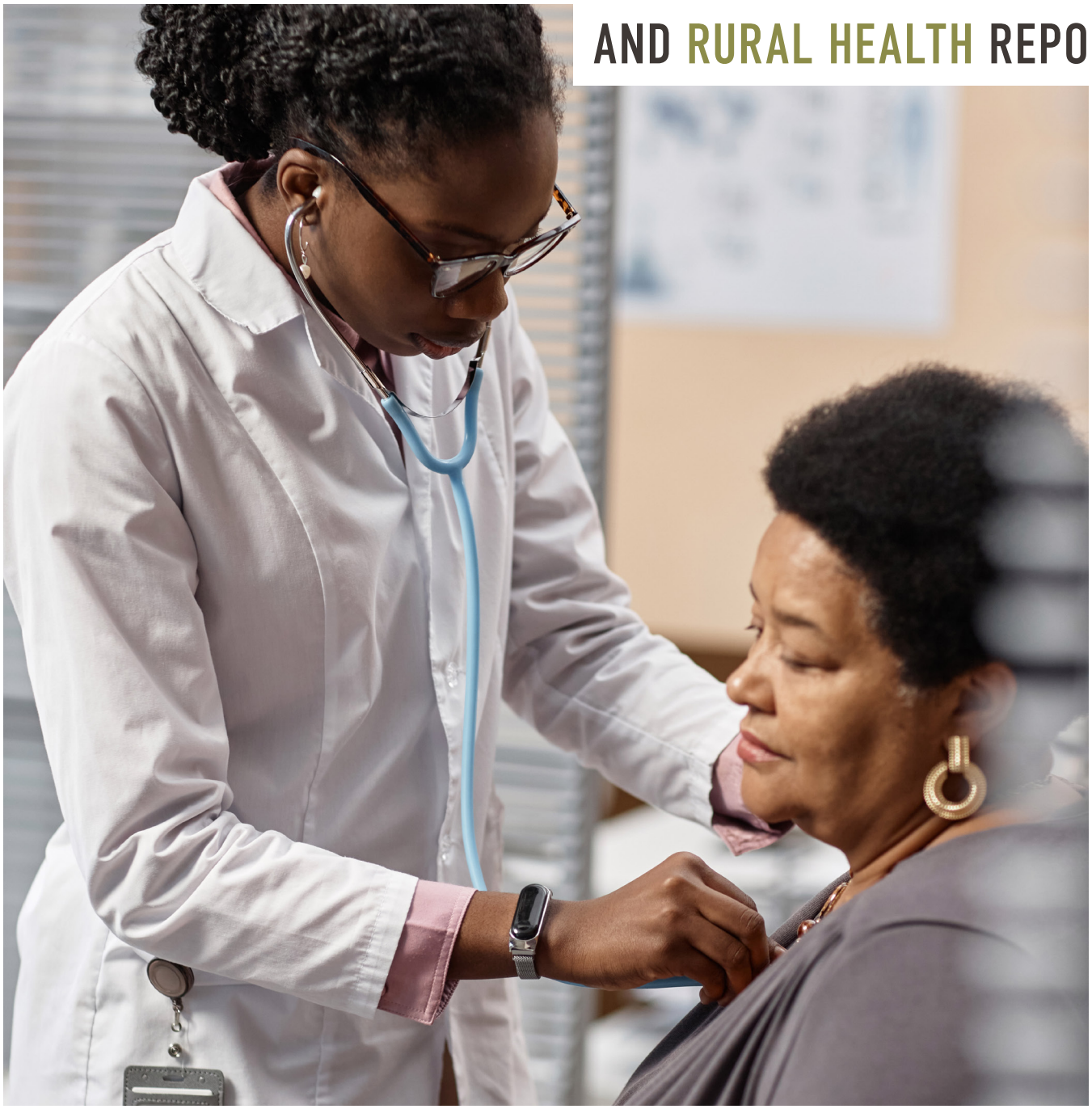
2025 WEST VIRGINIA

HEALTH SCIENCES

AND RURAL HEALTH REPORT



WEST VIRGINIA
Higher Education
Policy Commission

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About the DIVISION OF HEALTH SCIENCES

The Division of Health Sciences of the Higher Education Policy Commission leverages expertise, fosters collaboration and supports innovation to improve the health of West Virginians, particularly rural and underserved populations. These initiatives build the healthcare workforce by improving access to health sciences and behavioral sciences education and supporting practical research, practice, and policy. The Division supports health sciences programs at all the state's colleges and universities, including the state's three academic health centers at Marshall University, the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine, and West Virginia University. The Division collaborates with stakeholders around the state to help address key issues in the state's healthcare landscape, including behavioral health workforce development, graduate medical education, nursing workforce development, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) workforce development, and healthcare career pathway development.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

West Virginia's three state-funded medical schools enroll more medical students per capita than any other state in the country. Due to the large number of medical student seats, most qualified West Virginians have the opportunity to complete their medical education in the state. In the academic year of 2024-2025, 38 percent (157) of the 418 medical students who enrolled in the first-year classes of the state's three medical schools were West Virginia residents.

In-state tuition at West Virginia medical schools is among the most affordable in the nation. In addition to affordability, all three schools well prepare students to succeed as practitioners and reported licensure exam passage rates ranging from 97-100 percent in 2022. Retaining medical school graduates for residency is a proven way to recruit them for long-term practice in West Virginia. To support this, the Commission and the state's three medical schools offer programs that encourage students, especially those interested in primary care and rural practice, to complete residency training in-state. In 2025, 30 percent (60) of West Virginia medical school graduates chose primary care residencies here, a rate above the national average. Many remain to practice, yet rural and low-income areas still face shortages.

Through the Rural Health Initiative and other efforts, the Commission and medical schools are developing innovative models and partnering with underserved communities to widen placement of primary care physicians. In recent years, West Virginia higher education institutions have expanded the number of health profession programs offered including social work, pharmacy, public health, occupational therapy, psychology, and physical therapy to better address healthcare needs in the state's rural and underserved communities.

This report also includes information about public dentistry, pharmacy and pre-licensure nursing program outcomes. The Commission administers five financial aid programs for students in health professions to incentivize them to remain in West Virginia after completing their training.

- The West Virginia Nursing Scholarship Program provides scholarships to LPNs, RNs, and graduate nursing students in exchange for completing service obligations in West Virginia.
- More than 250 participants have completed the Health Sciences Service Program since its inception in 1995.
- The Medical Student Loan Program provides needs-based loans each year to the state's medical students. Loans are forgiven for service in underserved areas of the state or in shortage specialties.
- The Mental Health Loan Repayment Program provides financial assistance to licensed mental health professionals who practice in underserved areas of West Virginia. The program aims to retain these professionals by offering loan repayment for their services.
- The Choose WV Practice Program began in 2019 and provides a tuition waiver to nonresident medical students who agree to remain in West Virginia to practice in an underserved area of the state.

MEDICAL SCHOOL PROFILES

The Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine and the West Virginia University School of Medicine are allopathic institutions, while the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine offers osteopathic training. Although allopathic and osteopathic education share many similarities, there are notable differences. In this report, the three schools discuss together where their programs align, and separately where distinctions exist. All medical school applicants complete the Medical College Admission Test® (MCAT®) as part of the application process. In 2015, the Association of American Medical Colleges redesigned the MCAT®. As a result, some West Virginia medical schools still accept scores from either the new or old versions of the MCAT®. The new MCAT® consists of four multiple choice sections each worth between 118 and 132 points (Biological and Biochemical Foundations of Living Systems, Chemical and Physical Foundations of Biological Systems, Psychological, Social, and Biological Foundations of Behavior, and Critical Analysis and Reasoning Skills). The old version of the MCAT® consisted of three multiple choice sections each worth 15 points (physical sciences, verbal reasoning, and biological sciences) and a writing sample.

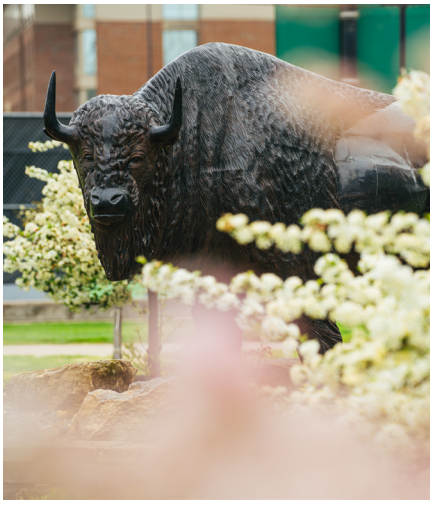
The new national combined mean MCAT® score for students entering allopathic medical schools during the 2024-2025 academic year was 511.8. For students entering osteopathic medical schools, the score was 503.8. National performance data on the old MCAT® for students entering medical schools is no longer reported.

For the 2024-2025 academic year, the national mean grade point average (GPA) for students matriculating to allopathic medical schools was 3.79, and the national mean grade point average for students matriculating to osteopathic schools was 3.59 (Association of American Medical Colleges and American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine).

Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine











ENTERING CLASS ADMISSION RATE

	2024-2025	2023-2024	2022-2023	2021-2022	2020-2021
In-State					
Acceptances/Applicants	61/130	71/161	86/151	103/199	95/209
Admission Rate	47%	44%	57%	52%	45%
Out-of-State					
Acceptances / Applicants	76/2,896	68/1,680	32/1,765	25/2,123	15/1,922
Admission Rate	3%	4%	2%	1.2%	0.8%
Total Acceptances / Applicants	***137/3,026***	***139/1,841***	***118/1,916***	***128/2,322***	***110/2,131***
Total Admission Rate	***5%***	***7.5%***	***7%***	***6%***	***5%***

ENTERING CLASS ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

	2024-2025	2023-2024	2022-2023	2021-2022	2020-2021
Mean GPA	3.81	3.8	3.66	3.63	3.61
Mean MCAT(R) (New Version)	506	505	503	504	502

ACADEMIC YEAR DATA

		2024-2025	2023-2024	2022-2023	2021-2022	2020-2021
First Year New Enrollment	In-State	54	59	63	69	63
	Out-of-State	38	21	17	11	17
	Total	***92***	***80***	***80***	***80***	***80***
Total Graduates		69	56	79	69	74
Total Medical Students		319	290	330	321	315
Tuition and Fees	In-State	$24,376	$24,376	$24,324	$24,004	$23,904
	Out-of-State	$59,150	$57,734	$57,682	$56,788	$54,772

West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine











ENTERING CLASS ADMISSION RATE

	2024-2025	2023-2024	2022-2023	2021-2022	2020-2021
In-State					
Acceptances/Applicants	87/116	73/112	48/100	67/143	53/139
Admission Rate	75%	65%	48%	47%	38%
Out-of-State					
Acceptances / Applicants	593/4,251	485/5,019	483/4,923	533/5,173	465/5,290
Admission Rate	14%	9.6%	10%	10%	8%
Total Acceptances / Applicants	***680/4,367***	***558/5,131***	***531/5,023***	***600/5,316***	***465/5,429***
Total Admission Rate	***16%***	***11%***	***11%***	***11%***	***9%***

ENTERING CLASS ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

	2024-2025	2023-2024	2022-2023	2021-2022	2020-2021
Mean GPA	3.61	3.63	3.59	3.59	3.58
Mean MCAT(R) (Old Version)	-	-	-	-	21.8
Mean MCAT(R) (New Version)	501.6	502.0	503.5	501.8	500.7

ACADEMIC YEAR DATA

		2024-2025	2023-2024	2022-2023	2021-2022	2020-2021
First Year New Enrollment	In-State	48	51	32	46	41
	Out-of-State	163	146	169	154	166
	Total	***211***	***197***	***201***	***200***	***207***
Total Graduates		185	189	181	199	178
Total Medical Students		810	798	793	806	800
Tuition and Fees	In-State	$23,594	$23,594	$22,472	$21,472	$21,472
	Out-of-State	$56,394	$56,394	$53,710	$52,710	$52,710

West Virginia University School of Medicine











ENTERING CLASS ADMISSION RATE

	2024-2025	2023-2024	2022-2023	2021-2022	2020-2021
In-State					
Acceptances/Applicants	65/137	93/189	66/165	81/212	75/212
Admission Rate	47%	49%	40%	38%	35%
Out-of-State					
Acceptances / Applicants	113/5,207	85/5,039	113/4,578	86/4,850	90/4,841
Admission Rate	2.2%	1.7%	3%	2%	2%
Total Acceptances / Applicants	***178/5,344***	***178/5,228***	***179/4,743***	***166/5,062***	***165/5,053***
Total Admission Rate	***3%***	***3.4%***	***4%***	***3%***	***3%***

ENTERING CLASS ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

	2024-2025	2023-2024	2022-2023	2021-2022	2020-2021
Mean GPA	3.76	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8
Mean MCAT(R) (New Version)	510	509	511	510	510

ACADEMIC YEAR DATA

		2024-2025	2023-2024	2022-2023	2021-2022	2020-2021
First Year New Enrollment	In-State	55	76	47	65	63
	Out-of-State	60	36	65	47	49
	Total	***115***	***112***	***112***	***112***	***112***
Total Graduates		103	96	106	103	117
Total Medical Students		451	428	441	434	456
Tuition and Fees	In-State	$35,613	$34,398	$33,426	$32,940	$32,643
	Out-of-State	$70,632	$68,202	$66,231	$64,935	$64,152

MEDICAL LICENSURE EXAMS

All medical students must complete a series of licensing exams to become licensed physicians. Allopathic students take the United States Medical Licensing Exam (USMLE), and osteopathic students take the Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Licensing Examination (COMLEX)-USA.

These exams have multiple parts. Students typically take the final USMLE or COMLEX soon after graduating from medical school. The data reported below is for the final exam for first-time test takers who took their respective licensing exam within two years of graduation. In evaluating the data presented below, it is important to consider some of its limitations:

- The data is for first-time test takers.
- Graduates can elect not to report their results to their medical schools.
- The data does not reflect graduates who take the exam more than two years after graduation.
- Not all graduates enter residency programs and therefore do not sit for these exams.

Allopathic Medical School Graduates

The USMLE, Step 3 is the final of three tests completed by allopathic medical students. Graduates normally take USMLE, Step 3 at the end of their first year of residency. The national average passage rate for first-time test takers for the graduating class of 2022 is 98 percent. The high rate is consistent with previous years, reflecting the strong preparation and performance of medical graduates. (source: United States Medical Licensing Examination Program).

NUMBER PASSING/NUMBER OF EXAMINEES, USMLE, STEP 3 GRADUATING CLASS

	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Marshall University	63/65	70/71	74/78	54/55	64/65
	97%	99%	95%	98%	98%
West Virginia University	99/100	115/115	103/103	88/91	92/93
	99%	100%	100%	98%	99%

Osteopathic Medical School Graduates

Osteopathic graduates take the final COMLEX, Level 3 as early as six months into residency training. They must complete Level 3 before starting their third year of residency training. The national average is 96 percent in 2021. (source: United States Medical Licensing Examination Program)

NUMBER PASSING/NUMBER OF EXAMINEES, COMLEX, LEVEL 3 GRADUATING CLASS

	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine	180/184	166/176	182/190	191/198	188/192
	97.8%	94%	96%	96%	98%

MEDICAL SCHOOL INDEBTEDNESS

The average indebtedness of each graduating medical school class is calculated from all loans, public and private, accumulated while pursuing medical degrees. It does not include pre-medical school debt. Members of the graduating class who do not have any debt are excluded from the calculation. In 2025, a total of 21 percent of graduates did not have educational debt. As of 2025, in-state medical student graduates have an average of $164,572 and out-of-state medical student graduates have $280,245 in total educational debt.

