

Recruiting Students to Family Medicine:

Keeping Student Debt Low

Chelley Alexander, MD

Chair, Department of Family Medicine

Brody School of Medicine

East Carolina University

February 13, 2020

Brody School of Medicine



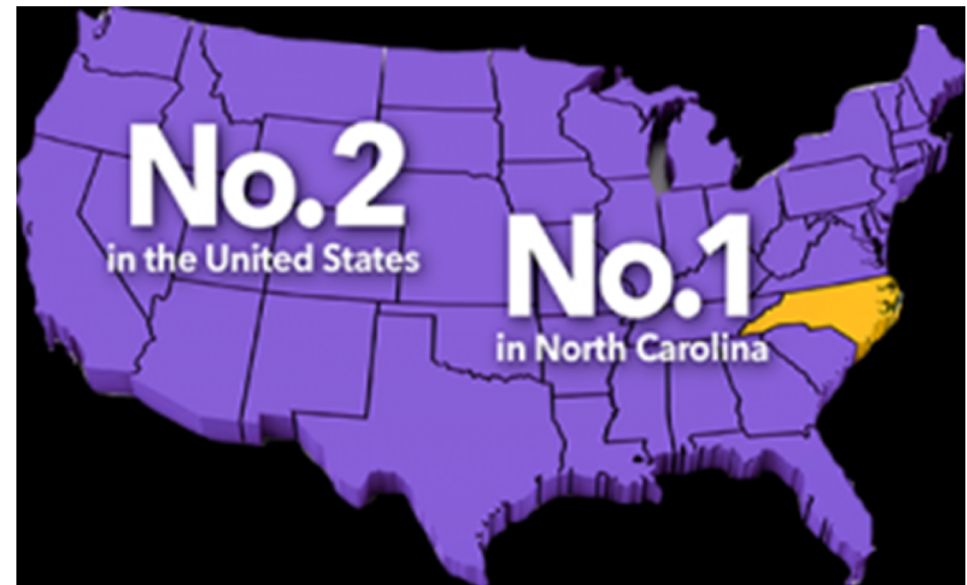
Meeting the Mission

Brody ranks in the **top 10%**
of U.S. medical schools for
graduating physicians who:

Practice in the state

Practice primary care

Practice in rural and underserved areas



20.3%: Percentage of our
graduates who choose careers
in family medicine.

- Increase the supply of primary care physicians serving in North Carolina
 - 55.5% of BSOM graduates practice in NC
- Improve the health status of eastern North Carolina's citizens
 - 20.3% of BSOM graduates match in Family Medicine
- Enhance access of minority and disadvantaged
- students to medical education
 - 11.7% of BSOM matriculates are African American

The Mission





Institutional Level Support

- Admissions – 25% of the committee is FM faculty
 - **“What did the applicant due with all that advantage?”**
- We select students who are more likely to choose primary care, including nontraditional and minority students.
 - 31.7% are over age 30, as compared to **17.5%** nationally.
 - 11.7% are African American, as compared to **6.3%** nationally.
- Executive Curriculum Committee (ECC) Chair, Senior Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, Associate Dean of Student Affairs, Head of faculty practice plan – all FM faculty
- Educational RVUs to buy out faculty teaching time with state funding dollars
- Faculty in other disciplines from disadvantaged backgrounds



Early Exposure to FM

- Early Exposure to Family Medicine Faculty
 - Course Directors in M1/M2 year for Doctoring, Foundations of Medicine and Problem-based Learning
 - Faculty small group leaders – 9 of the 10 groups were led by FM
 - M1 Longitudinal Preceptorships – 50% of the class has 10 sessions with an FM doctor in clinic
 - M2 students spend 1 week with a rural community preceptor
- Strong FMIG chapter
- Strong support – NC Academy of Family Physicians

Continued Exposure to FM

- Curricular Support – FM Clerkship is 8 weeks in length
 - 2 weeks FM Inpatient Service
 - 2 weeks FM Outpatient Service at BSOM
 - 4 weeks community preceptor site
- Required 4 week rotation in Primary Care in the M4 year

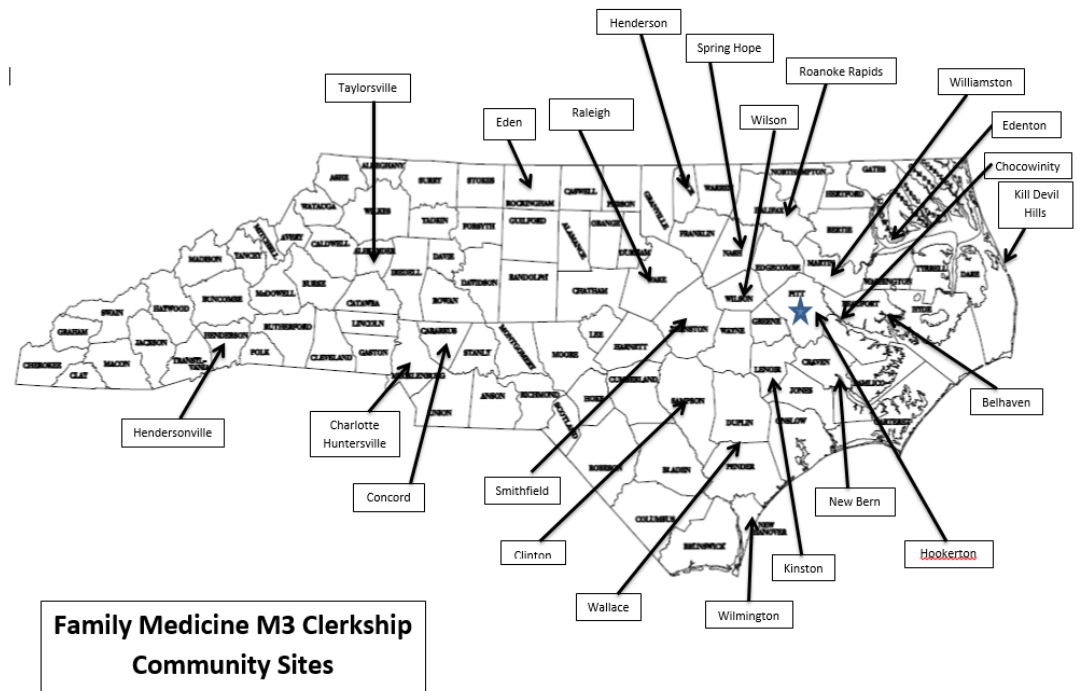


Rural Health Exposure

Community Preceptors = 19 sites

Graduates of BSOM = 13 sites

Rural preceptors = 14 sites



Other Influential Experiences



Activity	BSOM	All U.S
Global Health Experience	55.9%	28%
Providing Health Education	88.1%	66.5%
Field Experience in Home Care	71.2%	33.3%
Free Clinic for Underserved	94.9%	73%

Student Debt

- Average Med Student Debt after four years: \$200,000
- BSOM Debt after four years: **\$128,000**

- 90 percent of students receive some grant money or scholarships

Student Debt

Our low tuition allows our graduates to choose their specialties based on their hearts, not their pocketbooks:

only 3.4% have medical school debt over \$200,000, as compared to 32.5% nationally.

only **1.7%** report that their level of educational debt strongly influenced their specialty choice, as compared to 7.2% nationally.

only 1.7% report that income expectations strongly influenced their specialty choice, as compared to **13.9%** nationally.

