



Georgia Board for Physician Workforce Fact Sheet on Georgia's Medical Schools January 2009

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 will also benefit from the new osteopathic medical school, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM), Georgia Campus, which will graduate its first class in May 2009.

Existing expansion plans by the private medical schools, as well as the planned partnership between MCG and UGA to establish a medical school campus in Athens, will significantly improve Georgia's undergraduate medical education training capacity. If all plans are fully implemented (as outlined in the table below), **Georgia should see its ratio of medical students per 100,000 population improve to an estimated 25 medical students per capita**, which is closer to the national average of 29 medical students per capita. (Source: AAMC Center for Workforce Studies; 2007 State Physician Workforce Data Book; Nov. 2007.)

Georgia's Medical Schools Past, Current, & Projected Enrollment 2000-2020				
Medical School	Past Enrollment: 2000/2001	Past Enrollment: 2006/2007	Current Enrollment: 2008/2009	Projected Enrollment: 2020
Emory	439	455	498	528
MCG (and future campus at UGA)	711	734	750	1200
Morehouse	153	210	217	300
Mercer	212	246	279	366
Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM)	0	168	338	336
TOTAL ENROLLMENT⁽¹⁾	1515	1813	2082	2730
Percentage Growth/Increase in Enrollment over the Previous Period		20%	15%	31%
GA's Rate of Medical Students per 100,000 Population⁽²⁾	18.0	19.0	21.7	25.2

(1) Enrollment figures provided by the medical schools.

(2) Population Estimates and Projections: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division.

What proportion of applicants and entrants into Georgia's medical schools are in-state residents?

In 2008, Georgia residents comprised only 20% of the total applicants to Georgia's medical schools. However, the percentage of in-state residents who matriculated/entered was 74%.

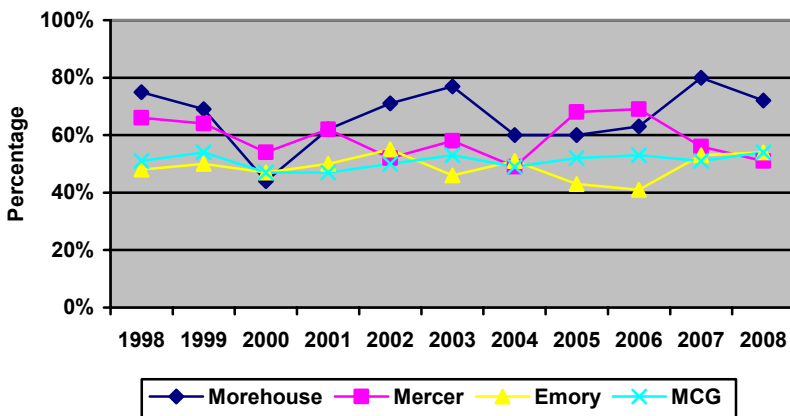
Applicants and Entrants into Georgia's Medical Schools Academic Year 2008										
School	Applicants	Applicants By In-State Status				Matriculants Entering	Matriculants By In-State Status			
		In-State		Out-of-State			In-State		Out-of-State	
		#	%	#	%		#	%	#	%
Emory	6,055	642	11%	5,413	89%	128	45	35%	83	65%
MCG	2,102	1,059	50%	1,043	50%	190	188	99%	2	1%
Mercer	773	772	99.9%	1	0.1%	90	90	100%	0	0%
Morehouse	3,753	443	12%	3,310	88%	56	34	61%	22	39%
PCOM	2,358	147	6%	2,211	94%	86	51	59%	35	41%
TOTAL	15,041	3,063	20%	11,978	80%	550	408	74%	142	26%

Sources: Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC); <http://www.aamc.org/data/facts/2008/2008school.htm> for Emory, MCG, Mercer, Morehouse figures. Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, Georgia Campus, Office of Admissions for PCOM figures.

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 (as shown in the chart below). However, the number of graduates entering these specialties is declining. Factors such as rising medical education debt continue to present a financial burden and may be prompting medical students to select subspecialties with higher incomes rather than a primary care field.

Trends in Georgia Medical School Graduates Entering Core Specialties*
1998-2008



*Primary Care was originally defined by the GBPW as Family Medicine, General Internal Medicine, General Pediatrics, and Medicine/Pediatrics. In 2001, the definition used by the GBPW was broadened to include OB/GYN. The term Primary Care was changed in 2006 to Core Specialties and the definition was amended to also include the specialty of General Surgery.

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

- A collective average of 30.7% 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. Further study is needed to identify why nearly 2/3 of the state's medical school graduates go elsewhere for residency training. One potential reason may be a lack of available residency positions in the graduates' desired specialty.

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

- The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) reported in its November 2007 State Physician Workforce Data Book that the average national retention rate for medical school graduates was 39%.
- Georgia's medical schools have a collective average retention rate of 47.2%. Retention rates by medical school are shown in the table.

Physician Retention by Georgia Medical School as of June 2008		
Medical School	% of M.D. Graduates Practicing in GA	% of M.D. Graduates Practicing in the Contiguous* States
Emory	37.6%	24.4%
MCG	52.5%	25.2%
Morehouse	44.9%	24.5%
Mercer	60.1%	18.6%

Source: AMA Directory of Physicians in the United States: 2009 CD-ROM.

*Contiguous states – North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama, and 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?

- Expansion of undergraduate medical education (medical school enrollment) is needed and justified; however, the collective contributions of all the medical schools to Georgia's physician workforce must be considered in evaluating impact.
- It is important for the state to maintain the commitment to undergraduate medical education.
- 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). 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".

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