AVERAGE MEDICAL STUDENT DEBT FOR IN-STATE STUDENTS, BY GRADUATING CLASS

Class	Marshall University	West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine	West Virginia University
2025	$149,774	$196,953	$146,990
2024	$151,591	$187,145	$139,565
2023	$130,031	$176,473	$123,298
2022	$130,901	$172,346	$148,013
2021	$137,787	$177,125	$149,297

AVERAGE MEDICAL STUDENT DEBT FOR OUT-OF-STATE STUDENTS, BY GRADUATING CLASS

Class	Marshall University	West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine	West Virginia University
2025	$285,988	$305,421	$249,327
2024	$205,261	$302,584	$240,701
2023	$253,557	$284,860	$248,186
2022	$218,095	$275,041	$245,453
2021	$200,412	$291,926	$257,895

RESIDENCY TRAINING

Upon graduation from medical school, physicians complete specialized residency training programs (also referred to as graduate medical education) before beginning practice. Residency training typically takes three to five years to complete. The federal Medicare program is the major funder of residency programs nationwide. Sponsoring hospitals provide additional funding for residency training.

Through a computerized process referred to as "the match," medical students rank their top residency program choices, and residency programs rank the medical students they would like to recruit. Based on these rankings, an algorithm matches each medical student with a residency program. Across West Virginia, more than 50 different residency programs exist. Although many of these programs are for primary care specialties such as family medicine and pediatrics, training programs for other critical non-primary care specialties are offered that help ensure West Virginia has providers practicing critical specialties such as dermatology, anesthesiology, psychiatry, ophthalmology and surgery.

WEST VIRGINIA RESIDENCY PROGRAMS

Sponsoring Institution	Primary Site	City	Specialty	Filled Residency
Access Health THC	Access Health THC	Beckley	Family Medicine	4
Vandalia Health	CAMC	Charleston	Emergency Medicine	18
Vandalia Health	CAMC	Charleston	Urological Surgery	10
Vandalia Health	CAMC	Charleston	Family Medicine	18
Vandalia Health	CAMC	Charleston	Internal Medicine Categorical	42
Vandalia Health	CAMC	Charleston	Internal Medicine Preliminary	1
Vandalia Health	CAMC	Charleston	Internal Medicine/ Psychiatry	9
Vandalia Health	CAMC	Charleston	Obstetrics and Gynecology	12
Vandalia Health	CAMC	Charleston	Pediatrics	23
Vandalia Health	CAMC	Charleston	Psychiatry	21
Vandalia Health	CAMC	Charleston	Surgery Categorical	26
Vandalia Health	CAMC	Charleston	Surgery Preliminary	1
Vandalia Health	CAMC	Charleston	Vascular Surgery Integrated	5
Vandalia Health	CAMC	Charleston	Neurology	10
Vandalia Health	Greenbrier Valley Med Center	Ronceverte	Family Medicine	15
Vandalia Health	CAMC	Ronceverte	Osteopathic Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine	8
Marshall Community Health Consortium	Pleasant Valley Hospital	Point Pleasant	Psychiatry (Rural)	8
Marshall Community Health Consortium	Logan Regional Medical Center	Logan	Surgery (Rural)	9
Marshall University	Cabell Huntington Hospital	Huntington	Family Medicine	24
Marshall University	Cabell Huntington Hospital	Huntington	Anesthesiology	0
Sponsoring Institution	**Primary Site**	**City**	**Specialty**	**Filled Residency**
Marshall University	Cabell Huntington Hospital	Huntington	Internal Medicine	74
Marshall University	Cabell Huntington Hospital	Huntington	Internal Medicine / Pediatrics	8

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Marshall University	Cabell Huntington Hospital	Huntington	Neurology	14
Marshall University	Cabell Huntington Hospital	Huntington	Obstetrics and Gynecology	14
Marshall University	Cabell Huntington Hospital	Huntington	Orthopedic surgery	18
Marshall University	Cabell Huntington Hospital	Huntington	Pediatrics	20
Marshall University	Marshall/Univ Phys.& Surgeons Clinics	Huntington	Psychiatry	24
Marshall University	Cabell Huntington Hospital	Huntington	Surgery	23
United Hospital Center	United Hospital Center	Bridgeport	Family Medicine	36
West Virginia University	1 Medical Center Drive	Morgantown	Anesthesiology	8
West Virginia University	1 Medical Center Drive	Morgantown	Dermatology	30
West Virginia University	Robert C. Byrd HSC North	Morgantown	Emergency Medicine	19
West Virginia University	Clark K. Sleeth Family Medicine Center	Morgantown	Family Medicine	20
West Virginia University	WVU Rural Family Medicine	Harpers Ferry	Family Medicine	86
West Virginia University	WVU Health Sciences	Morgantown	Internal Medicine	18
West Virginia University	Camden Clark Med Center	Parkersburg	Internal Medicine	16
West Virginia University	WVU SOM	Morgantown	Internal Medicine/ Pediatrics	10
West Virginia University	WVU SOM	Morgantown	Neurological Surgery	29
West Virginia University	WVU Health Sciences	Morgantown	Neurology	12
West Virginia University	WVU Hospitals	Morgantown	Obstetrics and Gynecology	12
West Virginia University	WVU SOM	Morgantown	Ophthalmology	20
West Virginia University	WVU Dept. of Orthopedics	Morgantown	Orthopedic surgery	15
West Virginia University	WVU SOM	Morgantown	Otolaryngology	13
West Virginia University	WVU Robert C. Byrd	Morgantown	Pathology-Anatomic and Clinical	18
West Virginia University	WVU SOM	Morgantown	Pediatrics	6
West Virginia University	WVU SOM	Morgantown	Plastics - Integrated	39
West Virginia University	WVU SOM	Morgantown	Psychiatry	3
West Virginia University	WVU SOM	Morgantown	Radiation Oncology	26
West Virginia University	WVU Hospitals	Morgantown	Radiology-Diagnostic	1
West Virginia University	WVU SOM	Morgantown	Everest Surgery Preliminary	30
West Virginia University	WVU SOM	Morgantown	Surgery	9
West Virginia University	WVU SOM	Morgantown	Transitional Year	14
West Virginia University	WVU Robert C. Byrd	Morgantown	Urology	10
Wheeling Hospital	Wheeling Hospital	Wheeling	Family Medicine	24
Wheeling Hospital	Wheeling Hospital	Wheeling	Podiatry	2
Total Filled Slots				***983***

WEST VIRGINIA FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS

Sponsoring Institution	Primary Site	City	Specialty	Filled Fellowships
Marshall University	Marshall/Univ Phys.& Surgeons Clinics	Huntington	Addiction Medicine	0
Marshall University	St. Mary's Medical Center	Huntington	Cardiology	15
Marshall University	Cabell Huntington Hospital	Huntington	Endocrinology	4
Marshall University	St. Mary's Medical Center	Huntington	Interventional Cardiology	0
Marshall University	Cabell Huntington Hospital	Huntington	Hem/Onc	6
Marshall University	Cabell Huntington Hospital	Huntington	Nephrology	4
Marshall University	Marshall/Univ Phys.& Surgeons Clinics	Huntington	Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics	0
Marshall University	Cabell Huntington Hospital	Huntington	Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine	4
Marshall University	Cabell Huntington Hospital	Huntington	Pediatric Hospital Medicine	2
Marshall University	Marshall/Univ Phys.& Surgeons Clinics	Huntington	Sports Medicine	1
Marshall University	Marshall/Univ Phys.& Surgeons Clinics	Huntington	Geriatric Medicine	0
Marshall University	Marshall/Univ Phys.& Surgeons Clinics	Huntington	Geriatric Psychiatry	0
Marshall University	Cabell Huntington Hospital	Huntington	Gastroenterology	9
Marshall University	Marshall/Univ Phys.& Surgeons Clinics	Huntington	Child & Adolescent Psychiatry	2
Marshall University	Cabell Huntington Hospital	Huntington	Pulmonary/Critical Care Medicine (approved 9/27/19)	11
Vandailia Health	CAMC	Charleston	Cardiovascular Disease	10
Vandailia Health	CAMC	Charleston	Emergency Medical Services	1
Vandailia Health	CAMC	Charleston	Critical Care Medicine	2
Vandailia Health	CAMC	Charleston	Gastroenterology	6
Vandailia Health	CAMC	Charleston	Hematology and Oncology	4
Vandailia Health	CAMC	Charleston	Hospice and Palliative Medicine	0
Vandailia Health	CAMC	Charleston	Interventional Cardiology	1
Vandailia Health	CAMC	Charleston	Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine	8
Vandailia Health	CAMC	Charleston	Surgical Critical Care	0
Vandailia Health	CAMC	Charleston	Vascular Surgery	1
West Virginia University	WVU SOM	Morgantown	Cardiovascular Disease	18
West Virginia University	WVU SOM	Morgantown	Gastroenterology	12
West Virginia University	WVU SOM	Morgantown	Emergency Medicine Ultrasound	1
West Virginia University	WVU SOM	Morgantown	Glaucoma	0

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Sponsoring Institution	Primary Site	City	Specialty	Filled Fellowships
West Virginia University	WVU SOM	Morgantown	Hematology/Oncology	13
West Virginia University	WVU SOM	Morgantown	Infectious Disease	2
West Virginia University	WVU SOM	Morgantown	Interventional Cardiology	2
West Virginia University	WVU SOM	Morgantown	Oculoplastics	1
West Virginia University	WVU SOM	Morgantown	Pulmonary / Critical Care Medicine	15
West Virginia University	WVU SOM	Morgantown	Retina	1
West Virginia University	WVU SOM	Morgantown	Hematopathology	1
West Virginia University	WVU SOM	Morgantown	Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine	1
West Virginia University	WVU SOM	Morgantown	Child & Adolescent Psychiatry	3
West Virginia University	WVU SOM	Morgantown	Surgical Pathology	0
West Virginia University	WVU SOM	Morgantown	Diagnostic Neuroradiology	1
West Virginia University	WVU SOM	Morgantown	Endocrinology	4
West Virginia University	WVU SOM	Morgantown	Nephrology	2
West Virginia University	WVU SOM	Morgantown	Forensic Psychiatry	0
West Virginia University	WVU SOM	Morgantown	Vascular Surgery	2
West Virginia University	WVU SOM	Morgantown	Cytopathology	1
West Virginia University	WVU SOM	Morgantown	Vascular Neurology (Stroke)	1
West Virginia University	WVU SOM	Morgantown	Sports Medicine	2
West Virginia University	WVU SOM	Morgantown	Addiction Medicine	0
West Virginia University	WVU SOM	Morgantown	Addiction Psychiatry	0
West Virginia University	WVU SOM	Morgantown	Family Medicine Population Health Management	1
West Virginia University	WVU SOM	Morgantown	Family Medicine Rural Maternal Child Health	1
West Virginia University	WVU SOM	Morgantown	Advanced Cardiac Imaging	2
West Virginia University	WVU SOM	Morgantown	Structural Heart Disease	0
West Virginia University	WVU SOM	Morgantown	Rheumatology	4
West Virginia University	WVU SOM	Morgantown	Neurology Headache	1
West Virginia University	WVU SOM	Morgantown	Stereotactic Functional Neurosurgery	1
West Virginia University	WVU SOM	Morgantown	Neurocritical Care	1
West Virginia University	WVU SOM	Morgantown	Orthopedic Spine	1
West Virginia University	WVU SOM	Morgantown	Orthopedic Adult Reconstruction	1
West Virginia University	WVU SOM	Morgantown	Radiology Breast Imaging	0
West Virginia University	WVU SOM	Morgantown	Adult Thoracic Surgery	2

Data were obtained September 2025

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Sponsoring Institution	Primary Site	City	Specialty	Filled Fellowships
West Virginia University	WVU SOM	Morgantown	Cornea	0
West Virginia University	WVU SOM	Morgantown	Endovascular Surgical Neuroradiology	1
West Virginia University	WVU SOM	Morgantown	Adult Cardiovascular Anesthesiology	1
West Virginia University	WVU SOM	Morgantown	Advanced Gastroenterology	2
West Virginia University	WVU SOM	Morgantown	Allergy and Immunology	2
West Virginia University	WVU SOM	Morgantown	Sleep Medicine	2
West Virginia University	WVU SOM	Morgantown	Regional Anesthesia and Acute Pain Medicine	0
West Virginia University	WVU SOM	Morgantown	Pain Medicine (Multidisciplinary)	1
West Virginia University	WVU SOM	Morgantown	Nutrition and Metabolic Disease	1
West Virginia University	WVU SOM	Morgantown	Critical Care (Internal Medicine)	2
West Virginia University	WVU SOM	Morgantown	Education and Administration Fellowship (Emergency Mediicne)	0
West Virginia University	WVU SOM	Morgantown	Geriatric Medicine (Internal Medicine)	1
West Virginia University	WVU SOM	Morgantown	Heart Failure	1
West Virginia University	WVU SOM	Morgantown	Hospice and Palliative Medicine	1
Wheeling Hospital	Wheeling Hospital	Wheeling	Emergency Medicine	3
Wheeling Hospital	Wheeling Hospital	Wheeling	Podiatric Food and Ankle	1
Total				208

Key indicators related to residency choice affecting the supply of physicians across West Virginia are:

- Location: graduates who complete residencies in West Virginia are much more likely to remain in the state, which is consistent with national trends.
- Specialty: primary care fields generally are most needed in rural West Virginia.

Graduates of all three West Virginia medical schools typically enter primary care residency programs at a rate at or above the national average for these same programs. Nationally for the 2024 single match program, there were 11,352 categorical primary care positions available during the match. Compared to 2024, this is an increase of 1,887 primary care positions (source: National Resident Matching Program).

Choosing a primary care residency does not guarantee future practice in an outpatient primary care setting. For instance, many internal medicine residents pursue subspecialties such as cardiology, gastroenterology, or infectious diseases rather than general internal medicine. Similarly, some primary care graduates opt to work as hospitalists in inpatient settings. As a result, some of the graduates reported below may ultimately not practice outpatient primary care.

NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF GRADUATES CHOOSING PRIMARY CARE RESIDENCIES BY GRADUATING CLASS

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Marshall University	33 (49%)	22 (37%)	35 (45%)	38 (56%)	37 (50%)
West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine	105 (56%)	114 (60%)	114 (63%)	114 (58%)	100 (56%)
West Virginia University	50 (49%)	46 (48%)	56 (54%)	49 (48%)	65 (56%)

MEDICAL SCHOOL GRADUATE RETENTION FOR PRACTICE IN WEST VIRGINIA

Retention denotes the number or percentage of West Virginia medical school graduates who remain in the state to practice. Retention is tracked annually for a six-year cohort of medical school graduates who have completed residency training. The data in this section focuses on retention of West Virginia medical school graduates in primary care and/or rural practice.

- Primary care is defined as family medicine, internal medicine, internal medicine/pediatrics, obstetrics/gynecology, and pediatrics.
- Rural areas include all areas of the state with a 2006 Rural Urban Commuting Area (RUCA) code of 4.0 or higher. These codes classify U.S. Census tracts using measures of population density, urbanization, and daily commuting.
- Data is provided only for graduates who have completed their residency training.

Beginning next year, a revised definition of rural location will be utilized. The current classification relies on static data sets that fail to capture demographic shifts and new federal data sources. The revised approach introduces a more dynamic, data-driven framework–responsive to evolving conditions while maintaining stability to support the long-term objectives of rural programs. To balance consistency and adaptability, a location will be considered rural if it meets at least three of the five criteria listed below:

1. Federal Rural Designation: Identified as rural by the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy.
2. Rural-Urban Community Code: Has a Rural-Urban Community Area (RUCA) code of 5 or higher.
3. Population Distribution: More than 50 percent of the county population resides in areas classified as rural.
4. Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) Status: The county–or facility, if the site has a facility-based HPSA designation–has a HPSA score of 14 or above.
5. Medically Underserved Status: The county is designated as a Medically Underserved Area (MUA) or serves a Medically Underserved Population (MUP).

