

The USD
Sanford School of
Medicine recieved **full**
accreditation of the
medical education program
for the **maximum term** of
8 years (2033-2034)



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH DAKOTA
SANFORD SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

2026-2027

DATA

REFERENCE CARD

All our graduates are confident they
acquired the **clinical skills** required for **residency**

Over 96% are satisfied with **faculty mentoring**

All have experience with underserved populations in
settings such as **free clinics**

Two-thirds of graduating students intend to **work**
in **South Dakota** after medical training

*Founded in 1907, the
USD Sanford School of Medicine
strives for excellence in education,
research and service.*



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH DAKOTA
SANFORD SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Together in teaching, innovation and compassion

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M.D. Program

USD students spend their first three semesters in Vermillion taking classes in biomedical and translational sciences. The next five semesters of clinical training is in Rapid City, Sioux Falls or Yankton. About 50% of each class trains in Sioux Falls, while the others split among the Rapid City and Yankton campuses and the Frontier And Rural Medicine (FARM) program, where 13 of them train for two semesters.

Annual Medical Student Tuition/Fees

Resident	\$37,421
SD Advantage.....	\$63,437
Non-Resident	\$84,790

Average Debt of Indebted Graduates - Class of 2026 \$183,315

Number of Alumni from 1907 to 2026 4,336

Physician Scientist (M.D./Ph.D.) Program

The curriculum for the M.D./Ph.D. Program, implemented in 2006, is designed to be completed in seven years. The first three and final five semesters are the medical portion of the program, while the middle three years encompass the research portion of the program.

M.D./Ph.D. Program Tuition/Fees - M.D. (first year)

Resident	\$10,530
Non-Resident	\$12,000

Scholarship \$31,500 per year

Positions Filled in July 2026 2

Total Students in Program 11

Total Graduates (also counted in M.D. and Ph.D. programs) 29

Ph.D. Program

Graduate Students 41

Postdoctorate Scholars 4

Total Ph.D./Master's Graduates 380

Annual Graduate School Tuition

Resident (for 21 credits/year)	\$8,532
Non-Resident (for 21 credits/year)	\$15,315
Graduate Assistantship Tuition Rate	\$5,061

Stipends

Ph.D.	\$31,500
M.Sc.	\$15,750

Medical Student Information (Fall 2026)

Matriculating Class	71
Applications Received	1,087
Interviews Granted	203
Mean Undergraduate GPA:	
Cumulative	3.85
Science	3.80
Mean Cumulative MCAT	508.9
Residence:	
South Dakota	58
Non-Resident with ties to S.D.	13
Gender:	
Men	38
Women	33

Graduate Medical Education

Residencies are clinical training experiences required for South Dakota licensure. These are funded predominantly by the federal government and coordinated through affiliations between the medical school and local healthcare facilities.

SSOM residencies include Emergency Medicine, Family Medicine (Sioux Falls/Pierre and Rapid City), General Surgery, Internal Medicine, Neurology, Pathology, Pediatrics, Psychiatry, Transitional Year. Fellowships include Cardiovascular Disease, Interventional Cardiology, Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, Gastroenterology, Geriatrics, and Surgical Pathology.

Sioux Falls	178
Rapid City	20
Pierre	4
Residency Graduates	1,533

Teaching Locations

The USD Sanford School of Medicine is a community-based medical school, which means that clinical education experiences are completed at hospitals and clinics throughout South Dakota.

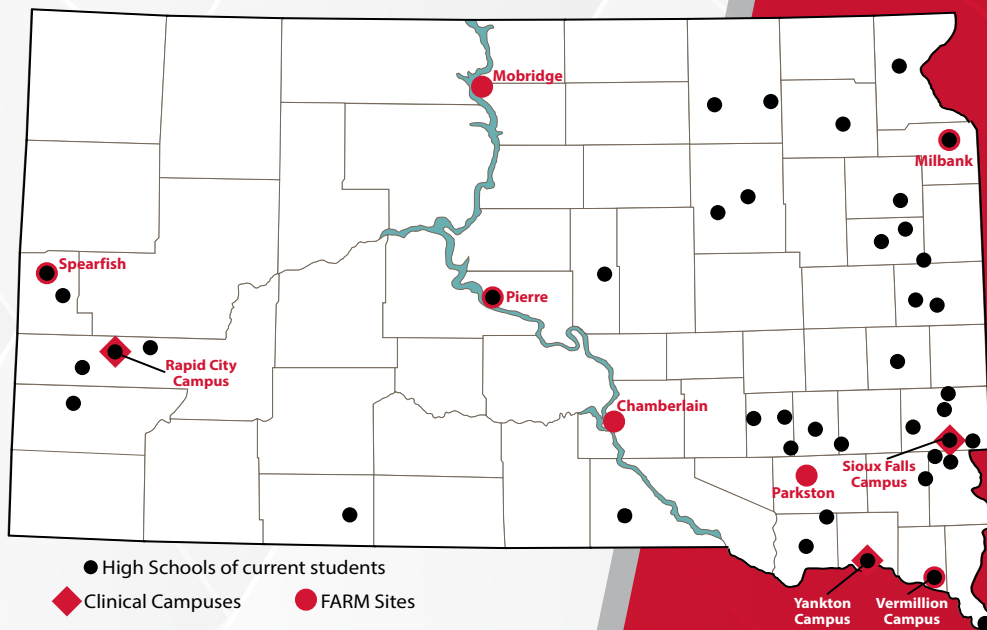
There are 53 South Dakota high schools with graduates currently in the M.D. or M.D./Ph.D. program.

