A rural core curriculum will be integrated into all four years of medical school:

- Clinical experiences in the Patient, Doctor and Society course during years one and two of medical school can be done in smaller communities near Madison.

- WARM students can participate in the Rural Health Interest Group, a student organization that meets regularly to learn about topics relevant to rural medicine.

- An Overview of Rural Health elective offered during the second year of medical school will introduce the key concepts of rural medicine and will prepare students for clinical work in rural Wisconsin.

**Regional and Rural Learning Communities**

Marshfield Clinic and its clinic in Rice Lake begins hosting the first group of WARM students beginning in July 2009. Gundersen Lutheran in La Crosse will host students beginning in July 2010 and Aurora BayCare in Green Bay will host WARM students beginning in July 2011. Marshfield Clinic, Gundersen Lutheran and Aurora are academic affiliates of the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health and are a part of the school’s ‘statewide clinical campus.’

**Student-Centered Curriculum**

The WARM program will ensure that its students are meeting the same goals and objectives and competencies that the traditional program requires. This will be done while tailoring students’ experiences to meet their career interests. WARM curriculum is structured to provide hands-on learning and students will learn a variety of clinical skills relevant to rural practice.
Leading the Way in Rural Medical Education

**OVERVIEW**

The Wisconsin Academy for Rural Medicine (WARM) is a new rural medical education program at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. The program’s goal is to increase the number of physicians who practice medicine in rural Wisconsin and to help improve the health of rural Wisconsin communities.

What makes WARM unique?

Rural Wisconsin hospitals and health systems have expressed a need for physicians of all specialties. WARM is a student-centered and innovative program that will prepare students for residency in any specialty area.

The first two years of WARM are much like the traditional MD program, but WARM students are encouraged to participate in rural health electives and the Rural Health Interest Group.

WARM students will relocate to a ‘regional and rural learning community’ during years three and four of medical school where they will complete most of their clinical requirements. This will allow students to learn to address medical issues in a rural environment while actually living in a rural community. Depending on a student’s specialty interest, students can spend blocks of time in Madison or at other locations for a rotation with a specialized focus.

**FAQ**

Who should apply to WARM?

WARM is looking for applicants who have a strong desire for a career in rural medicine in Wisconsin. The strongest applicants will be those who can demonstrate their ties to rural Wisconsin and have strong records of community involvement.

How do I apply to WARM?

WARM applicants will need to complete an AMCAS application, UW Secondary Application, WARM application, submit specific WARM letters of recommendation and complete a WARM interview. When completing the AMCAS application for the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, indicate you are applying to “Other Special Programs-WARM.” For full application instructions, please see www.med.wisc.edu/education/md/warm

The application deadline is December 1; however, applicants are encouraged to apply early.

Are there financial incentives for a rural medical practice in Wisconsin?

There are federal, state, and local program options, specific to rural locations, to assist with loan repayment. Please contact the Wisconsin Office of Rural Health for additional information at www.worh.org or see the WARM website.

WARM students Nathan Vakharia and Diane Anderson listen to the keynote speaker at the 2007 WARM Symposium

WARM student Henry Clay Dean (right) studies the pelvic section of a human cadaver in anatomy lab

**Wisconsin Academy for Rural Medicine**

http://www.med.wisc.edu/education/md/warm