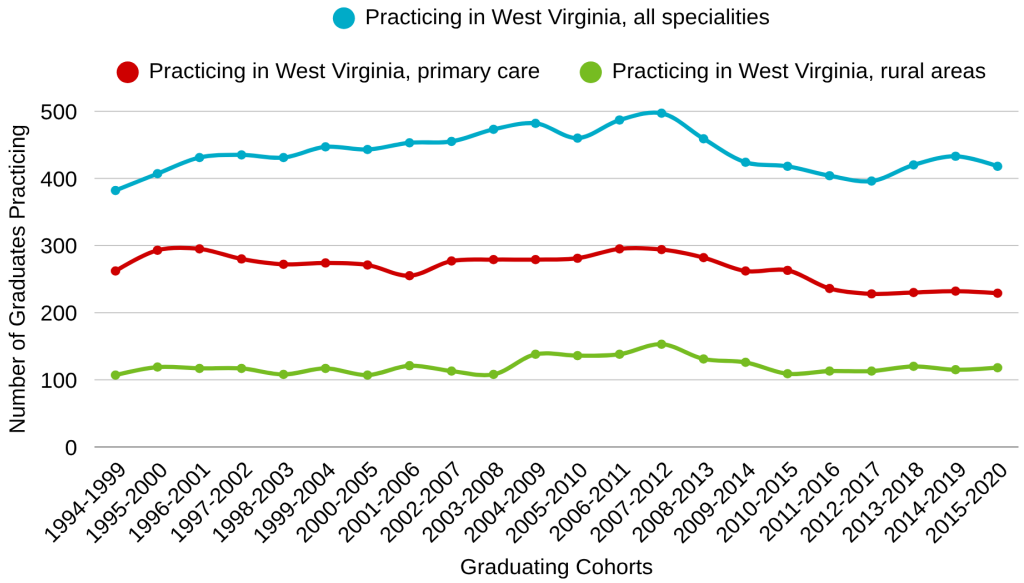
This revised approach ensures that the definition of rural remains aligned with current data and healthcare access indicators, while providing a stable foundation for program planning, funding decisions, and workforce initiatives.

Between 2015 and 2020, of the 1,799 students who graduated from the state's three medical schools and have completed residency training, either in West Virginia or out-of-state, 23 percent (418) of these graduates are practicing in West Virginia, 13 percent (229) are practicing in primary care in West Virginia, and 7 percent (118) are practicing in rural West Virginia. The growth in medical school class sizes in recent years is supplying more graduates to practice in West Virginia; however, issues persist in recruiting graduates to practice in both primary care and rural settings after completion of residency programs.

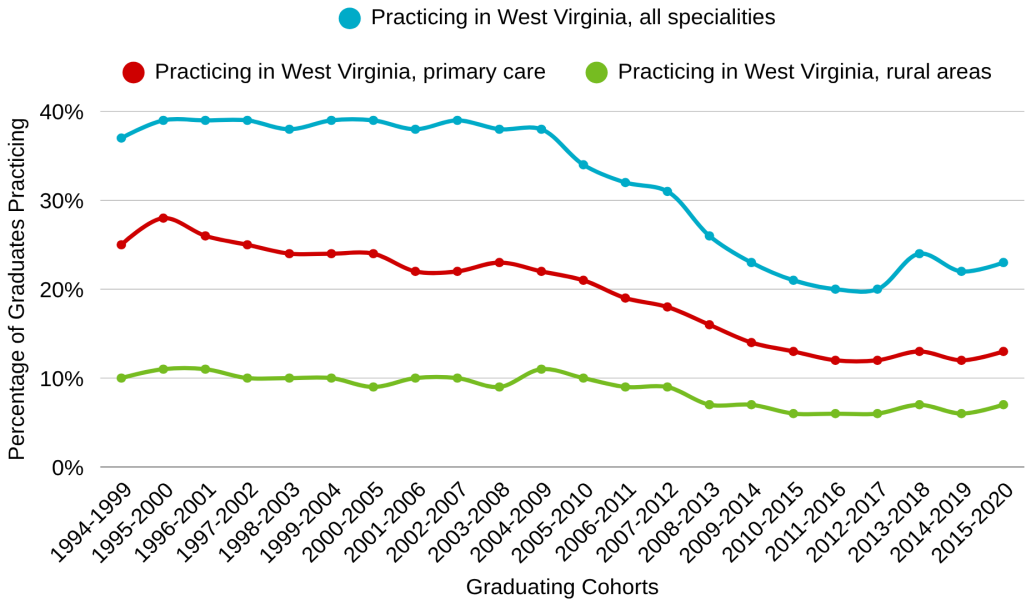
MEDICAL SCHOOL GRADUATES RETAINED, BY INSTITUTION, GRADUATING CLASSES OF 2015-2020

	Total with completed training	Total in practice in West Virginia	Total in primary care in West Virginia	Total in rural areas of West Virginia
Marshall University	343	69 (20%)	30 (9%)	9 (3%)
West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine	963	187 (19%)	126 (13%)	86 (9%)
West Virginia University	493	162 (33%)	73 (15%)	23 (47%)

NUMBER OF WEST VIRGINIA MEDICAL SCHOOL GRADUATES RETAINED, GRADUATING CLASSES OF 1994-2020

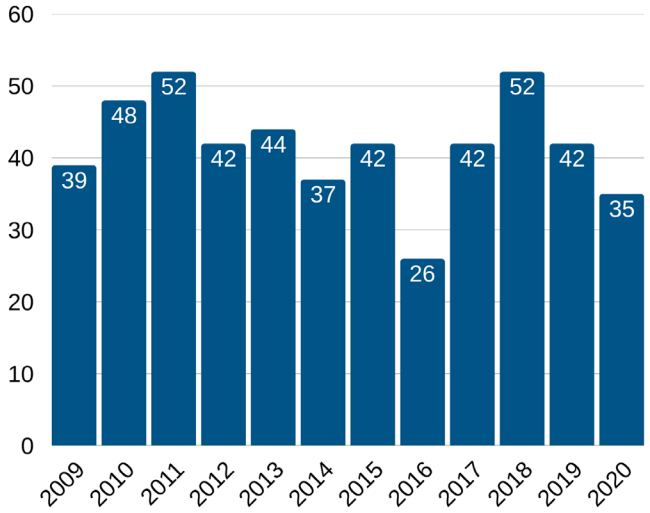


PERCENTAGE OF WEST VIRGINIA MEDICAL SCHOOL GRADUATES RETAINED, GRADUATING CLASSES OF 1994-2020

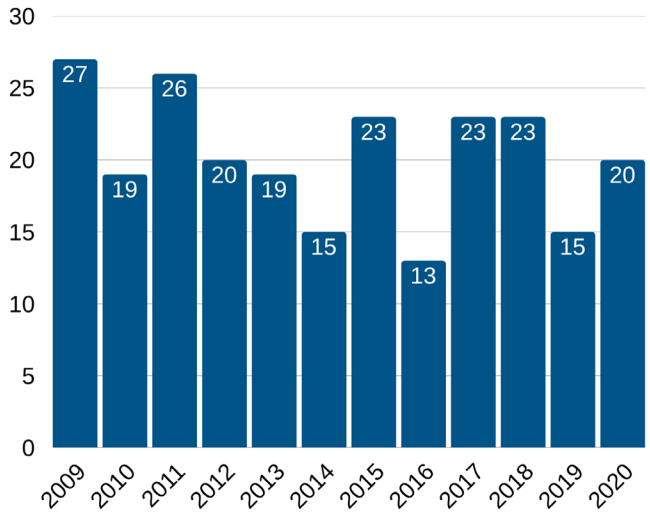


NUMBER OF WEST VIRGINIA MEDICAL SCHOOL GRADUATES PRACTICING PRIMARY CARE OR IN RURAL AREAS, BY GRADUATING CLASS

Practicing Primary Care in West Virginia



Practicing in Rural Areas of West Virginia



* These numbers only reflect those graduates who have completed their residency training.

County of Practice of Recent West Virginia Medical School Graduates

West Virginia continues to focus on recruiting more physicians to the state, especially to rural areas. Having physicians who practice primary care and/or in rural areas is crucial to ensuring communities across the state have access to health care.

The table below shows the distribution of West Virginia medical school graduates from the most recent six-year cohort across all 55 counties. This represents only graduates from West Virginia medical schools during that period and does not include physicians trained out of state or those who graduated before 2015. ***Therefore, a zero in any column does not necessarily mean a county lacks physicians.*** While this is a limited snapshot, tracking these trends over time can help guide education, training, and recruitment strategies.

WEST VIRGINIA MEDICAL SCHOOL GRADUATES PRACTICING IN WEST VIRGINIA BY COUNTY, GRADUATING CLASSES OF 2015-2020

County	Number in Practice	Number Practicing in Rural Areas	Number Practicing in Primary Care
Barbour	2	2	2
Berkeley	12	0	7
Boone	3	3	3
Braxton	2	2	2
Brooke *	1	0	1
Cabell *	58	0	28
Calhoun	1	1	1
Clay	0	0	0
Doddridge	1	1	1
Fayette	3	1	2
Gilmer	0	0	0
Grant	1	1	1
Greenbrier	22	21	18
Hampshire	3	3	3
Hancock	1	0	1
Hardy	0	0	0
Harrison	20	18	9
Jackson	2	2	1
Jefferson	5	4	5
Kanawha *	66	1	34
Lewis	2	2	2
Lincoln	0	0	0
Logan	6	6	5
Marion	5	3	2

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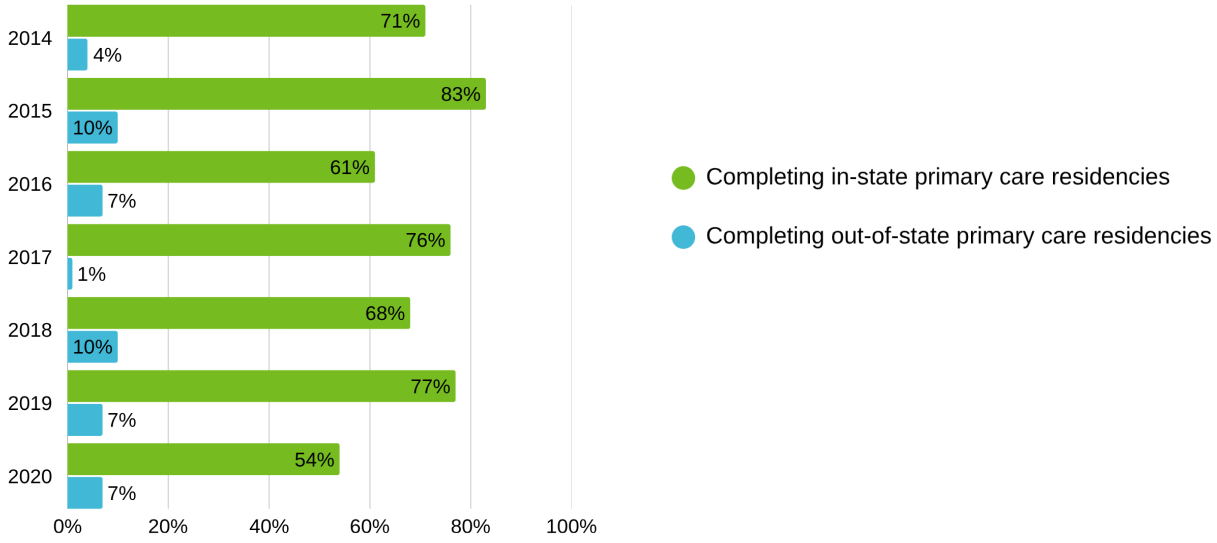
County	Number in Practice	Number Practicing in Rural Areas	Number Practicing in Primary Care
Marshall *	5	0	4
Mason	4	4	3
McDowell	2	2	1
Mercer	9	9	5
Mineral	1	1	0
Mingo	0	0	0
Monongalia*	109	0	41
Monroe	2	2	2
Morgan	0	0	0
Nicholas	3	3	2
Ohio*	9	0	4
Pendleton	0	0	0
Pleasants	0	0	0
Pocahontas	1	1	1
Preston	4	4	4
Putnam*	7	2	4
Raleigh	11	0	7
Randolph	6	5	4
Ritchie	0	0	0
Roane	1	1	1
Summers	1	1	0
Taylor	0	0	0
Tucker	0	0	0
Tyler	3	3	2
Upshur	3	2	3
Wayne	3	3	1
Webster	0	0	0
Wetzel	0	0	0
Wirt	2	2	2
Wood*	14	0	8
Wyoming	2	2	2
County Unknown	0	0	0
Total	418	118	229

* Denotes urban/non-rural county with a 2006 Rural Urban Community Area Code (RUCA) of less than 4.0, and therefore, the county has no rural areas.

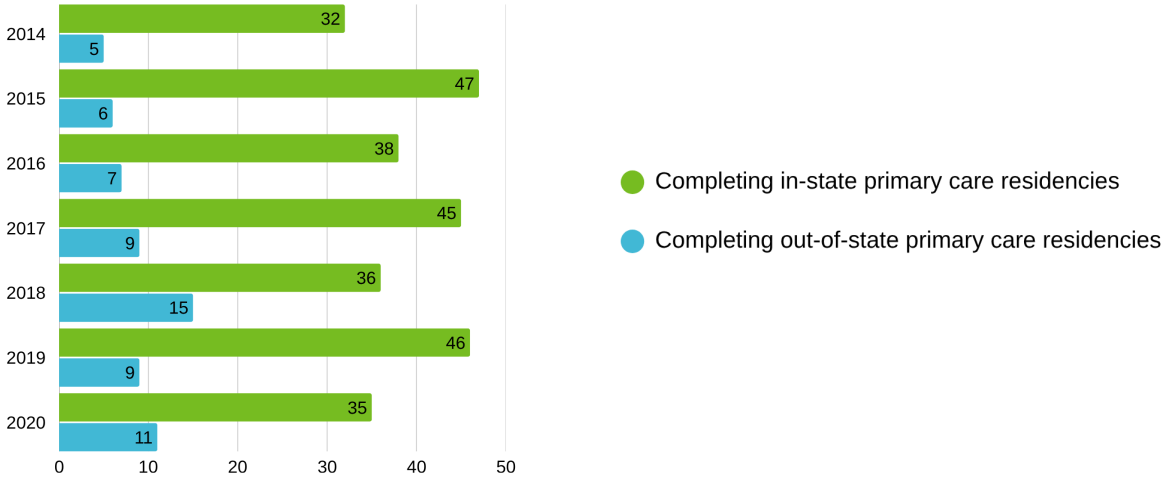
Retention of West Virginia Medical School Graduates Completing Primary Care Residencies

The location of a medical school graduate's residency program frequently predicts whether that graduate will practice in West Virginia. For the 2020 graduates of West Virginia medical schools, 202 graduates went on to complete primary care residency programs. Upon completing residency, 54 percent of those who completed in-state primary care residencies were retained in West Virginia to practice, while only 7 percent of graduates who completed out-of-state primary care residencies returned to West Virginia to practice.

PERCENTAGE OF WEST VIRGINIA MEDICAL SCHOOL GRADUATES COMPLETING PRIMARY CARE RESIDENCIES RETAINED, BY GRADUATING CLASS



NUMBER OF WEST VIRGINIA MEDICAL SCHOOL GRADUATES COMPLETING PRIMARY CARE RESIDENCIES RETAINED, BY GRADUATING CLASS



PHARMACY PROGRAM PROFILES

Pharmacists play a critical role in ensuring safe and effective medication use, improving patient outcomes, and promoting public health, particularly in rural areas where access to healthcare providers may be limited. In many small towns and underserved communities, pharmacists are among the most accessible healthcare professionals, often serving as the first point of contact for patients seeking medical advice, preventive care, or chronic disease management.

