

The E-20 class of University of Wyoming WWAMI medical students. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING WWAMI PROGRAM

Spring is a time for renewal, and for introducing Wyoming students who are in their first year of the WWAMI program. WWAMI stands for the five states that participate in the four-year medical education program: Wyoming, Washington, Alaska, Montana and Idaho. Each year, the program reserves 20 seats for qualified Wyoming residents, who spend 18 months on the University of Wyoming campus, followed by two years at clinical sites throughout the WWAMI region.

This year we asked them just one question: What is the best thing about being a medical student? Find their answers below.

Cody Abbott Thermopolis

My favorite thing about medical school so far has been the exposure to so many fascinating topics taught by so many incredible teachers ranging from clinical medicine to emerging academic topics. It's all so interesting and inspiring!





Drew Adriaens Sheridan

The best part of medical school has been the close relationships formed with the other students in my class. I really enjoy the opportunity to work on patient cases related to the disease processes we are learning which serves as a stimulating way to learn and get to know one another.

Bret Andrew Casper

My favorite thing about medical school is the relationships I've made with my colleagues. I am furthermore grateful for the opportunity we've had to impact our community so early in our careers.



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Luiza Bosch **Pinedale**

So far one of my favorite things about medical school has been my classmates. I am so proud to be their peer and they are such a joy to be around. I couldn't have asked for a better group of people to go through this journey with.

Cade Budak Moran

My favorite thing about medical school is our access to physicians from various specialties who come to help us with cases in their respective fields. It is awesome to get to learn "clinical pearls" with these opportunities.





Austin Ellis Byron

The best part of medical school has been building relationships with so many incredible individuals in the WWAMI program. It has been a lot of fun to learn about medicine from the local physicians and my fellow classmates.

Maison Furley Sheridan

Medical school has been my goal from a young age, but I never imagined how much I would enjoy it. My favorite part thus far is the feeling of learning enough to truly make a difference in someone's life and getting to experience true patient interactions so early in our education.





Blake Hopkin Powell

My favorite part of medical school has been learning in a collaborative environment alongside colleagues and friends. Our small, tight-knit cohort has shaped my experience in ways I never anticipated.



Madeleine Isler Laramie

My favorite thing about medical school is being able to learn so many new things every day surrounded by driven, intelligent, supportive and wonderful people. Pushing yourself to the next level in learning has its difficulties and hardships but is full of rewards from achieving and pursuing your goals.



Ariel Gjovig Gillette

My favorite things about medical school are being surrounded by incredible, caring classmates and having opportunities to learn in clinical settings and participate in community improvement efforts! I love that we get to learn from members of our community, while also giving back so early on in our careers.









Holly Huber Green River

My favorite thing about medical school is spending time with my amazing classmates. It already feels like I've known them for years!





Joseph Keating Casper

My favorite part of medical school has been going through the trials and tribulations of becoming a doctor with the wonderful group of nerds that make up the E-20 class.

Sierra Levene Laramie

The best part of medical school so far has definitely been forming so many great lifelong friendships with my classmates. I've also really appreciated all the opportunities that WWAMI and local docs have provided us, including scrubbing into surgeries!





Audrey Lucas Wheatland

I love that I am part of something so much bigger than myself and am reminded all the time that being a physician is a privilege. Scrubbing in for surgery is pretty cool, too.

Jackson McCue Cheyenne

The thing that I like most about medical school is being in the thick of it. We all worked long and hard to get here. I get a kick out of remembering that the mountain of work I get to do now is all I wished for a year ago.





Grace Nicholas Cody

My favorite thing about medical school has been the fostering environment and the variety of educational experiences both in the classroom and clinic.



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Rikki Nelson Chevenne

Some of my favorite days in medical school are when I get to work with patients during hospital mornings or primary care practicum sessions. I'm grateful for the community support that allows us students to practice our clinical skills!







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Dane Patey Casper

My favorite thing about medical school is working with so many different physicians in so many different facets of patient care. Every visit to the emergency department or the hospital is always a new experience with new obstacles and new patients.

Bryce Snow Cheyenne

While it's easy to say the classic "learning about the intricacies of the body" because of course that's why we are all here, I'd have to say my favorite thing about medical school is hands down the people I've met. The relationships formed with our professors, preceptors, patients and classmates are ones that I'll cherish for a lifetime!





Taylor Thompson Cody

My favorite part of WWAMI has been the early clinical experience we get because the patient contact is one of the main reasons I am entering the medical field. My other favorite part is the 19 amazing classmates/friends/future colleagues I get to be with every day.

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The risk for severe COVID-19 illness increases with age and certain medical conditions. In fact, roughly 70 percent of Wyoming's COVID-19 related deaths were among people with known conditions that put them