



MEDICAL SCHOOL

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

CentraCare Regional Campus
St. Cloud

The Medical School is establishing a regional campus in St. Cloud, in partnership with CentraCare. This new program allows the Medical School to increase its class size by 10 percent at a time when the need for physicians is growing. In addition, with its focus on rural and immigrant health, this new regional campus will serve an important role for the communities of Greater Minnesota.

In 2025, the CentraCare regional campus in St. Cloud will welcome 24 medical students in its first class to study and train in CentraCare facilities with faculty credentialed through the University. CentraCare's commitment to the campus is in financing, infrastructure support, and precepting.

The size of the Medical School class on both of its current existing campuses – the Twin Cities and Duluth – has been limited to about 220 students for the past 50 years by the availability of clinical clerkships among the clinics and hospitals that contribute to the training of our students. Since 1973, the population of Minnesota has grown by nearly 50 percent, meaning our program is unable to keep up with growing demand.

Medicine, as with many other health professions, is based on an apprenticeship model where students learn alongside physicians who are in practice. That requires statewide partnerships, or affiliations, with hospitals and clinics who are willing and able to have our students in their facilities. Every health system in Minnesota has some level of affiliation with the Medical School to educate and train our students and residents. It represents a cost to those systems, one that is partially covered by Minnesota's education and research costs funds.

The relationship with CentraCare presents a brand-new model of educational, or academic, affiliation by offering built in clinical capacity for students to learn alongside practicing physicians in its network of hospitals and clinics.

This is a unique model nationally, with a private health care system partnering with a public medical school to open a regional campus of that medical school to allow for an expanded class size that includes a commitment from the system to fund its operations and costs above the amount earned through tuition.