Rural pharmacists frequently provide expanded services beyond traditional dispensing, including immunizations, medication therapy management, health screenings, and patient counseling. Their presence helps reduce hospital readmissions, manage medication adherence, and support individuals with limited transportation or access to primary care. In some communities, pharmacists collaborate directly with local clinics or telehealth providers to fill critical healthcare gaps.

By maintaining consistent access to medications and personalized care, pharmacy professionals are essential to improving health outcomes, preventing complications, and sustaining the overall healthcare infrastructure in rural West Virginia and similar regions.

Marshall University School of Pharmacy

Marshall University School of Pharmacy provides a four-year PharmD program. The program does not require a bachelor's degree for admission. Students can complete the necessary pre-requisite coursework for pharmacy school in as few as two years from any regionally accredited institution. Applications are competitive. Active learning is the focus of Marshall's curriculum. Students earn three certifications while in the program including Immunization (APhA) certification, Medication Therapy Management (APhA) certification and Diabetes Management (APhA) certification. The program is fully accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE).

Data including admissions (in-state and out-of-state), GPA, graduates, total students, tuition costs, licensure pass rates and areas of practice of graduates are included here.

Admissions and Academic Year Information

		2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Entering Class Data						
Applicants	In-State	24	37	23	32	28
	Out-of-State	47	67	63	65	104
	Total	***71***	***104***	***86***	***97***	***132***
Acceptances Issued	In-State	22	29	16	23	25
	Out-of-State	29	28	29	25	39
	Total	***51***	***57***	***45***	***48***	***64***
Entering Class Mean GPA		3.46	3.31	3.34	3.31	3.2
Academic Year Data						
First Year New Enrollment	In-State	18	24	12	17	17
	Out-of-State	15	14	17	11	17
	Total	***33***	***38***	***29***	***28***	***34***
Total Graduates		25	67	54	54	59
Total PharmD Students		131	151	176	211	240

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Tuition, Fees and Indebtedness

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Tuition and Fees					
In-State	$24,198	$25,584	$23,992	$23,508	$21,848
Out-of-State	$42,400	$44,460	$39,566	$38,796	$35,278
In-State Graduating Class Average Indebtedness	$139,560	$128,799	$120,543	$126,545	$101,719
Out-of-State Graduating Class Average Indebtedness	$188,570	$171,593	$176,046	$177,650	$170,034
Indebtedness figures only include loans accumulated while obtaining a professional degree. Federal parent loans are included in total debt amount.					

West Virginia University School of Pharmacy

West Virginia University (WVU) School of Pharmacy is the oldest pharmacy school in the state, providing pharmacy education for more than a century. Students can enter the program through the pre-pharmacy pathway, which prepares students for the Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) program, or the Direct Admit Pathway (DAP), an early assurance program for high achieving high school students who wish to pursue the PharmD. The program also offers a Ph.D. program specializing in either Health Services and Outcomes Research, or Pharmaceutical and Pharmacological Sciences. The program is fully accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE).

The WVU School of Pharmacy and WVU Medicine also offers postgraduate year one and two residency programs for individuals wishing to pursue advanced clinical skills and training. The School of Pharmacy also offers a one-year academic pharmacy fellowship.

Admissions and Academic Year Information

		2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Entering Class Data						
Applicants	In-State	42	42	28	29	98
	Out-of-State	82	82	74	76	24
	Total	***124***	***122***	***105***	***102***	***124***
Acceptances Issued	In-State	37	39	28	23	37
	Out-of-State	64	64	50	50	45
	Total	***101***	***103***	***78***	***73***	***82***
Entering Class Mean GPA		3.38	3.45	3.51	3.52	3.47
Academic Year Data						
First Year New Enrollment	In-State	29	32	22	21	32
	Out-of-State	32	32	27	21	29
	Total	***61***	***64***	***49***	***42***	***61***
Total Graduates		45	48	68	77	81
Total PharmD Students		202	287	224	197	195

Tuition, Fees and Indebtedness

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Tuition and Fees					
In-State	$23,952	$25,584	$22,914	$22,266	$21,768
Out-of-State	$46,728	$41,786	$42,270	$44,460	$43,152
In-State Graduating Class Average Indebtedness	$87,322	$86,674	$69,591	$92,176	$89,342
Out-of-State Graduating Class Average Indebtedness	$99,453	$139,099	$171,653	$156,039	$168,438
Indebtedness figures only include loans accumulated while obtaining a professional degree. Federal parent loans are included in total debt amount.					

Pharmacy Licensure Examinations

Pharmacy students take their Pharmacy Board examinations (NAPLEX) after graduation, in addition to other state-specific licensure requirements, to be eligible to practice in the United States. The national average pass rate for 2024 was 77.5 percent. (source: National Association of Boards of Pharmacy).

PHARMACY BOARD EXAMINATION PASS RATES - MARSHALL UNIVERSITY

Graduating Class	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Number Passing	42	29	34	42	54
Number of Examinees	61	50	52	56	65
Passage Rate (%)	68.9%	58%	65.4%	75%	83%

PHARMACY BOARD EXAMINATION PASS RATES - WVU SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

Graduating Class	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Number Passing	42	50	50	73	62
Number of Examinees	44	66	70	82	67
Passage Rate (%)	95.5%	76%	74%	89%	93%

West Virginia Retention and Rural Practice

Opportunities for pharmacists are available in West Virginia in rural and underserved communities where they often serve as an important point of contact where healthcare services may be limited. The tables below show the number of graduates from each of the state's two public pharmacy programs, along with the number who continued training and the number who entered practice in West Virginia and within rural areas.

RETENTION IN WEST VIRGINIA AND RURAL AREAS - MARSHALL UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

Year	Number of Graduates	Number of graduates practicing in WV	Number of graduates practicing outside of WV	Number of graduates practicing in rural WV
2022	54	16 (30%)	38 (71%)	N/A
2023	54	N/A	N/A	N/A
2024	67	N/A	N/A	N/A
2025	70	27 (39%)	40 (57%)	3 (4%)

RETENTION IN WEST VIRGINIA AND RURAL AREAS - WVU SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

Year	Number of Graduates	Number of graduates practicing in WV	Number of graduates practicing outside of WV	Number of graduates practicing in rural WV
2022	77	17 (22%)	18 (24%)	1 (2%)
2023	68	13 (20%)	19 (28%)	6 (9%)
2024	50	11 (22%)	8 (16%)	5 (10%)
2025	45	19 (42%)	24 (53%)	3 (7%)

DENTISTRY PROGRAM PROFILE

Dentistry is an essential part of West Virginia's healthcare system, contributing not only to oral health but also to the overall well-being of residents across the state. Because West Virginia is one of the most rural states in the nation, many communities face barriers to accessing timely and consistent dental care. This makes the role of dentists–and all members of the dental team–especially important in maintaining the health of West Virginians.

Dentists practicing in West Virginia provide far more than routine checkups and cleanings. They deliver preventive and restorative care, diagnose oral diseases that may signal broader health conditions, and educate patients on maintaining lifelong oral health. Many also engage in public health initiatives, mobile dental clinics, and school-based programs that reach populations who might otherwise go without care.

Practicing in a largely rural state presents both challenges and opportunities. Dentists who choose to serve in West Virginia play a vital role in strengthening healthcare access, supporting underserved communities, and improving quality of life across the state. Their expertise helps reduce preventable disease, promote early intervention, and ensure that every West Virginian–no matter where they live–has access to quality oral healthcare.

West Virginia University School of Dentistry

West Virginia University hosts the state's only dental school, offering the Doctor of Dental Surgery (D.D.S.) degree. The program combines biomedical, behavioral, and dental sciences to prepare graduates for safe, ethical, and independent practice. Students gain hands-on experience in the student clinic, the Center for Dental Innovation, rural practices, and community clinics. The program is fully accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation. Data including admissions (in-state and out-of-state), GPA, graduates, total students, tuition costs, licensure pass rates and areas of practice of graduates are included here.

Admissions and Academic Year Report

		2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Entering Class Data						
Applicants	In-State	59	49	45	55	41
	Out-of-State	992	705	683	891	812
	Total	***1,051***	***754***	***728***	***946***	***853***
Acceptances Issued	In-State	34	26	31	33	26
	Out-of-State	66	65	60	55	49
	Total	***100***	***91***	***91***	***88***	***75***
Entering Class Mean GPA		3.71	3.81	3.82	3.75	3.73
Entering Class Mean Total DAT Score		20	20	20	20	20
Academic Year Data						
First Year New Enrollment	In-State	30	19	24	30	25
	Out-of-State	18	29	24	17	23
	Total	***48***	***48***	***48***	***47***	***48***
Total Graduates		49	49	46	44	46
Total DDS Students		191	193	192	185	184

Tuition, Fees and Indebtedness

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Tuition and Fees					
In-State	$55,146	$54,122	$53,569	$51,484	$49,985
Out-of-State	$107,742	$106,718	$103,897	$100,324	$97,532
In-State Graduating Class Average Indebtedness	$238,142	$210,268	$209,657	$192,511	$157,886
Out-of-State Graduating Class Average Indebtedness	$314,828	$403,942	$327,265	$378,424	$395,435
Indebtedness figures only include loans accumulated while obtaining a professional degree. Federal parent loans are included in total debt amount.					

Denistry Licensure Examinations

Prior to 2022, the National Board Dental Examination (NBDE) was offered in two parts. Beginning in 2022, there was an Integrated National Board Dental Examination (INBDE), meaning there is now only one part (reported on the "Part 2" table below). Dental education has moved toward integrated learning, blending biomedical, behavioral, and clinical sciences. The old NBDE exams were discipline-based and less aligned with this approach. The INBDE maintains the same overall goal as NBDE: to help state dental boards assess whether candidates have the minimum competence to practice safely. However, it emphasizes clinical judgment and integration of knowledge, making it more reflective of modern dental practice. In 2024, the national pass rate for accredited programs was 83.9 percent.

NATIONAL BOARD EXAMINATION PASS RATES PART 1 - WVU SCHOOL OF DENISTRY

Graduating Class	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Number Passing	-	-	-	-	44
Number of Examinees	-	-	-	-	50
Passage Rate (%)	-	-	-	-	88%

NATIONAL BOARD EXAMINATION PASS RATES PART 2 - WVU SCHOOL OF DENISTRY

Graduating Class	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Number Passing	48	46	44	41	44
Number of Examinees	49	46	44	44	48
Passage Rate (%)	98%	100%	100%	93%	91%

West Virginia Retention and Rural Practice

West Virginia has opportunities for dentists in all counties. In 2025, West Virginia has 121 dental Health Professions Shortage Areas (HPSA) as designated by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). These include geographic HPSAs, as well as low income and facility designated HPSAs.

RETENTION IN WEST VIRGINIA AND RURAL AREAS - WVU SCHOOL OF DENISTRY

Year	Number of Graduates	Number of graduates practicing in WV	Number of graduates practicing outside of WV	Number of graduates practicing in rural WV
2021	46	7 (21%)	26 (79%)	n/a
2022	44	6 (14%)	25 (57%)	3 (7%)
2023	44	14 (32%)	20 (45%)	6 (14%)
2024	46	11 (24%)	24 (52%)	5 (11%)
2025	49	22 (45%)	27 (55%)	10 (20%)

NURSING SCHOOL PROFILES

West Virginia continues to make significant progress in addressing the state's nursing workforce challenges through strategic investments, collaborative partnerships, and targeted program expansion. During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, the state faced an unprecedented crisis – nearly 2,000 hospital beds were closed due to insufficient nursing staff. This shortage underscored the urgency of strengthening the nursing education pipeline to ensure hospitals, clinics, and long-term care facilities have the workforce needed to provide quality care to West Virginians.

Since that time, the number of registered nurses working in West Virginia has grown by 1.3 percent, demonstrating steady recovery and expansion. However, challenges persist as nearly one-third of nurses licensed in the state are over age 50, and anticipated retirements are expected to place additional strain on an already stressed system. Workforce West Virginia projects that registered nursing positions will continue to grow by 1.13 percent annually through 2030, with an estimated 1,500 job openings each year due to both growth and replacement needs.

Recognizing the critical importance of building a sustainable nursing workforce, the West Virginia Nursing Workforce Expansion Program was launched in December 2021, dedicating $48 million in CARES Act funds to the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission (WVHEPC). This initiative provided pre-licensure nursing programs across the state—many housed within West Virginia's public colleges and universities—the resources to expand their cohorts, increase enrollment capacity, and innovate in program delivery. Legislative support in subsequent years has ensured the program's continuation and growing impact.

The results are clear. From 2022 to 2023, the number of registered nursing students graduating with associate degrees increased by nearly 15 percent, rising from 590 to 676 graduates in a single year. Across all degree levels, nursing graduates have increased by 15 percent over the last decade. Survey data from 24 participating institutions show a 26.2 percent increase in available seats (from 2,336 to 2,949) and a 24.2 percent increase in filled seats (from 1,745 to 2,168) in pre-licensure nursing programs statewide. These capacity gains reflect the success of targeted investments and institutional innovation – such as St. Mary's School of Nursing in Huntington, which shortened time-to-degree through summer coursework, and BridgeValley Community and Technical College, which improved student retention through dedicated student-support staff.

Moreover, data from the West Virginia Hospital Association indicates measurable improvement in the nursing workforce landscape, with reductions in turnover and vacancy rates among hospital-based nurses since the Nursing Workforce Expansion Program began. These collective efforts demonstrate how state-supported higher education institutions are playing a pivotal role in stabilizing and growing West Virginia's nursing workforce to meet current and future healthcare needs.

Bluefield State University

The Bluefield State University Nursing Program operates at two locations – in Bluefield and Beckley – and offers three distinct pre-licensure nursing programs designed to prepare students for professional practice. The programs are accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) and the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), ensuring they meet rigorous national standards for nursing education. Across both sites, the program is supported by a dedicated team of 10 full-time faculty and six per-diem/adjunct faculty who provide students with comprehensive instruction, mentorship, and clinical guidance.

2024-2025 PRE-LICENSURE PROGRAM - BLUEFIELD STATE UNIVERSITY NURSING PROGRAMS

Nursing Program	Total Enrollment	Number of Filled First Year Cohort Seats	Total Graduates	NCLEX Passage Rate (2024)
LPN to ADN in Beckley	10	10	9	88.89%
LPN to ADN in Bluefield	7	7	6	66.67%
ADN in Beckley	53	27	24	80.77%
ADN in Bluefield	63	32	29	90.32%
Accelerated ADN in Bluefield	9	9	0	100%

TOTAL	142	85	68	85.33%

Blue Ridge Community and Technical College

The Blue Ridge Community and Technical College Nursing Program operates in Martinsburg and offers two distinct pre-licensure nursing programs designed to prepare students for professional practice. The program is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN), ensuring that it meets rigorous national standards for nursing education. The program is supported by a dedicated team of six full-time faculty and eight part-time faculty who provide students with comprehensive instruction, mentorship, and clinical guidance.

2024-2025 PRE-LICENSURE PROGRAM - BLUE RIDGE COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE NURSING PROGRAM

Nursing Program	Total Enrollment	Number of Filled First Year Cohort Seats	Total Graduates	NCLEX Passage Rate (2024)
ADN	100	45	17	93.33%
Accelerated ADN	15	10	10	77.78%
TOTAL	115	55	27	85.55%

BridgeValley Community and Technical College

The BridgeValley Community and Technical College Nursing Program operates in South Charleston and offers six distinct pre-licensure nursing programs designed to prepare students for professional practice. The programs are accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN), ensuring that they meet rigorous national standards for nursing education. The program is supported by a dedicated team of 21.6 full-time faculty and 9.6 part-time faculty who provide students with comprehensive instruction, mentorship, and clinical guidance.

