



Georgia Board for Physician Workforce Fact Sheet on Georgia's Medical Schools January 2011

This fact sheet highlights key elements related to Georgia's medical schools and provides answers to the following questions:

- What are Georgia's medical schools doing to help meet the need for more physicians?
- How much does it cost to attend medical school in Georgia today compared to five years ago? How do Georgia's in-state tuition rates compare to the national average and what proportion of medical students are Georgia residents?
- Are the graduates of Georgia's medical schools entering needed specialties?
- Do Georgia's medical school graduates stay in state to do their residency (GME) training?
- Are graduates of Georgia's medical schools practicing in Georgia?
- What impact will medical school expansion have on Georgia's physician workforce and where should the state focus its energy and resources in the future?

What are Georgia's medical schools doing to help meet the need for more physicians?

The Medical College of Georgia (MCG), Emory University School of Medicine, Mercer University School of Medicine, and Morehouse School of Medicine are all increasing medical student enrollment in response to the need for more physicians. Georgia is also benefiting from the new osteopathic medical school, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM), Georgia Campus, which graduated its second class in May 2010.

As shown in the table, medical school enrollment has increased from 1,515 students in 2000-2001 to 2,250 students in 2010-2011. **This equates to a 48.5% increase over the last 10 years.** By 2020, the total student enrollment will increase another 22.4% to 2,754 medical students if all the schools fully implement their expansion plans.

Georgia's Medical Schools Past, Current, & Projected Enrollment 2000-2020						
Medical School	Past Enrollment: 2000/2001	Past Enrollment: 2006/2007	Past Enrollment: 2009/2010	Current Enrollment: 2010/2011	Percentage of Total Students Trained 2010/2011	Projected Enrollment: 2020
Emory	439	455	517	533	23.7%	528
MCG and MCG/UGA Partnership Campus	711	734	762	802	35.6%	1200
Mercer	212	246	311	351	15.6%	366
Morehouse	153	210	213	221	9.8%	300
Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Med., GA Campus (PCOM)	0	168	341	343	15.2%	360
TOTAL ENROLLMENT⁽¹⁾	1515	1813	2144	2250	100%	2754
Percentage Increase in Enrollment over Previous Period		19.7%	18.3%	4.9%	Not Applicable	22.4%

⁽¹⁾ Enrollment figures provided by the medical schools.

How much does it cost to attend medical school in Georgia today compared to five years ago? How do Georgia's in-state resident tuition rates compare to the national average and what proportion of medical students are Georgia residents?

**Tuition Rate Comparison by Georgia Medical School
For the Five Year Period 2005-2006 & 2010-2011**

Medical School	Tuition Only For Incoming Freshman Academic Year 2005-2006	Tuition Only For Incoming Freshmen Academic Year 2010-2011	Percentage Increase Over Past 5 Years
Emory Univ. School of Medicine	\$36,000	\$43,300	20.3%
Medical College of Georgia (MCG)	\$11,850	\$22,478	89.7%
Mercer Univ. School of Medicine	\$30,220	\$39,860	31.9%
Morehouse School of Medicine	\$24,000	\$34,457	43.6%
Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (GA Campus)	\$33,587	\$39,432	17.4%

Sources: Tuition for Georgia residents obtained from the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) Tuition and Student Fees Reports 2010-2011 and 2005-2006; fees are not included in the tuition totals. PCOM tuition figures were provided by the school.

The cost to obtain a medical education continues to rise. According to the AAMC Tuition and Student Fees Report for 2010-2011, the average tuition cost for an in-state resident attending a public medical school is \$21,455 in 2010-2011. The average tuition for residents attending private medical schools in their home state is \$40,841.

A significant percentage of students currently enrolled in Georgia's medical schools are residents of the state. Mercer University School of Medicine only accepts Georgia residents, so the rate is 100%, followed closely by the Medical College of Georgia where 98.5% of medical students are in-state residents. The proportion of Morehouse School of Medicine students who are Georgia residents is 56.6%, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine's (GA Campus) rate is 50.4%, and Emory's University School of Medicine's proportion of in-state residents is 34.5%.

Are the graduates of Georgia's medical schools entering needed specialties?

- Georgia's medical schools are producing graduates who enter primary care and other needed core specialties such as Family Medicine, Pediatrics, Internal Medicine, OB/GYN, and General Surgery.
- Over the last 5 years, Morehouse had the highest percentage of graduates entering primary care and core specialty residency programs at 71.0%. Mercer's rate was 58.4% followed by MCG at 52.6%, and Emory with 49.5%. PCOM's rate was 57.5% for the School's first two graduating classes.

