



QUICK FACTS

Minnesota Medical Association and Minnesota Physicians

What is the MMA?

The Minnesota Medical Association (MMA) is the statewide professional association for Minnesota physicians, medical residents and medical students. Founded in 1853, the MMA is comprised of 20 local/component medical societies. The MMA is independent of the American Medical Association (AMA), but works closely with the AMA on national issues and sends delegates to AMA meetings. With more than 10,000 members practicing in all areas of the state, the MMA is committed to providing advocacy, information, education and leadership for Minnesota physicians and their patients.

Education, training and licensure of Minnesota physicians¹

Medicine is a rewarding and demanding profession that requires significant education and training, as well as lifelong learning. The physician training “pipeline” takes a minimum of 11 years and includes undergraduate education, medical school and graduate medical education (also called residency training). After completing four years of medical school, students earn their doctor of medicine (MD) degree. Some physicians earn a doctor of osteopathic medicine (DO) degree from a college of osteopathic medicine.

After medical school, physicians undertake three to seven years of graduate medical education (GME) or residency. The length of training depends on the specialty a physician pursues. Following residency, some physicians pursue fellowship training, which is one to three years of additional, highly specialized training in a subspecialty such as gastroenterology (a subspecialty of internal medicine and pediatrics) or child and adolescent psychiatry (a subspecialty of psychiatry).

A majority of physicians also choose to obtain board certification. Although board certification is optional, it is becoming increasingly common and is usually required for physicians to be part of health plan networks and get hospital privileges. There are three national specialty certifying organizations — the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS), the American Osteopathic Association, and the American Board of Physician Specialties. The ABMS is the largest with 24 specialty boards. Some specialties, such as internal medicine, have numerous subspecialties (for

example, medical oncology and cardiology). More than 145 specialty and subspecialty certifications are recognized through the medical board process. Most must be renewed every six to 10 years.

In order to practice medicine in Minnesota, physicians must obtain a license from the Minnesota Board of Medical Practice. Physicians can apply for licensure following completion of medical school, a series of exams and one year of residency.

Physicians continue to learn in numerous ways, including through continuing medical education (CME) activities. As a condition of licensure, Minnesota physicians must obtain 75 hours of CME every three years.



The Physician Training Pipeline

4 years undergraduate education

+

4 years medical school

+

3-7 years graduate medical education (residency)

11-15 years training

+

Fellowship training. Following residency, some physicians pursue fellowship training, which is one to three years of additional, highly specialized training in a subspecialty such as gastroenterology or child and adolescent psychiatry or cardiology.

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Board certification. Optional, but often required for hospital privileges and health plan participation.

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Licensure. A medical license may be earned after completing medical school, a series of exams and one year of residency.

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Continuing medical education. In Minnesota, physicians are required to obtain 75 hours of CME every three years.

Minnesota medical schools and residency training

Minnesota has two medical schools – the University of Minnesota Medical School and Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine. The University of Minnesota Medical School has two campuses – Twin Cities and Duluth. The Duluth program was developed to increase the number of students who choose careers in primary care and want to practice in rural settings. After two years, Duluth students transfer to the Twin Cities campus to complete their final two years.

Medical education and training is extremely expensive. In 2018, the median debt for University of Minnesota Medical School graduates was equal to the national median.²

Medical school debt



NATIONAL MEDIAN:
\$200,000

U OF M MED SCHOOL MEDIAN:
\$200,000

Approximately 2,300 residents and fellows are currently in training in one of more than 140 subspecialty programs at numerous hospitals and clinical sites across the state.

Minnesota's accredited sponsors of GME/residency training³

- Abbott Northwestern Hospital
- Allina Health
- Fairview Southdale Hospital
- HealthPartners Institute for Education and Research/Regions Hospital
- Hennepin Healthcare
- Hennepin County Medical Examiner's Office
- Mayo Clinic College of Medicine & Science
- TRIA Orthopaedic Center
- Twin Cities Spine Center
- University of Minnesota Medical School

Profile of Minnesota physicians⁴

As of January 2017, there were 24,410 physicians licensed to practice medicine in Minnesota. An estimated 18,335 are located in Minnesota. In 2016, the state of Minnesota ranked 13th in the number of active physicians per 100,000 population, with 292 compared with 258 nationally. Minnesota ranked 12th in the number of primary care physicians (105 per 100,000 population compared with 91 nationally). Nearly 27 percent of Minnesota physicians are over the age of 60, slightly below the national level of 30 percent.

Minnesota's integrated care systems

Many of Minnesota's medical practices are part of integrated care systems, which generally include clinics, hospitals, pharmacies, therapy providers and more.

Integrated systems are prevalent in the Twin Cities and include:

- Allina Health
- Fairview Health Services
- HealthPartners/Park Nicollet
- HealthEast

Integrated systems that are expanding their reach in other parts of the state include:

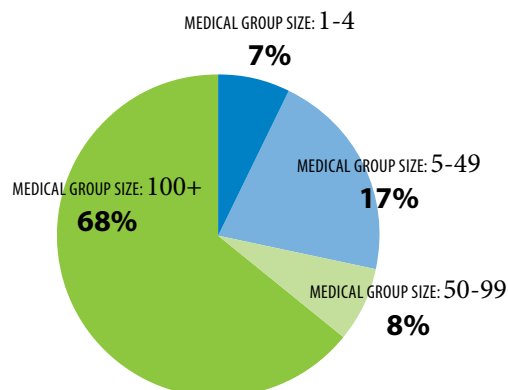
- Altru Health System (based in Grand Forks, ND)
- Avera Health (based in Sioux Falls, SD)
- CentraCare Health System (based in St. Cloud)
- Essentia Health (based in Duluth)
- Gunderson Lutheran Health System (based in La Crosse, WI)
- Mayo Clinic Health System (based in Rochester)
- Sanford Health (based in Sioux Falls, SD)

Minnesota practices⁵

Minnesota physicians work in a variety of settings, including clinical, research, academic and industry. Most, however, work in the state's approximately 2,000 clinics, 142 hospitals and approximately 70 outpatient surgery centers.

The size of physician practices in Minnesota varies, but tends toward relatively large group practices.

Distribution of actively practicing Minnesota physicians by medical group size



SOURCES

1. Sources used include: <https://www.ama-assn.org/residents-students/career-planning-resource>. American Board of Medical Specialties. American Osteopathic Association. M.R. Part 5605.0100 Continuing Education Cycles.
2. National data from Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), Medical School Graduation Questionnaire - 2018, All Schools Summary Report, July 2018. <https://www.aamc.org/download/490454/data/2018gqallschoolsummaryreport.pdf>. <https://www.med.umn.edu/md-students/financial-aid/resources-managing-debt/average-aid> https://store.aamc.org/downloadable/download/sample/sample_id/240/
3. A sponsoring institution is the entity that assumes academic and financial responsibility for the residency program. Residency data available from the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME).
4. Sources used include: 2017 State Physician Workforce Data Book. Washington, DC: Association of American Medical Colleges (https://store.aamc.org/downloadable/download/sample/sample_id/30/); see also Association of American Medical Colleges, Minnesota Physician Workforce Profile (<https://www.aamc.org/download/484554/data/minnesotaprofile.pdf>). Minnesota Board of Medical Practice, Licensure Statistics, January 12, 2019.
5. MMA Physician Database, 2017. Minnesota Hospital Association, Quick Facts; accessed online January 2019. Minnesota Department of Health, licensed outpatient surgical centers; accessed online January 2019.