2024-2025 PRE-LICENSURE PROGRAM - BRIDGEVALLEY COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE NURSING PROGRAMS

Nursing Program	Total Enrollment	Number of Filled First Year Cohort Seats	Total Graduates	NCLEX Passage Rate (2024)
Accelerated ADN	35	35	26	93.75%
ADN	371	182	62	90.54%
High School to Accelerated ADN	10	7	1	100%
LPN	33	26	9	100%
LPN to ADN	24	18	8	100%
Paramedic to ADN Program	6	2	1	100%
TOTAL	479	270	107	97.38%

Concord University

The Concord University Nursing Program operates in Athens and offers two distinct pre-licensure nursing programs designed to prepare students for professional practice. The programs are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), ensuring that they meet rigorous national standards for nursing education. The programs are supported by a dedicated team of five full-time faculty who provide students with comprehensive instruction, mentorship, and clinical guidance.

2024-2025 PRE-LICENSURE PROGRAM - CONCORD UNIVERSITY NURSING PROGRAMS

Nursing Program	Total Enrollment	Number of Filled First Year Cohort Seats	Total Graduates	NCLEX Passage Rate (2024)
BSN	11	11	0	n/a
BA-BS to BSN	8	3	5	n/a
Total	18	14	5	-
Note: No test takers for NCLEX yet.				

Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical College

The Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical College Nursing Program operates in Moorefield and offers two distinct pre-licensure nursing programs designed to prepare students for professional practice. The programs are accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN), ensuring that they meet rigorous national standards for nursing education. The programs are supported by a dedicated team of two full-time faculty and two per-diem/adjunct faculty who provide students with comprehensive instruction, mentorship, and clinical guidance.

2024-2025 PRE-LICENSURE PROGRAM INFORMATION – EASTERN WEST VIRGINIA COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE NURSING PROGRAMS

Nursing Program	Total Enrollment	Number of Filled First Year Cohort Seats	Total Graduates	NCLEX Passage Rate (2024)
LPN to ADN	11	11	0	n/a
ADN	30	30	0	95%
Total	41	41	0	95%
Note: ADN program only admits new students every other year therefore only has new graduates every other year. LPN to ADN is a new program that does not yet have graduates.				

Fairmont State University

The Fairmont State University Nursing Program operates in Fairmont and offers three distinct pre-licensure nursing programs designed to prepare students for professional practice. The programs are accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) and Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), ensuring that they meet rigorous national standards for nursing education. The programs are supported by a dedicated team of 19 full-time faculty members, four part-time faculty and 22 per-diem/adjunct faculty who provide students with comprehensive instruction, mentorship, and clinical guidance.

2024-2025 PRE-LICENSURE PROGRAM INFORMATION – FAIRMONT STATE UNIVERSITY NURSING PROGRAMS

Nursing Program	Total Enrollment	Number of Filled First Year Cohort Seats	Total Graduates	NCLEX Passage Rate (2024)
ADN	315	103	84	87.85%
BSN*	52	24	-	-
LPN to ADN	201	74	60	87%
Total	568	201	144	87.52%

*BSN program has not yet graduated its first cohort.

Marshall University

The Marshall University Nursing Program operates in Glenville, Point Pleasant, Huntington, and South Charleston, and offers two distinct pre-licensure nursing programs designed to prepare students for professional practice. The programs are accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN), ensuring that they meet rigorous national standards for nursing education. The programs are supported by a dedicated team of 13 full-time faculty, 55 part-time faculty and 15 per-diem/adjunct faculty who provide students with comprehensive instruction, mentorship, and clinical guidance.

PRE-LICENSURE PROGRAM INFORMATION – MARSHALL UNIVERSITY NURSING PROGRAMS

Nursing Program	Total Enrollment	Number of Filled First Year Cohort Seats	Total Graduates	NCLEX Passage Rate (2024)
BSN – Glenville	5	*	0	-
BSN – Point Pleasant	3	0	0	100%
BSN – Huntington	211	75	39	97.73%
BA/BS to BSN – South Charleston	9	8	14	100%
Total	228	83	53	99.24%

*The Glenville – Marshall University nursing program partnership has been discontinued so no new students have been admitted nor will be admitted in the future.

New River Community and Technical College

The New River Community and Technical College Nursing Program operates in Lewisburg and offers three distinct pre-licensure nursing programs designed to prepare students for professional practice. The programs are accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN), ensuring that they meet rigorous national standards for nursing education. The programs are supported by a dedicated team of seven full-time faculty and seven part-time faculty who provide students with comprehensive instruction, mentorship, and clinical guidance.

2024-2025 PRE-LICENSURE PROGRAM INFORMATION – NEW RIVER COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE NURSING PROGRAMS

Nursing Program	Total Enrollment	Number of Filled First Year Cohort Seats	Total Graduates	NCLEX Passage Rate (2024)
LPN	46	37	37	89.19%
LPN to ADN	19	19	19	91.67%
Paramedic to ADN	9	9	8	100%
Total	74	65	64	93.62%

Pierpont Community and Technical College

The Pierpont Community and Technical College Nursing Program operates in Fairmont and offers one distinct pre-licensure nursing program designed to prepare students for professional practice. The program is approved by the West Virginia Board of Licensed Practical Nursing, ensuring that it meets rigorous national standards for nursing education. The program is supported by a dedicated team of two full-time faculty, one part-time faculty member, and four per-diem/adjunct faculty who provide students with comprehensive instruction, mentorship, and clinical guidance.

2024-2025 PRE-LICENSURE PROGRAM - PIERPONT COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE NURSING PROGRAMS

Nursing Program	Total Enrollment	Number of Filled First Year Cohort Seats	Total Graduates	NCLEX Passage Rate (2024)
LPN	36	20	29	94.74%
Total	36	20	29	94.74%

Shepherd University

The Shepherd University Nursing Program operates in Shepherdstown and offers one distinct pre-licensure nursing program designed to prepare students for professional practice. The program is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), ensuring that it meets rigorous national standards for nursing education. The program is supported by a dedicated team of 11 full-time faculty and 10 per-diem/adjunct faculty who provide students with comprehensive instruction, mentorship, and clinical guidance.

2024-2025 PRE-LICENSURE PROGRAM - SHEPHERD NURSING PROGRAMS

Nursing Program	Total Enrollment	Number of Filled First Year Cohort Seats	Total Graduates	NCLEX Passage Rate (2024)
BSN	131	74	68	94.37%
Total	131	74	68	94.37%

Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College

The Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College Nursing Program operates in Logan and offers two distinct pre-licensure nursing programs designed to prepare students for professional practice. The programs are accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN), ensuring that they meet rigorous national standards for nursing education. The programs are supported by a dedicated team of 13 full-time faculty and four per-diem/adjunct faculty who provide students with comprehensive instruction, mentorship, and clinical guidance.

2024-2025 PRE-LICENSURE PROGRAM - SOUTHERN WEST VIRGINIA COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Nursing Program	Total Enrollment	Number of Filled First Year Cohort Seats	Total Graduates	NCLEX Passage Rate (2024)
ADN	118	63	48	85.42%
Accelerated ADN	21	21	17	100%
Total	139	84	65	92.71%

West Liberty University

The West Liberty University Nursing Program operates in West Liberty and offers two distinct pre-licensure nursing programs designed to prepare students for professional practice. The programs are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), ensuring that they meet rigorous national standards for nursing education. The programs are supported by a dedicated team of five full-time faculty, two part-time faculty members, and six per-diem/adjunct faculty members who provide students with comprehensive instruction, mentorship, and clinical guidance.

2024-2025 PRE-LICENSURE PROGRAM INFORMATION – WEST LIBERTY UNIVERSITY NURSING PROGRAMS

Nursing Program	Total Enrollment	Number of Filled First Year Cohort Seats	Total Graduates	NCLEX Passage Rate (2024)
BSN	32	20	12	100%
BA/BS to BSN	11	6	5	100%
Total	43	26	17	100%

West Virginia Northern Community College

The West Virginia Northern Community College Nursing Program operates in New Martinsville, Weirton, and Wheeling, and offers three distinct pre-licensure nursing programs designed to prepare students for professional practice. The programs are accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN), ensuring that they meet rigorous national standards for nursing education. The programs are supported by a dedicated team of seven full-time faculty and two adjunct faculty who provide students with comprehensive instruction, mentorship, and clinical guidance.

2024-2025 PRE-LICENSURE PROGRAM INFORMATION – WEST VIRGINIA NORTHERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE NURSING PROGRAMS

Nursing Program	Total Enrollment	Number of Filled First Year Cohort Seats	Total Graduates	NCLEX Passage Rate (2024)
LPN – New Martinsville	4	4	4	50%
ADN – Weirton	26	20	5	100%
ADN – Wheeling	53	33	20	100%
LPN to ADN - Wheeling	13	13	0	-
Total	96	70	29	83.33%

West Virginia State University

The West Virginia State University Nursing Program operates in Institute and offers two distinct pre-licensure nursing programs designed to prepare students for professional practice. The programs are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), ensuring that they meet rigorous national standards for nursing education. The programs are supported by a dedicated team of four full-time faculty and one part-time faculty member who provide students with comprehensive instruction, mentorship, and clinical guidance.

2024-2025 PRE-LICENSURE PROGRAM INFORMATION – WEST VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY NURSING PROGRAMS

Nursing Program	Total Enrollment	Number of Filled First Year Cohort Seats	Total Graduates	NCLEX Passage Rate (2024)
BSN	57	17	13	94.12%
LPN to BSN	20	8	0	-
Total	77	25	13	94.12%

West Virginia University

The West Virginia University Nursing Program operates in Beckley, Bridgeport, Keyser, and Morgantown, and offers three distinct pre-licensure nursing programs designed to prepare students for professional practice. The programs are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), ensuring that they meet rigorous national standards for nursing education. The programs are supported by a dedicated team of 48 full-time faculty members and 22 part-time faculty members who provide students with comprehensive instruction, mentorship, and clinical guidance.

2024-2025 PRE-LICENSURE PROGRAM INFORMATION – WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY NURSING PROGRAMS

Nursing Program	Total Enrollment	Number of Filled First Year Cohort Seats	Total Graduates	NCLEX Passage Rate (2024)
BA/BS to BSN – Morgantown	29	24	20	100%
BA/BS to BSN – Bridgeport	25	25	8	100%
BSN – Keyser	69	13	12	95.83%
BSN – Beckley	77	29	22	100%
BSN – Morgantown	442	96	89	99.18%
LPN to BSN - Keyser	13	6	0	-
Total	655	193	151	99%

West Virginia University at Parkersburg

The West Virginia University at Parkersburg Nursing Program operates in Parkersburg and offers two distinct pre-licensure nursing programs designed to prepare students for professional practice. The programs are accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN), ensuring that they meet rigorous national standards for nursing education. The programs are supported by a dedicated team of 15 full-time faculty and 19 per-diem/adjunct faculty who provide students with comprehensive instruction, mentorship, and clinical guidance.

2024-2025 PRE-LICENSURE PROGRAM INFORMATION – WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY AT PARKERSBURG NURSING PROGRAMS

Nursing Program	Total Enrollment	Number of Filled First Year Cohort Seats	Total Graduates	NCLEX Passage Rate (2024)
LPN to ADN	39	18	17	100%
ADN	165	35	43	97.67%
Total	204	53	60	98.84%

Nursing Faculty

Recruiting and retaining qualified nursing faculty is critical to sustaining the nursing workforce pipeline, yet it remains one of the most significant challenges in nursing education. Nurses with graduate degrees often encounter substantial pay gaps between academic positions and clinical practice roles, where salaries are typically higher. This disparity makes it difficult for colleges and universities to attract and retain experienced faculty, resulting in shortages that limit program capacity and hinder enrollment growth. Competitive compensation, professional development, and strong institutional support are essential to prepare the next generation of nurses and address statewide and national shortages. To help meet this need, the West Virginia Nursing Expansion Program implemented strategies such as targeted marketing of faculty positions, tuition reimbursement for advanced education, and funding for professional development. As a result of these efforts, our public colleges and universities currently have a 1:8 student to faculty ratio and employ a total of 388.2 faculty for our pre-licensure nursing programs.

NURSING FACULTY DATA

Institution	Number of Pre-Licensure Nursing Programs	Full-Time Faculty	Part-Time Faculty	Per-Diem/Adjunct Faculty
Bluefield State University	5	10	0	6
BlueRidge Community and Technical College	2	6	8	0
BridgeValley Community and Technical College	6	21.6	9.6	
Concord University	2	5	0	0
Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical College	2	2	0	2
Fairmont State University	3	19	4	22
Marshall University	4	13	55	15
New River Community and Technical College	3	7	7	0
Pierpont Community and Technical College	1	2	1	4
Shepherd University	1	11	0	10
Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College	2	13	0	4
West Liberty University	2	5	2	6
West Virginia State University	2	4	1	0
West Virginia University	6	48	22	0
West Virginia Northern Community College	4	7	0	2
West Virginia University at Parkersburg	2	15	0	19
Total	47	188.6	109.6	90

Nursing Program Information

West Virginia's nursing education system offers a diverse range of pre-licensure program types designed to meet students at different stages of their academic and professional journeys. These include Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN), LPN to Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN), Paramedic to ADN, Accelerated ADN, High School to ADN, traditional ADN, BA/BS to Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN), LPN to BSN, and traditional BSN programs. Collectively, these programs enrolled a total of 3,031 pre-licensure nursing students across all institutions during the most recent academic year, with 1,432 students entering their first-year cohorts and 900 graduates completing their programs. This diversity of pathways allows individuals to advance through multiple entry points into the nursing profession, supporting both workforce growth and accessibility to nursing education statewide.

PUBLIC COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY PRE-LICENSURE NURSING PROGRAM DATA

Nursing Program Type	Number of Programs	Total Enrollment	Total Graduates	Number of Filled First Year Cohort Seats
LPN	4	103	79	103
LPN to ADN	8	324	119	170
Paramedic to ADN	2	15	9	
Accelerated ADN	4	80	53	75
High School to ADN	1	10	1	7
ADN	10	1,294	332	570
BA-BS to BSN	5	82	52	66
LPN to BSN	2	33	0	14
BSN	11	1,090	255	416
Total	47	3,031	900	1,432

Nursing Student Indebtedness

Indebtedness among nursing students in pre-licensure programs at West Virginia's public colleges and universities has shifted in recent years, thanks to a mix of public and private support. Public initiatives like WV Invests (last-dollar tuition) and the West Virginia Nursing Scholarship help cover tuition and fees with the West Virginia Nursing Scholarship filling critical gaps for students who do not qualify for other aid or who still have an unmet need. Many healthcare systems also offer tuition assistance and scholarships, further reducing reliance on loans. In 2025, the average debt for in-state nursing graduates was $26,423, compared to $38,596 for out-of-state students, and 36 percent of graduates finished with no educational debt at all. Most of these programs are tied to residency or service commitments, helping ensure graduates remain in West Virginia to practice and strengthen the state's nursing workforce.

Loan amounts include all undergraduate loans including amounts of accumulated before nursing programs. Any federal parent loans are included in the total loan amount. These figures only account for loans accumulated at public institutions in West Virginia.

