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## **Match Characteristics of Regional Medical Campus and Main Campus Students by Residency Program Type and Location**

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# Match Characteristics of Regional Medical Campus and Main Campus Students by Residency Program Type and Location

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## Abstract

*Background and Objectives:* In response to the AAMC's call to increase the number of medical school graduates in 2006, there has been a steady growth in the number of medical schools offering some or all of the medical education curriculum at regional medical campuses (RMC) across the country with 133 medical schools reporting a RMC in 2023.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, RMC expansion plans were reported by 25 medical schools in a 2020-2021 survey.<sup>2</sup> Because of this increase in the number of medical students attending RMCs, studies must be conducted to determine if attending a RMC influences matching into residency programs by location (in-region or out-of-region) and program type (community-based, university, etc.). This study aims to investigate this possible correlation between the University of Missouri School of Medicine (MUSOM) main campus in Columbia, Missouri, and its RMC in Springfield, Missouri.

*Methods:* Match data was compiled for MUSOM's main and regional campuses for 2018-2024. The Fellowship and Residency Electronic Interactive Database Access (FREIDA) was used to sort residency programs into their respective program types and locations. Fischer's exact probability test was then used to calculate two-tailed p-values to determine if there was a significant difference between the proportion of students from each clinical campus who matched to different locations or program types (Community, Community-based University Affiliated, University, and Other).

*Results:* Of the 690 MUSOM students with publicly available data, 583 were from the main campus and 107 from the regional medical campus. 41.1% of RMC students matched in-region versus 48.4% of main campus students ( $p=0.17$ ). There was no significant association between the main campus and regional campus match rates and the different program types ( $p=0.51$ ).

*Conclusion:* Based on this analysis, there was no significant correlation between MUSOM main campus and regional campus student matches into residency programs classified as community, community-based university-affiliated, university, and other program types. Additionally, there was no significant correlation between MUSOM main campus and regional campus student matches into in-region versus out-of-region residency programs.

## Introduction

Many medical schools nationwide have established regional medical campuses (RMCs) to increase class capacity in response to physician shortages in the United States. In 2016, the University of Missouri School of Medicine, located in Columbia, Missouri, opened a regional medical campus in Springfield, Missouri, to offer clinical experiences for up to a quarter of the third and fourth-year students. Both

campuses share curricular requirements and are unified by a common mission: To save and improve lives through exemplary education, research, and patient care.

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Figure 1  
Frequency of Campus Students Matched by Region

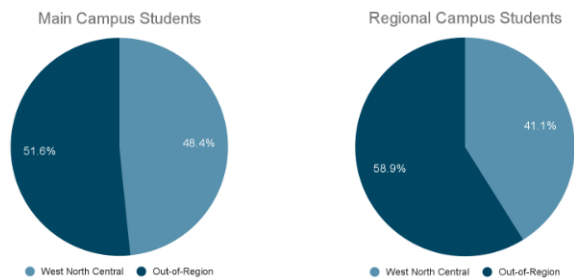


Figure 2: FREIDA Map



With a growing number of students receiving education at RMCs, it is prudent to analyze differences in education, experience, and outcomes across campuses. One helpful tool in evaluating RMC efficacy is analyzing residency match outcomes. One previous study by Wong et al. has been published comparing residency match results between Penn State Hershey College of Medicine and its regional campus in State College, PA. Results from this descriptive study indicated that RMC students were more likely to match into primary care and remain in-state for residency training.<sup>4</sup>

This study will similarly focus on match results, exploring whether attending the University of Missouri SOM regional medical campus was associated with a higher likelihood of matching regionally or matching at a particular program type compared to main campus graduates.

### Methods

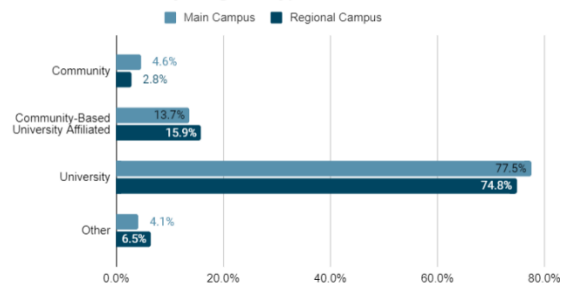
Publicly available match data from the University of Missouri - Columbia School of Medicine (MUSOM) from 2018-2024 was utilized. Residency programs were categorized into their respective regions and program types using the Fellowship and Residency

Electronic Interactive Database Access (FREIDA).<sup>5</sup> Program type categories included university-based, community-based, university-affiliated, or other based on self-reporting to FREIDA by programs. Within our analysis, programs with a designation of “Other” includes military programs and Mayo Clinic residency programs. Fisher exact probability test was used to calculate two-tailed p-values to analyze the significance of the proportion of students from each clinical campus who matched in-region to MUSOM (West North Central) versus out-of-region (all other regions) and the proportion of students from each clinical campus who matched into different program types.

### Results

Match results from 583 University of Missouri School of Medicine main campus students and 107 regional medical campus students were analyzed. We found that 41.1% of regional campus students matched in-region while 48.4% of main campus students matched in-region, as illustrated in Figure 1. Figure 2 demonstrates the different FREIDA regions used for sorting students. Fisher’s exact test found no significant difference between the likelihood of main campus students matching in-region versus their RMC counterparts ( $P= 0.17$ ).

Figure 3: Distribution of Percentage of Main Campus and RMC Matched Students by Program Type



The distribution of students matching into residency program types across community, community-based University Affiliated, University, and Other is illustrated in Figure 3. There was no significant association between Main Campus and RMC match rates to different program types ( $P=0.51$ ).

## Conclusion

Analysis of 690 MUSOM match results from 2018-2024 determined no significant difference in the MUSOM main campus and regional campus student matches into residency programs classified as community, community-based university-affiliated, university, and other program types. Additionally, there was no significant correlation between MUSOM main campus and regional campus student matches into in-region versus out-of-region residency programs.

These findings contrast with previous research, which suggested that RMC students are more likely to match in-state<sup>4</sup>.

As the sample size of RMC graduates continues to grow, future research will be essential to fully uncover the factors influencing match characteristics. One variable to consider in future studies is the recent shift to USMLE Step 1 pass/fail grading. Notably this change is only represented by the 2024 graduating class, and our data largely does not reflect this variable.

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