Western University College of Osteopathic Medicine – Northwest Rural Health Track Option (RHTO) Overview

Overview

The Mission of the College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific (COMP) is to prepare students to become technically competent, culturally sensitive, professional and compassionate physicians who are lifelong learners and will serve society by providing comprehensive, patient-centered healthcare with the distinctive osteopathic philosophy. This is accomplished through excellence in curriculum, translational research, service and osteopathic clinical practice.

COMP-Northwest is the second medical school campus of the College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific (COMP), which is the medical school of Western University of Health Sciences (WesternU), in Pomona, California. WesternU is a comprehensive graduate university of health professions, with nine colleges in medicine, dentistry, nursing, pharmacy, optometry, podiatry, allied health, biomedical sciences and veterinary medicine.

COMP-Northwest is the approved new additional site of WesternU. It has been built on the 50-acre Samaritan Campus Center adjacent to Lebanon Community Hospital in Lebanon, Oregon. The COMP-Northwest’s parent organization, COMP Pomona, founded in 1977, has graduated a total of 4,245 physicians since 1982.

This latest expansion of Western University continues the commitment of COMP to medical education in the Northwest, which was enhanced with the development of the Northwest Track and now matures as a four-year program known as COMP-Northwest.

The faculty and staff at both campuses inspire a shared vision of a student-centered, inter-professional approach to learning with a meaningful emphasis on humanistic health care. We strive to model the way for our students and alumni by being leaders in our profession, our communities, and in the realm of academia. Today’s advance technology and the ever-growing body of medical knowledge continue to move COMP and COMP-Northwest into a new era of medicine. A vigorous desire to heal combined with their strong medical education makes our students stand apart from the rest.
Since its inception, COMP and COMP-Northwest has had a track record of graduating primary care providers. Western University of Health Sciences and COMP currently ranks 18th amongst all medical schools according to the US and World Report. COMP – Northwest anticipates that 50% or more of our graduates will go into primary care (matching our Pomona campus) and placing the University in the top 10 in primary care future ranking. In the spirit of its ongoing mission to graduate primary care physicians, the faculty has established the Rural Health Track Option (RHTO) for its enrolled COMP-Northwest DO students.

**Application Process**

As part of the general application process, COMP-Northwest will announce the RHTO application to each incoming DO class. Interested students will submit their RHTO applications by email to Mr. Dirk Foley in the Student Affairs Office. Faculty will be blinded as to the applicant author’s identity and applications will be reviewed and ranked by the selections committee.

**Curriculum**

The RHTO cohort will complete the standard DO curriculum offered by COMP and COMP-Northwest as well as an innovative curriculum training students in rural health core competencies (RHTO Rural Health Track Option Seminar I and DO Rural Health Track Option Seminar II). Both courses will offer RHTO students the unique opportunity to learn core competencies vital to the practice of primary care medicine in rural and medically underserved communities. Students will learn through on-site traditional lectures, distance delivery lectures, small group learning experiences, and self-study and through preparing and presenting health promotion and disease prevention topics to the public. Course material will be taught by on-site and guest faculty representing COMP-Northwest’s rural community-based primary care rotation sites. During their clinical rotations of DO training, RHTO students will rotate at designated rural health care core rotation sites where they will apply their knowledge and skills while having access to their RHTO mentors and advisor.

**Upon graduation, RHTO students will commit to working in a rural community.**