NURSING STUDENT INDEBTEDNESS

Institution	Terminal Degree	Graduating Class	Percentage Graduating Without Debt	Average Debt In-State Students	Average Debt Out-of-State Students
Blue Ridge Community and Technical College	ADN	2021	28%	$17,370	n/a
		2022	38%	$26,682	n/a
		2023	23%	$20,785	n/a
		2024	46%	$23,480	n/a
		2025	35%	$22,702	n/a

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Institution	Terminal Degree	Graduating Class	Percentage Graduating Without Debt	Average Debt In-State Students	Average Debt Out-of-State Students
Blue Ridge Community and Technical College	ADN	2021	28%	$17,370	n/a
		2022	38%	$26,682	n/a
		2023	23%	$20,785	n/a
		2024	46%	$23,480	n/a
		2025	35%	$22,702	n/a
BridgeValley Community and Technical College	ADN	2021	35%	$22,782	N/A
		2022	16%	$14,384	N/A
		2023	30%	$22,401	N/A
		2024	35%	$19,212	N/A
		2025	42%	$16,177	N/A
Bluefield State University	ADN	2021	32%	$22,679	N/A
		2022	31%	$19,522	N/A
		2023	31%	$24,368	N/A
		2024	23%	$21,318	N/A
		2025	40%	$23,173	N/A
Concord University	BSN	2025	0%	$23,573	N/A
Fairmont State University	ADN	2021	24%	$35,596	$49,787
		2022	24%	$28,116	N/A
		2023	29%	$25,887	$45,744
		2024	20%	$25,713	$29,067
		2025	26%	$28,800	$19,490
Fairmont State University	BSN*	2021	23%	$39,883	N/A
		2022	34%	$32,925	N/A
		2023	28%	$30,968	N/A
		2024	37%	$35,430	N/A
		2025	39%	$30,658	N/A
Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical College	ADN	2024	48%	$19,546	N/A
Marshall University	BSN*	2021	24%	$35,596	$49,787
		2022	24%	$28,116	N/A
		2023	29%	$25,887	$45,744
		2024	20%	$25,713	$29,067
		2025	26%	$28,800	$19,490

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Institution	Terminal Degree	Graduating Class	Percentage Graduating Without Debt	Average Debt In-State Students	Average Debt Out-of-State Students
New River Community and Technical College***	ADN	2022	0%	$15,471	N/A
		2023	33%	$16,527	N/A
		2024	8%	$11,042	N/A
		2025	40%	$17,083	N/A
		2025	35%	$22,702	n/a
Shepherd University	BSN*	2021	23%	$31,346	$43,065
		2022	34%	$30,418	$45,417
		2023	30%	$27,750	$56,525
		2024	35%	$31,469	$45,646
		2025	25%	$29,535	$42,099
Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College	ADN	2021	41%	$16,813	N/A
		2022	53%	$13,930	N/A
		2023	49%	$17,344	N/A
		2024	57%	$12,285	N/A
		2025	51%	$13,249	N/A
West Liberty University	BSN*	2021	26%	$28,377	$48,814
		2022	29%	$27,269	N/A
		2023	27%	$28,029	$44,981
		2024	34%	$31,414	$39,859
		2025	20%	$39,097	$33,053
West Virginia Northern Community and Technical College	ADN	2021	33%	$15,691	$20,187
		2022	36%	$14,043	$21,035
		2023	50%	$12,647	N/A
		2024	50%	$9,661	N/A
		2025	44%	$19,248	N/A
West Virginia State University****	BSN	2022	43%	$41,430	N/A
		2023	35%	$23,865	N/A
		2024	46%	$33,988	N/A
		2024	20%	$25,713	$29,067
		2025	26%	$28,800	$19,490

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Institution	Terminal Degree	Graduating Class	Percentage Graduating Without Debt	Average Debt In-State Students	Average Debt Out-of-State Students
West Virginia University	BSN*	2021	36%	$34,620	$61,042
		2022	30%	$29,022	$59,170
		2023	32%	$31,292	$70,868
		2024	34%	$31,998	$65,382
		2025	37%	$36,552	$57,987
West Virginia University at Parkersburg	ADN	2021	18%	$21,516	N/A
		2022	30%	$27,438	N/A
		2023	36%	$23,830	N/A
		2024	45%	$17,814	N/A
		2025	38%	$24,547	N/A

Note – N/A in Average Educational Debt for Out-Of-State students means that the school has less than five out of state students for the indicated graduating class.
*Indicates BSN programs at institutions that offer RN-BSN programs. Therefore average educational debt figures include those who are in a post licensure program since the same degree is conferred upon program completion.
**Eastern Community and Technical College only accepts new cohorts every other year for their ADN program.
***New River Community and Technical College's first graduating class for their ADN programs was in 2022.
****West Virginia State University's first graduating class for their BSN programs was in 2022.

NCLEX Passage Rates and Locations

The licensure process for nurses in the United States begins with the NCLEXRN (for registered nurses) or the NCLEXPN (for practical or vocational nurses), exams administered under the auspices of the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN). These computerized adaptive tests are designed to assess whether an entry-level nurse has the requisite knowledge, clinical judgment, and competencies to practice safely. After successfully passing the exam, a nurse is licensed by the state board of the state in which the exam was taken. For states like West Virginia, nurse licensure is linked to the nurse's state of residence rather than their work location, due to participation in the Nurse Licensure Compact. This means a nurse residing in West Virginia takes the exam under the West Virginia Board of Nursing and may practice in other compact states under that license, provided their primary residence remains in West Virginia. According to the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, the NCLEX RN passage rate for RNs educated in the United State passing the first time in 2024 was 91.16 percent and 88.65 percent for LPNs.

To better understand where graduates are likely to practice, we analyzed the states in which they take their licensure exams across all public programs. Please note that test takers in 2024 may not match the number of graduates because some students may not elect to take the exam until the next calendar year. Most test takers sit for the exam in West Virginia. The next most common states are Pennsylvania (32), Ohio (18), Virginia (27), Maryland (26), and Kentucky (8) – all bordering West Virginia, which explains their prominence.

STATE OF NCLEX EXAMINATION FOR WEST VIRGINIA PUBLIC PRE-LICENSURE NURSING PROGRAMS, CALENDAR YEAR 2024

State	Number of Test Takers	Number Passing	Passage Rate
California	3	3	100%
Colorado	1	1	100%
Florida	1	1	100%
Georgia	2	2	100%

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Indiana	2	1	50%
Kentucky	8	8	100%
Maryland	26	19	73.1%
New Jersey	2	2	100%
New York	7	7	100%
North Carolina	3	3	100%
Ohio	18	16	88.9%
Pennsylvania	32	30	93.8%
Texas	2	2	100%
Virginia	27	26	96.3%
West Virginia	1,075	1,014	94.3%
TOTAL	1,206	1,135	94.1%

LOANS AND INCENTIVES

Health Sciences Service Program

The Health Sciences Service Program is a state-funded incentive program and is administered by the Commission. The program provides financial awards to health professions students who agree to practice in underserved areas of the state upon completion of their education and training. Participants complete either two years of full-time service or four years of part-time service. Medical and dental students receive a $30,000 award. Doctoral clinical psychology, licensed independent clinical social work, nursing education, nurse practitioner, physical therapy, occupational therapy, public health, pharmacy, and physician assistant trainees receive a $15,000 award.

Since 1995, more than 250 participants have completed their service obligation. In the 2024-2025 academic year, 16 awards totaling $285,000 were offered to:

- 3 clinical social work students
- 3 medical students
- 4 nurse practitioner students
- 2 occupational therapy students
- 1 physician assistant student
- 1 clinical psychology student
- 2 physical therapy students

West Virginia Nursing Scholarship Program

The West Virginia Nursing Scholarship Program is a state-funded scholarship program administered by the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission. The program provides LPNs, RNs, and graduate-level nursing students with scholarships in exchange for completing service obligations in West Virginia. Recent data shows that more than 87 percent of nurses who completed their service obligations maintained an active West Virginia nursing license. While some nursing students without previous degrees may qualify for other awards, the West Virginia Nursing Scholarship Program is open to nursing students at all levels, regardless of whether they earned a previous degrees.

Many nursing students in West Virginia are non-traditional students and do not qualify for traditional financial aid, making this scholarship vitally important in ensuring these students can afford their nursing education. While the scholarship's primary funding source was eliminated through state legislation in 2022 (Senate Bill 518), the Commission has been able to temporarily fund nursing scholarships with grants from the governor's three-year Nursing Expansion Program. However, as those were one-time funds, a dedicated funding stream would be needed to continue the program.

WEST VIRGINIA NURSING SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM BY PROGRAM YEAR

	2024-2025	2023-2024	2022-2023	2021-2022	2020-2021
Total number of applicants	913	843	693	588	568
Number of individual awardees*	357	344	295	211	182
Total number of awards distributed	565	602	465	320	272
Total value of awards distributed	$1,505,807	$1,351,500	$1,244,750	$378,350	$343,100

Medical Student Loan Program

The Medical Student Loan Program, which is funded from student fees, is a need-based program for students at West Virginia medical schools and administered by the Commission. Institutions award loans of up to $10,000 each year per eligible student, and a student may receive a loan in more than one year of medical school. Borrowers are eligible for loan forgiveness of up to $10,000 per year for each year they practice in West Virginia in an underserved area and/or in a medical shortage field. Borrowers are permitted to reapply for loan forgiveness in subsequent years.

To expand the program's impact and better align with West Virginia's healthcare needs, the Health Sciences Division recently collaborated with healthcare stakeholders statewide to identify additional specialty areas eligible for postponement and/or forgiveness. Through a comprehensive survey of federally qualified health centers and hospitals, as well as direct outreach to healthcare organizations and educational programs for feedback, the Commission identified several high-need specialties to include. As a result, Addiction Medicine, Neurology, Neurosurgery, General Surgery, and Cardiac and Thoracic Surgery were added to the program's existing list of covered primary care specialties–Family Medicine, OB/GYN, General Internal Medicine, General Pediatrics, and Adult or Child Psychiatry.

MEDICAL STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM BY PROGRAM YEAR

	2024-2025	2023-2024	2022-2023	2021-2022	2020-2021
Loans awarded in Fiscal Year	0	0	154	229	352
Total amount awarded	$0	$0	$1,264,257	$1,639,500	$1,712,559
Amount of unexpended funds*	$6,472,759	$4,990,322	$3,380,302	$3,397,149	$3,143,604
Loan postponement**	18	5	9	11	10
Loan forgiveness***	360	339	334	322	315
Default rate on previous awards	13.16%	11.26%	9.94%	9.83%	10.55%

* Amount of unexpended funds includes loan repayments. ** Loan postponement is the number of borrowers who applied for the first time in a given year to begin practicing toward earning loan forgiveness. If these borrowers complete one year of service, they receive up to $10,000 in loan forgiveness, and then, are included in the subsequent year's loan forgiveness count. *** Loan forgiveness is the number of borrowers who received up to $10,000 in loan forgiveness in a given year.

Choose West Virginia Practice Program

The Choose WV Practice Program is a state-funded incentive program administered by the Commission. The program provides a tuition waiver to non-resident West Virginia medical students who agree to remain in West Virginia to practice in an underserved area of the state upon completion of their education and training. Two students from each West Virginia medical school are eligible to be awarded each academic year and receive a tuition waiver for the difference between in state and out-of-state tuition (approximately $30,000). The first awards were held in 2019-2020.

CHOOSE WEST VIRGINIA PRACTICE PROGRAM; TOTAL RECIPIENTS, TOTAL FUNDS DISBUSRSED, AVERAGE AWARD, 2020-2021 TO 2024-2025

	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
Recipients	9	14	16	20	17
Funds Disbursed	$285,318	$444,871	$514,084	$679,108	$571,032
Average Award	$31,702	$31,777	$32,130	$33,955	$33,590

CHOOSE WEST VIRGINIA PRACTICE PROGRAM: TOTAL RECIPIENTS OF NEW AWARDS AND NEW AWARDS BY INSTITUTION 2024-2025

	Recipients	% of Total Recipients	Awards
Marshall University	3	17.6%	$100,737
West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine	9	52.9%	$295,200
West Virginia University	5	29.4%	$175,095
Total	17	100.0%	$571,032

Mental Health Loan Repayment Program

The Mental Health Loan Repayment Program is a state-funded incentive program administered by the Commission that provides provides approximately 30 awards annually to practicing mental health professionals who complete a service obligation to deliver therapy or counseling services in underserved areas of West Virginia. The award amount is at least $10,000 (depending on outstanding debt) and is renewable up to three years based on availability of funds and continued eligibility for the loan repayment program.

For the past few award years, the Commission was given temporary funding from the West Virginia Bureau for Behavioral Health to increase the number of awards given. These funds have been exhausted and are no longer available. In 2025, the state budget for the program was reduced from $330,000 to $100,000. With reduced annual appropriations, the number of awards will remain limited unless additional resources are allocated to the program.

Eligible disciplines include Licensed doctoral level Clinical Psychologist, Master's level Licensed Psychologist, Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker, Licensed Certified Social Worker, Licensed Professional Counselor, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, or Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner and other mental health disciplines experiencing a shortage of practitioners, as identified by the Commission. In 2024-2025, three awards totaling $90,000 were offered to:

- 1 licensed graduate Social Worker
- 1 licensed Independent Social Worker
- 1 Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INITIATIVE

The West Virginia Behavioral Health Initiative is a statewide effort to strengthen the behavioral health education and workforce development among mental health professionals. It represents a coordinated, multi-institutional investment to expand and sustain West Virginia's behavioral health workforce. Through curriculum innovation, credential support, and educational pipeline development, it seeks to prepare more qualified professionals to meet the state's growing mental health and addiction treatment needs. The key goals of the effort include:

- Collecting and analyzing data on behavioral health education and workforce trends to guide future policy.
- Expanding behavioral health career pathways starting in K-12 and continuing through higher education.
- Incentivizing education and practice in behavioral health professions across the state.
- Enhancing credentialing opportunities, particularly for advanced addiction counseling certifications.
- Promoting telehealth proficiency in behavioral health service delivery.

Continued on next page

- Facilitate statewide collaboration among education and workforce stakeholders.

The Health Sciences Division was able to secure a $700,000 grant from the Department of Labor to fund these efforts from February 2024 through January 2026. This funding was structured into four focus areas to address and support the program's key goals.

1. Internships – Institutions were invited to apply for internship grants that support master's level psychology, social work, and counseling students, and doctoral level psychology interns in grants of $60,000. Grants were given to West Virginia University HSTA, WVU Social Work Play Higher Pioneers, and Marshall University Behavioral Health Scholars.
2. Training – 15 students and/or professionals have been assisted with acquiring or increasing their West Virginia Certification Board of Addiction and Prevention Professionals (WVCBAPP) credentials. Stipends for training, travel for training, and clinical field supervision were funded as needed. Funding for this area was given to Marshall University Center for Excellence in Recovery ($30,000).
3. Pipeline – Institutions were invited to apply for grants for master's level psychology, social work, and counseling, and doctoral level clinical psychology internship stipends to incentivize advanced careers in behavioral health. 3 grants were given to West Virginia HSTA ($71,320), West Virginia University Social Work Play Higher Pioneers ($93,750), and Marshall University Behavioral Health Scholars ($74,329.50).
4. Telehealth – Grants were given out to fund curriculum creation or expansion to improve tele-behavioral health delivery skills. Grants were given to Marshall University Tele-behavioral Health Curriculum Project ($14,590), West Virginia University Social Work Simulation Project ($14,858.76), Concord University Social Work ($14,009), and Mountain Laurel Integrated Healthcare – Logan Mingo Area Health ($5,000).

As the funding provided through the U.S. Department of Labor concludes in January 2026, the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission is actively pursuing additional funding opportunities to sustain and expand this vital work. The Commission remains deeply committed to improving behavioral health outcomes across the state's colleges and universities and to strengthening the behavioral health workforce pipeline to ensure that practitioners are well-prepared to care for all West Virginians.