Medical School Graduates Entering Primary Care & Core Specialty GME Programs by Medical School Fiscal Years 2006-2010	
Medical School	% of Graduates Entering a Primary Care or Core Specialty Residency Program upon Graduation from Medical School
Emory	49.5%
MCG	52.6%
Mercer	58.4%
Morehouse	71.0%
PCOM (2009-2010 only)	57.5%

Source: As reported by the medical schools; reflects specialty selection for 1st year of residency training for those graduates entering GME.

The GBPW's 2010 survey of Georgia's medical school graduates found that when selecting a specialty, the respondents were most influenced by "Mentors & Role Models". "Lifestyle" was reported as the second most important factor when choosing a specialty followed by "Options for Fellowship Training". The majority of respondents to the 2010 survey indicated "Medical Education Debt" had little to no influence on their selection of specialty. "Competitiveness of Specialty" and "Family Expectations" were also ranked as having a low degree of influence on specialty choice.

Do Georgia's medical school graduates stay in state to do their residency (GME) training?

When surveyed by the GBPW, Georgia's 2010 medical school graduates indicated "Location" is the most influential factor in selecting a residency program. "Reputation of the Residency Program", "Family", and "Availability of Residency Positions in Desired Specialty" were also of strong to moderate influence.

- A collective average of 28.8% of graduates from MCG, Emory, Mercer, and Morehouse selected a Georgia residency training program over the last five years, even though a large portion of the medical students were Georgia residents.
- Mercer and Emory have the highest rates of graduates remaining in Georgia for residency training at 32.5% followed by MCG (26.3%), and Morehouse (24.2%). An average of 19.9% of graduates from PCOM's first two classes selected a Georgia residency training site.

Medical School Graduates Remaining in Georgia for Residency (GME) Training by Medical School Fiscal Years 2006-2010	
Medical School	% of Graduates Selecting a GA Residency Training Site
Emory	32.5%
MCG	26.3%
Mercer	32.5%
Morehouse	24.2%
PCOM (2009-2010 only)	19.9%

Source: As reported by the medical schools; reflects location for 1st year of residency training for those graduates entering GME.

Graduates going out of state for residency training were asked by the GBPW to indicate their primary reason for leaving. The majority of survey respondents (46.6%) preferred to train at a well known out-of-state program in their specialty area. The choice of "Other" was selected by 29.2% of respondents and included reasons such as family, job potential for significant other, and desire to live someplace different. Eleven percent (11%) wanted to stay, but did not match to a Georgia program. Ten percent (10%) chose to go out-of-state based on the quality of Georgia's residency programs and just over 3% reported their specialty is not offered in Georgia.

Are graduates of Georgia's medical schools practicing in Georgia?

- The AAMC State Physician Workforce Data Book (Nov. 2009) reported the average national retention rate for medical school graduates was 39%.
- Georgia's medical schools currently have a collective average retention rate of 46.5%, which is down from 48.0% in June 2005.
- Mercer has the highest retention rate of graduates practicing in Georgia at 58.8% followed by MCG (51.5%), Morehouse (46.1%), and Emory (37.0%).

Physician Retention by Georgia Medical School as of July 2010		
Medical School	% of M.D. Graduates Practicing in GA	% of M.D. Graduates Practicing in the Contiguous* States
Emory	37.0%	24.2%
MCG	51.5%	25.5%
Mercer	58.8%	23.4%
Morehouse	46.1%	17.6%

Source: AMA Directory of Physicians in the United States: 2011 CD-ROM. Contiguous states – North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama, & Florida

What impact will medical school expansion have on Georgia's physician workforce and where should the state focus its energy and resources in the future?

- The collective contributions of all five medical schools must be considered in evaluating the impact of expansion efforts on Georgia's physician workforce.
- Expansion initiatives already underway at four of the medical schools (Mercer, MCG, Morehouse, and Emory) are of significant importance. If these efforts were discontinued, there would be a serious long-term negative effect on the state's medical education infrastructure and Georgia's physician workforce.
- It is important for the state to maintain the commitment to undergraduate medical education; however, expanding medical school enrollment alone will not meet Georgia's need for physicians.
- Georgia must also invest in expanding graduate medical education capacity (residency training positions) based on the physician workforce needs of the state. Research has shown that residency location may have a greater influence on a physician's choice of practice location (more than where they attended medical school). Source: National Conference of State Legislatures Physician Workforce Institute for Primary Care and Workforce Analysis. January 2003 report "Practice Location of Physician Graduates".