Aberdeen Central	3
Aberdeen Northern Plains	
Christian Academy	1
Aberdeen Roncalli	2
Alexandria Hanson	1
Baltic	1
Box Elder Douglas	2
Brandon Valley	13
Brookings	4
Burke	1
Castlewood	1
Custer	1
Dell Rapids	4
Doland	1
Estelline	1
Ethan	1
Harrisburg	8
Hartford West Central	2
Hayti Hamlin	4
Highmore	2
Hill City	1
Homeschooled	3
Huron James Valley Christian	1
Lead-Deadwood	2
Lennox	1
Madison	1
Martin Bennett County	1
Milbank	1
Miller	2
Mitchell	9
Mount Vernon	1
North Sioux City Dakota Valley	2
Pierre T F Riggs	4
RC Central High School	2
RC Christian School	1

RC St. Thomas More	3
RC Stevens	11
Redfield	1
Rosholt	1
Scotland	1
SF Christian	6
SF Lincoln	18
SF O'Gorman	28
SF Roosevelt	12
SF Washington	8
Sisseton	1

Spearfish	2
Tea Area	3
Tyndall Bon Homme	1
Vermillion	4
Volga Sioux Valley	2
Watertown	8
Webster Area	1
Yankton	9

Total 205



Economic Impact/Factors

The USD Sanford School of Medicine:

- In 2025, had more than 32 active external research grants, projects and contracts, creating high-paying jobs, supporting facility construction and growing the economy.
- Provides opportunity for South Dakota students to become physicians, physician scientists and/or biomedical scientists.
- Prepares physicians needed for the state's growing healthcare industry.
- Engages and empowers students interested in healthcare careers through South Dakota HOSA, a student organization. Currently, 47 active chapters hold a membership of over 1,500. About 65% of SD HOSA members reside in rural and frontier communities.
- Demonstrates continued impact on the state's rural physician workforce through the Frontier And Rural Medicine (FARM) Program, hosting 13 students in seven communities, with plans to expand. Currently, it matches 60% of its graduates into primary care specialties (FM, Peds, IM). Among those who have completed residency and fellowship, 56% are practicing in South Dakota and 38% in health professional shortage areas.
- Has brought in millions in grant funds to address healthcare and community-driven needs in South Dakota via the Center for Rural Health Improvement and South Dakota Area Health Education Centers. Emphasis is on mental health, substance abuse and workforce shortages.
- Sponsors or is affiliated with 10 residency and six fellowship programs, which have an annual impact of more than \$21.9 million.

The USD School of Health Sciences:

- Enrolls more than 1,900 undergraduate and graduate students in nine different health science majors.
- Graduates more than 500 healthcare professionals annually, with approximately 60% staying in South Dakota to work.
- Leverages partnerships with healthcare organizations, community agencies and schools to deliver clinical services, advance interprofessional education and expand access to care.
- Partners with the USD School of Medicine to provide interprofessional learning experiences to prepare practice-ready graduates equipped to deliver high-quality, team-based care.

Vision Statement

The University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine will be a leader in educating students, who, with knowledge, skill and compassion, dedicate their lives to the well-being of their patients, their community and their profession.

Mission Statement

The Mission of the University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine is to provide the opportunity for South Dakota residents to receive a quality, broad-based medical education with an emphasis on family medicine. The curriculum is to be established to encourage graduates to serve people living in the medically underserved areas of South Dakota, and is to require excellence in the biomedical sciences and in all clinical disciplines.

The University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine is to provide to its students and to the people of South Dakota excellence in education, research and service. To these ends, the school is to provide educational pathways leading to both the Doctor of Medicine and the Doctor of Philosophy degrees; and quality healthcare for the people of South Dakota is addressed by undergraduate, graduate and continuing educational programs as well as by biomedical and applied medical research.

The School of Medicine should serve as a technical resource in the development of healthcare policy in the state and provide extension and research initiatives to improve the healthcare of the citizens of the state.

Opportunity Statement

The University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine is committed to fostering a dynamic and welcoming learning environment for all. Therefore, the medical school is committed to both recruitment and retention of students, residents, faculty, and staff who through their intellectually and ideologically diverse perspectives enrich the learning environment. We provide equal opportunities for all. We value people with broad life experiences, with records of service to disadvantaged populations, and with other attributes that may enhance the learning community.