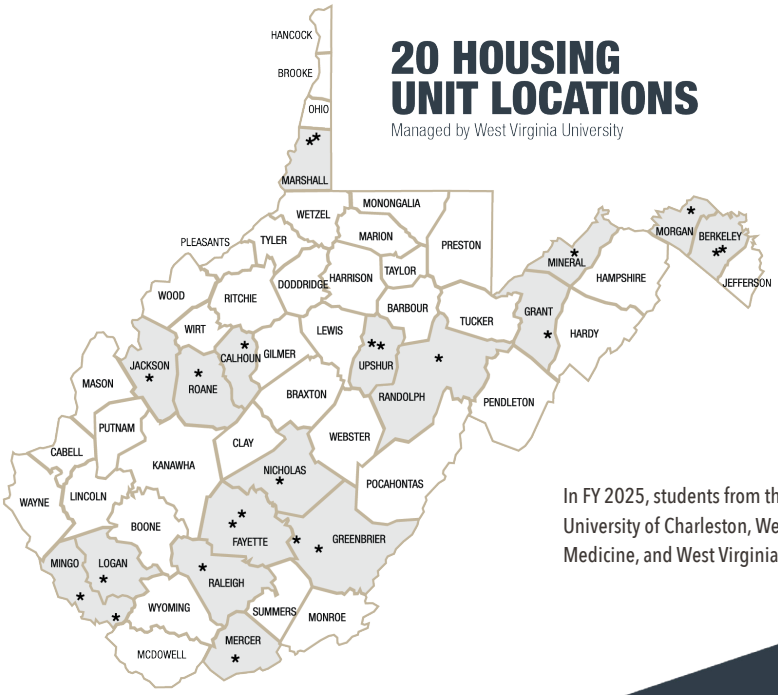
RURAL HEALTH INITIATIVE PROGRAM

The RHI statewide housing system for health sciences students helps students complete clinical rotations away from the main campus and immerse themselves in a rural or underserved community. The housing is open to all health sciences students, but in FY 2025, the housing was most frequently used by medical, physician assistant, pharmacy, dental and pathologist's assistant students. The typical

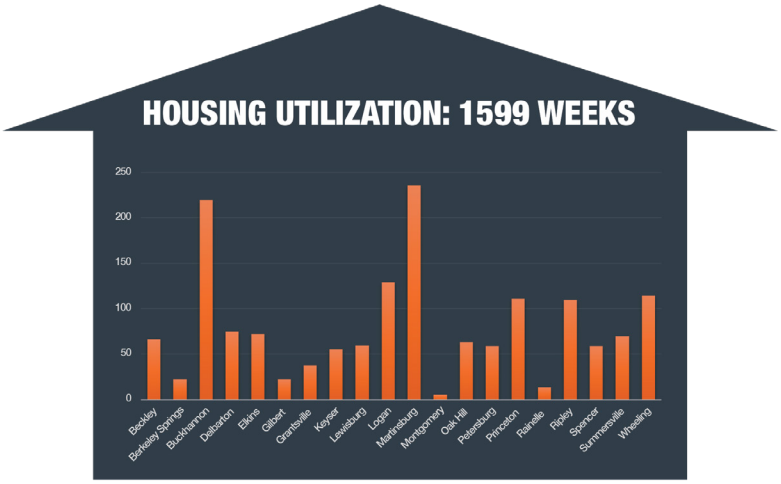
length of stay for students utilizing housing is about four weeks.

In FY2025, 23 housing units located in 20 cities throughout West Virginia were utilized by students engaged in community-based clinical experiences. These units are primarily leased houses or apartments that are property managed by West Virginia University. Housing locations are identified based on demand for clinical rotations in certain geographic areas, as well as the ability to secure the appropriate type of rental property. The operating costs of the program are supported through the Commission's RHI funding, and a $170/week fee paid by students utilizing the housing. Often, the cost of housing is covered by the student's institution. In FY 2025, a total of 1,599 weeks in 21 housing units in 19 cities were utilized across the state.

The following pages contain a profile of the statewide student housing system for clinical rotations and program overviews for each of the academic health center's RHI activities during FY 2025.



In FY 2025, students from the following institutions utilized housing: Marshall University, University of Charleston, West Liberty University, West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine, and West Virginia University.



Statewide Housing System

The RHI statewide housing system for health sciences students has allowed students to complete clinical rotations away from the main campus and immerse themselves in a rural or underserved community. The housing is open to all health sciences students, but in FY 2025, the housing was most frequently used by medical, physician assistant, pharmacy, dental students, and pathologist's assistant. The typical length of stay for students utilizing housing is about 4 weeks.

In FY2025, 23 housing units located in 20 cities throughout WV were utilized by students engaged in community-based clinical experiences. These units are primarily leased houses or apartments that are property managed by West Virginia University. Housing locations are identified based on demand for clinical rotations in certain geographic areas, as well as the ability to secure the appropriate type of rental property. The operating costs of the program are supported through the Commission's RHI funding, and a $170/week fee paid by students utilizing the housing. Often, the cost of housing is covered by the student's institution. A total of 1,599 weeks were utilized across all housing unit locations in FY 2025. At the end of FY 2025, a total of 21 housing units located in 19 cities were available for utilization.

MARSHALL UNIVERSITY JOAN C. EDWARDS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



Mission

We are empowering the future of medicine by elevating education, driving discovery and championing wellness throughout Appalachia and beyond.

Values

- Collaboration: We foster teamwork across disciplines and institutions to enhance patient care, education and research.
- Community: We are committed to building a healthier future for West Virginia and Appalachia by addressing rural health challenges and meeting the needs of the communities we serve.
- Innovation: We embrace new ideas, technologies and research to advance understanding of disease and improve patient outcomes.
- Lifelong Learning: We recognize medicine is a lifelong calling that requires continuous growth to meet the evolving needs of patients and the profession.
- Respect: We value every individual, prioritizing empathy, humanism and integrity in all we do.

INCREASE THE RECRUITMENT OF HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS TO RURAL AND UNDERSERVED AREAS

Rural Research & Training: Building the Pipeline for Rural Healthcare Providers

The Center for Rural Health's Rural Research Initiative offers students and residents immersive experiences in some of West Virginia's most underserved communities. To date, the Center has awarded over $1.58 million in rural research grants, supporting projects that directly benefit both communities and students.

- Community Impact: Students conduct on-site research, gathering data that enables tailored, innovative solutions to local healthcare challenges.
- Student Development: Participants gain leadership, communication, and analytical skills. All students are required to publish and present their work, resulting in 32 state, national, and international presentations and 24 publications–showcasing West Virginia's talent on a global stage.

Pharmacy Student Engagement

- Five pharmacy students completed 60 percent of their fourth-year training in rural West Virginia counties.
- Their fieldwork included studying rural practice responsibilities, payment models, and healthcare challenges.
- Each student conducted research addressing current rural health issues.

Physician Assistant (PA) Program Impact

The PA Program continues to expand clinical rotations in rural and underserved areas.

Accreditation self-study revealed strong outcomes

- 64 percent of the Class of 2023 (N=25) secured employment in rural/underserved communities.
- 52 percent of the Class of 2024 (N=23) followed the same path.

These initiatives are critical to building a sustainable rural healthcare workforce. By embedding students in rural communities and equipping them with real-world experience, we are not only addressing immediate healthcare needs but also fostering long-term provider retention in areas that need it most.

Continued on next page

INCREASE THE RETENTION RATE OF HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS IN RURAL AND UNDERSERVED AREAS

Rural Health Service Program - This opportunity provides a financial incentive of $25,000 for third and/or fourth year medical students and second year Physician Assistant (PA) students in exchange for a year of practice in a rural or underserved area. Five medical students were selected in 2024-2025 and received $25,000 each.

There are currently twenty Rural Health Service award participants who have completed their residency/education, and four of those are now fulfilling their service commitment. Five recipients have completed their service commitment and are practicing in rural/underserved areas. Thirteen participants are still in medical school and residency with service commitments required after residency. To date we have provided $875,000 to fund this program.

DEVELOP PIPELINE PROGRAMS TO ENHANCE STUDENT INTEREST IN RURAL AND UNDERSERVED HEALTHCARE CAREERS

Strengthening the Rural Healthcare Workforce: Pipeline Programs That Inspire and Prepare

To address the growing need for healthcare providers in rural and underserved areas, the Center for Rural Health continues to invest in pipeline programs that spark student interest and prepare them for careers in these communities.

High School Pipeline Initiative

In the 2024–2025 academic year, Center staff expanded outreach to high schools across seven counties, offering enrichment activities designed to:

- Encourage students to explore healthcare careers
- Remove perceived barriers to entry
- Equip students with tools to pursue their goals

A standout component is the Gross Anatomy Initiative, which includes:

- Hands-on lab experiences at the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine (JCESOM)
- Integrated sessions with students from Marshall's Medical, Physician Assistant, Pharmacy, and Physical Therapy programs

This year, 193 high school students participated. They toured the anatomy lab, engaged in career discussions, and interacted with current Marshall students who shared their academic journeys and professional aspirations. Feedback from both visiting students and Marshall volunteers was overwhelmingly positive, with many students expressing newfound interest in healthcare careers.

Continued on next page







Marshall Pathway Programs

Undergraduate participants in the Marshall Pathway Programs engaged in enrichment activities and group projects focused on social determinants of health - including poverty, transportation, and food insecurity.

- Students were divided into teams to design and implement community service projects.
- Projects emphasized healthcare access and community engagement.
- Students developed leadership, planning, and collaboration skills–without external funding, under the guidance of the Center for Rural Health.

These experiences not only deepen students' understanding of rural health challenges but also build a sense of purpose and commitment to serving underserved populations.

SUPPORT THE INVOLVEMENT OF RURAL AND UNDERSERVED AREAS OF THE STATE IN THE HEALTH EDUCATION PROCESS

Rural Roundtables Initiative: The Center for Rural Health, in collaboration with the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine (WVSOM) and Coalfield Health Center in Logan County, has launched the Rural Roundtables initiative. This program is designed to foster meaningful connections between students and rural healthcare providers and communities.

Medical and pre-medical students were invited to participate in regularly scheduled, interdisciplinary virtual case study sessions led by rural healthcare professionals from Coalfield. Participants included students from WVSOM, Marshall University's medical program, and various undergraduate institutions.

Each session featured rural healthcare providers, including a physician and a nurse practitioner, who shared real-world clinical insights and community-based perspectives. Feedback collected through post-session surveys indicated that nearly all participating students found the sessions to be highly beneficial and would recommend them to their peers.

This initiative exemplifies a strategic approach to rural health workforce development by exposing future healthcare professionals to the unique challenges and opportunities of rural practice.

West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine

The Rural Health Initiative's (RHI) mission is to enhance the rural primary care curriculum at the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine (WVSOM) to produce graduates uniquely qualified to practice in underserved communities in West Virginia. In addition to offering rural training opportunities to all students, WVSOM operates an intensive RHI program that provides special training and enrichment opportunities to students who express the strongest interest in rural practice.

INCREASE THE RECRUITMENT OF HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS TO RURAL AREAS





Rural Practice Day 2025: WVSOM hosted its 14th annual Rural Practice Day. Themed "Mountains to Missions," the program provided future physicians with valuable insights from experienced rural doctors on the challenges and rewards of serving underserved populations – from the mountains of West Virginia to missions abroad. The event also highlighted a collaboration with the Rural and International Medicine (RIM) Center, reinforcing WVSOM's commitment to preparing students for service in rural and global health settings.

Student Rotations: RHI students complete rotations in six different WVSOM Statewide Campus regions. Eleven hospitals serve as RHI base sites in rural/underserved areas. RHI base sites for the 2024-25 academic year included:

- CAMC Greenbrier Valley Medical Center
- Charleston Area Medical Center
- Davis Medical Center
- Logan Regional Medical Center
- Mon Health Medical Center
- Raleigh General Hospital
- St. Mary's Medical Center
- WVU Medicine Grant Memorial Hospital
- WVU Medicine Princeton Community Hospital
- WVU Medicine St. Joseph's Hospital
- WVU Medicine United Hospital Center

Rural Physician Service Program: The Rural Physician Service Program incentivizes WVSOM students to remain in West Virginia by offering financial awards in exchange for their commitment to practice in eligible rural or underserved areas within the state. This year, four students were selected to receive $22,000 each and agreed to practice in these critical service sites for one year. Additionally, these students benefit from enhanced rural health training during medical school through the RHI program.

Rural or Underserved Rotation Housing: Multiple WVSOM students utilized shared housing that totaled 710 weeks of use during their rural or underserved rotations in West Virginia. Students utilized shared housing most often when completing clinical rotations more than 50 miles from their Statewide Campus base site.

RHI Mastermind Program: RHI hosted two mastermind events this year, including one developed by an RHI student and supported by WVSOM's Center for Rural and Community Health. A Social Determinants of Health simulation places students in the roles of Appalachian community members facing challenges such as poverty, limited access to health care and social inequities. Through collaboration with multiple departments and dedicated faculty and staff, the activity has been adopted into WVSOM's curriculum. All first-year medical students now begin their training with this impactful experience, gaining early insight into the realities their future rural patients may face.

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INCREASE THE RETENTION RATE OF HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS IN RURAL AREAS

Residency Sign-On Incentive: Six of the 16 RHI program graduates from WVSOM's Class of 2025 each received a $4,000 sign-on incentive for acceptance into a primary care or emergency medicine residency in West Virginia. One graduate accepted a family medicine residency at Charleston Area Medical Center in Charleston, W.Va., one accepted a pediatrics residency at West Virginia University School of Medicine in Morgantown, W.Va., and four accepted family medicine residencies at WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital in Wheeling, W.Va.

DEVELOP PIPELINE PROGRAMS TO ENHANCE STUDENT INTEREST IN RURAL HEALTH CARE CAREERS

Green Coat Program: Nine students completed the Green Coat Program, offered through WVSOM's Rural Health Initiative in partnership with Charleston Area Medical Center and Davis Medical Center. The program gives undergraduate and pre-medical students early exposure to clinical and community health settings. Participants, known as "Green Coats," shadow health professionals, assist with outreach events and gain hands-on experience that prepares them for future medical training. The program also fosters mentorship, professional development and a deeper understanding of the unique needs of rural West Virginia communities.

SUPPORT THE INVOLVEMENT OF RURAL AREAS OF THE STATE IN THE HEALTH EDUCATION PROCESS

RHI Industry Activities: Rural Health Initiative activities seek to acquaint RHI students with state industries to understand environmental exposures that could cause injury or disease to rural patients. Six RHI industry activities occurred during fiscal year 2024-25:

- "Agriculture: Health and Safety Tour" in Morgantown, W.Va., on Sept. 22, 2024
- "Coal Mining Safety With MSHA" in Beaver, W.Va., on Dec. 9, 2024
- "Coal Mine Tour" in Eccles, W.Va., on Dec. 10, 2024
- "RHI at the Capitol" in Charleston, W.Va., on March 3, 2025
- "Appalachia Off the Grid" in Frankford, W.Va., on April 14, 2025
- "Interprofessional Day" in Beaver, W.Va., makeup activity on April 11, 2025

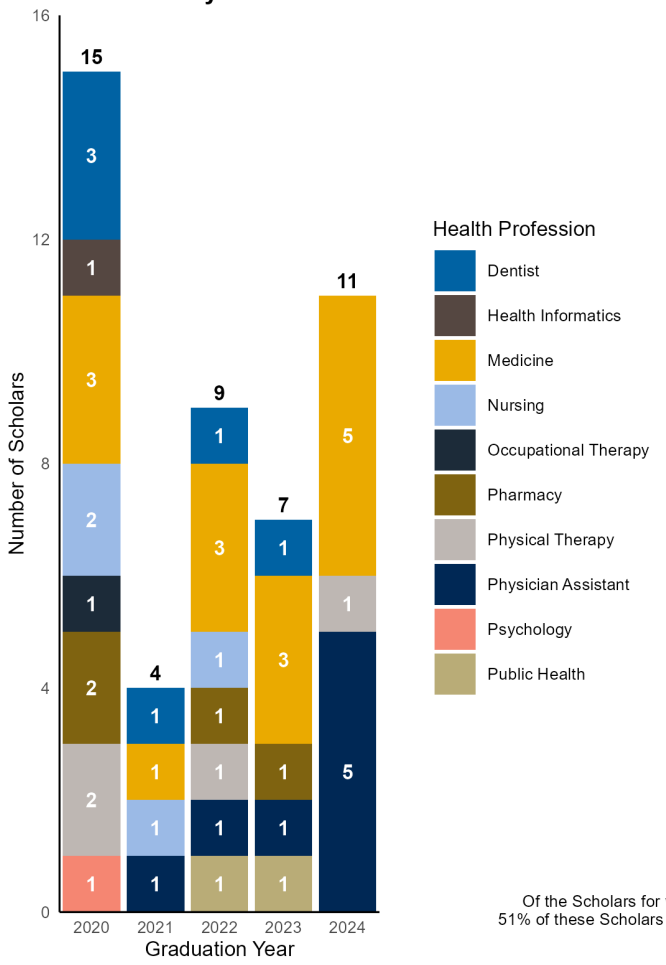
Coalfield Collaboration: Coalfield Health Center hosted virtual rural roundtables for students from Marshall University's Center for Rural Health and the WVSOM Rural Health Initiative, creating space to connect, learn and explore careers in rural West Virginia.

WVSOM Lending Library: RHI's Health Education Lending Library expands access to health education supplies for community groups, medical students and schools across West Virginia. The library offers educational and demonstration materials tailored for different age groups, supporting health-related events statewide. In addition to teaching tools, resources such as handwashing stations and thermometers are available to promote proper sanitation and screening at community and school-based events.

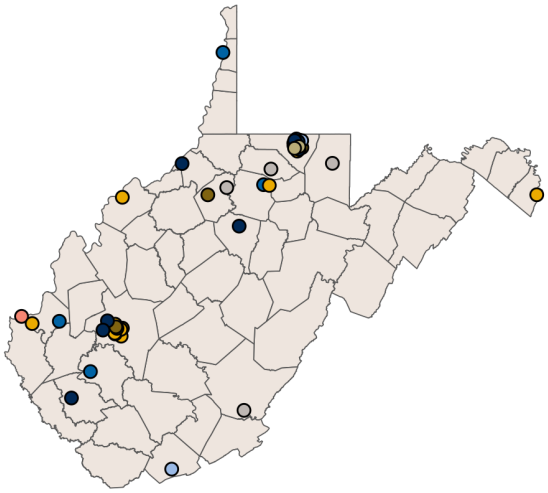


West Virginia University School of Medicine

WV AHEC Rural Community Health Scholars, Graduates by Health Profession

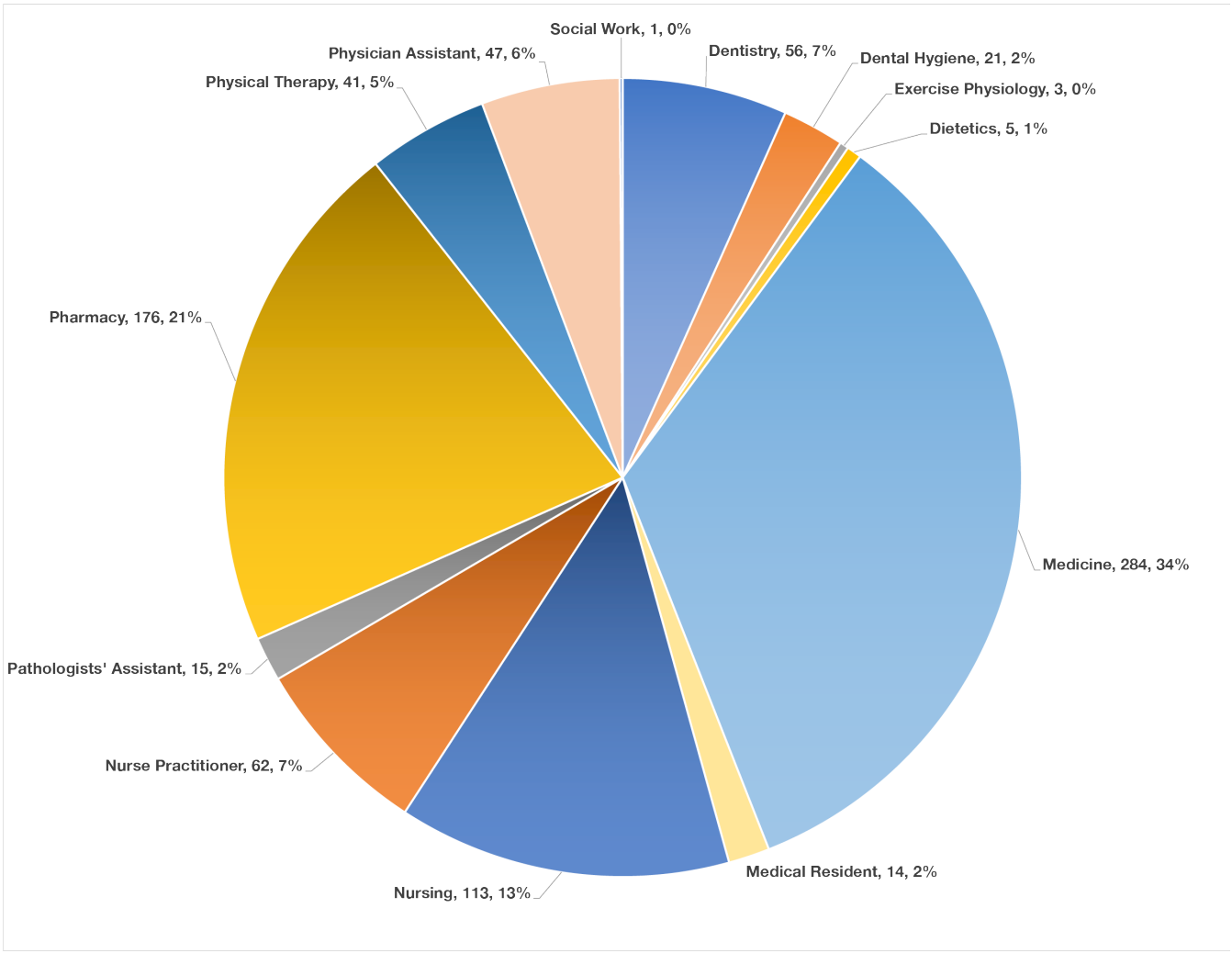


WV AHEC Scholars in WV, One Year after Graduation



Of the Scholars for which employment data could be confirmed (91 of 166; 55% successful follow-up), 51% of these Scholars continued their education, entered residency (medical students) or practice in WV, serving an estimated 4,000 patients per year

WVU STUDENT ROTATIONS IN COMMUNITY BASED CLINICAL ACTIVITIES, BY DISCIPLINE 7/1/2024 - 6/30/2025



INCREASE THE RECRUITMENT OF HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS TO RURAL AREAS

The Area Health Education Centers Program (AHEC) was developed by Congress in 1971 to recruit, train, and retain a health professions workforce committed to serving rural and medically underserved populations. Since 2001, WV AHEC, composed of a program office and five regional centers, has strategically partnered to conduct and evaluate outcomes of pipeline programs, interprofessional education and training, continuing education, and rural immersions across the state.

The WV AHEC Rural Community Health (RCH) Scholars Program provides interprofessional educational experiences for health professions students interested in practicing in rural and/or medically underserved areas. In FY25, 36 students from six institutions were recruited into cohort seven of the Scholars program and 27 of 38 (71 percent) Scholars from cohort six graduated. Thirty-one Scholars from cohort seven are entering their second year and recruitment for cohort 8 is underway.

The WVU SOM Rural Track is an enhanced training program developed to increase the number of primary care physicians serving rural and underserved communities in WV. It offers enriched educational experiences in rural clinical settings, equipping students with skills and knowledge specific to rural populations. The Rural Track offers opportunities for hands-on learning and community engagement. To date, 73 students have completed the program and 89 percent (65) of graduates opted for a primary care residency.

Rural immersions offer health professions students, including WV AHEC RCH Scholars and PREP students, an opportunity to engage with rural and medically underserved communities, partners, and healthcare providers. Immersions are an opportunity for interprofessional education to address health challenges in rural West Virginia communities. In FY25, WV AHEC hosted five immersions for 39 students: Rural Maternal Health (11), Provider Advocacy in Rural Communities (eight), Food Insecurity and Mental Health (10), Increasing Quality Healthcare in Rural Communities (4), and Food Insecurity and Nutrition in Rural Communities (six).

The Rural Health Interest Group is a student-led group of health professions students of different disciplines who learn about rural health issues through guest speakers and activities. In FY25, six meetings were held: five via Zoom and one in-person. Topics covered included rural pediatric dentistry, farm-to-institution workforce and addiction and recovery. Students participated in a service-learning project volunteering at the WVU Rosenbaum Family House.

WVU collaborated with WV AHEC to coordinate 5 interprofessional team activities that included 45 students from physician assistant, behavioral health, medicine, pharmacy, nursing, and medical assistant disciplines. Activities addressed substance use prevention in adolescents, preventative care, responding to patient code in outpatient setting, endocrinology and social determinants of health.

Health Sciences Technology Academy – (HSTA) prepares participating high school students to enter and succeed in STEM-based (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) undergraduate and graduate programs. HSTA students engage in a broad range of health-related presentations, field trips and community-based research projects with HSTA teachers as mentors. In FY25 WVU collaborated with HSTA clubs in all 27 HSTA counties in WV with 731 students participating. Of the HSTA participants, 100 percent attended schools in rural, underserved areas and/or a disadvantaged school.

Rural Health Day – An annual event that brings pre-health undergraduate students together to learn about rural health through various speakers and hands-on activities covering a broad range of topics such as the medical school application process and health professions career opportunities in rural areas. RHD was held on April 5, 2025, at the WVU Health Sciences Center. Nearly 60 students participated from colleges and universities in WV, PA, MD, and OH.

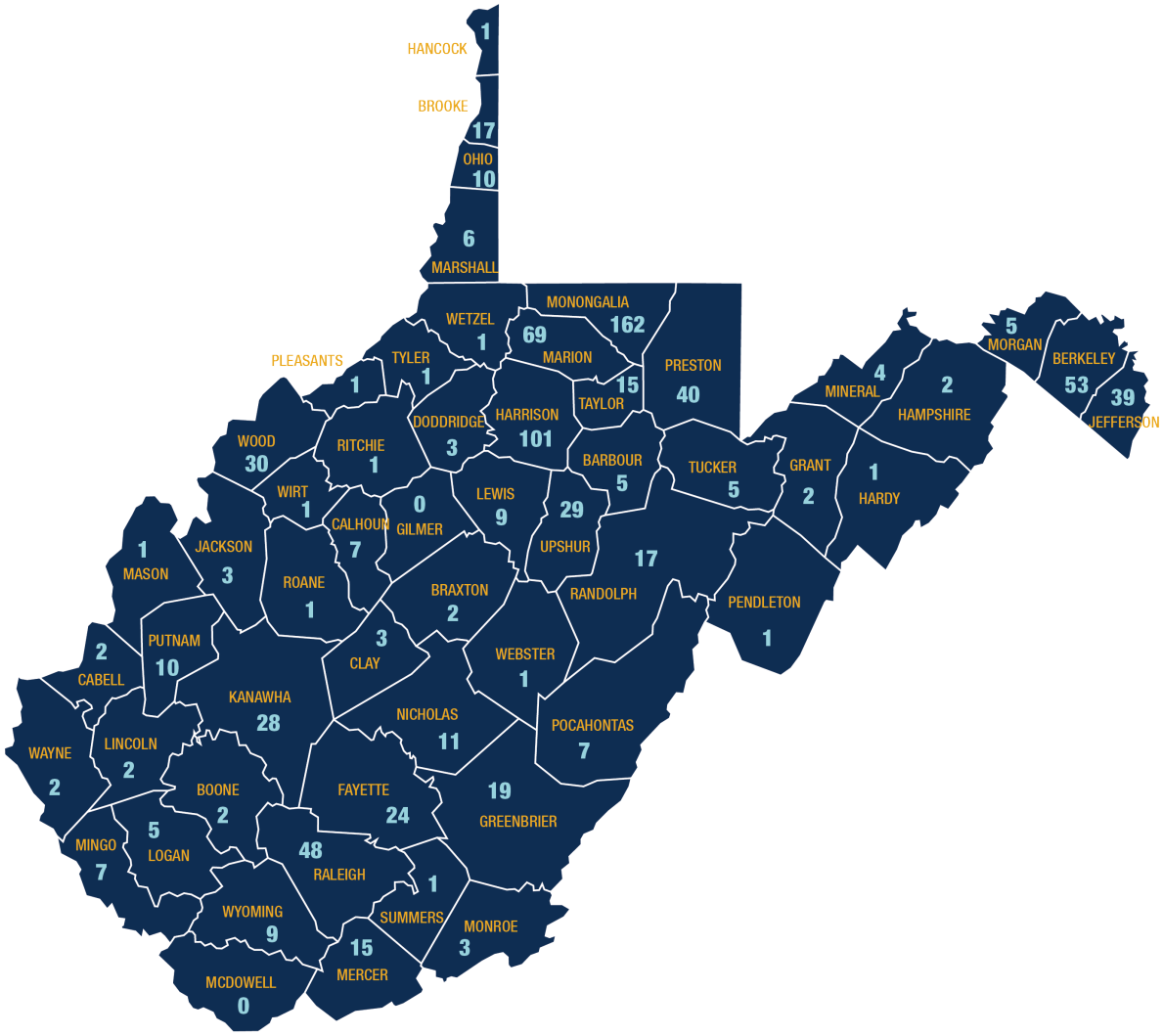
The Rural Undergraduate Shadowing in Healthcare program is designed to provide pre-health professions students with a unique experience offering insight into practicing in rural WV. Selected students were placed in Calhoun, Upshur, Jefferson, Pendleton, and Wyoming counties for the 20-hour shadowing program. All seven students reported the experience increased their interest in rural health.

Pipeline Rural Education Program introduces WVU rising juniors and seniors to pathways into rural healthcare professions. In FY25, the fourth cohort of 10 students completed the program. Requirements included attending RHIG meetings, a Project REACH event, a Rural Immersion, attending Rural Health Day, and the completion of a rural healthcare topics poster.

Project Rural Education Alliance for Community Health is a student-run outreach program that provides education and health information throughout the state. In FY25, students participated in 10 health education events that served 320 people from Hampshire, Preston, and Greenbrier, counties.

The Community and Rural Rotations Support program enhances rural rotation experiences of students by engaging them in community projects with community mentors in high risk counties in WV. CARRS is open to WVU students in Medicine, Dentistry, PharmD, Physical Therapy and Physician Assistant programs. Since the beginning of the program in Spring 2018, 54 students have completed the program.

Newsletter provides annual updates on WVU health profession students' educational and outreach activities, to nearly 1,000 field faculty across the state.



$3.1 MILLION 2011 - 2025

100%

of Dentists have fulfilled their 2-year service program commitment

48%

of Physicians have fulfilled their service program commitment

83%

of health professionals continue to practice in a rural/underserved area of WV 5 years beyond their commitment

Since 2011, thirty-seven (27 dental and 10 medical) out of forty-one (27 dental and 14 medical) recipients have fulfilled their commitment (90%). Twenty (17 dental and 3 medical) recipients out of a total of 24 (20 dental and 4 medical) continue to practice in rural and/or underserved areas of WV 5 years beyond their service obligation (83%). Twenty-nine awards have been granted to medical students, 11 are still in training and 4 are currently fulfilling their service obligation. Thirty-one awards have been granted to dental students.

West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission

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