



INTEGRATION UPDATE:

Frequently Asked Questions about the Rutgers School of Medicine Integration

with

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“Why is medical school integration being pursued?”

Medical school integration is being pursued to create a stronger, more innovative institution that offers enhanced educational and research opportunities. By aligning and not competing, we create a hub of biomedical and health sciences education, research, and clinical care that will allow us to better serve our communities. With one Rutgers School of Medicine, we can expand academic programs, improve infrastructure, and enrich learning environments.

In the past, the two medical schools have been competitors for talent and resources. Now, we can be allies in attracting students, grants, and faculty who are pioneers in their fields.

Additionally, as the state university, we have an obligation to the residents of New Jersey to lead in transformative healthcare delivery. Through the creation of Rutgers School of Medicine, with campuses in Newark and New Brunswick, we will have an academic healthcare delivery enterprise that will better serve all New Jersey communities.

“What are the benefits to integration?”

An integrated model of medical education will position Rutgers School of Medicine as one of the leading public medical schools in the country and create an unparalleled hub of biomedical and health sciences education, research, and clinical care.

When complete, the integration envisions a medical school that enjoys a national reputation greater than the sum of its parts, amplifying Rutgers' role as a leader in 21st-century medical education.

- **First**, it will enhance our ability to attract top talent with an enhanced national reputation and elevated ranking.
- **Second**, by leveraging research opportunities, the Rutgers School of Medicine will become a leader in innovation and attract more federal and industry funding for competitive clinical trials.
- **Third**, it will allow Rutgers to expand specialty hospital care and offer more patient services to reduce healthcare inequities. Aligned medical schools will expand opportunities for students, providing innovative experiences on both campuses.



Read more about the benefits at
go.rutgers.edu/IntegrationBenefits.

“What would an integrated school look like?”

Rutgers School of Medicine envisions a single LCME accreditation with coequal campuses in Newark and New Brunswick.

In the years leading up to the LCME accreditation, we will work under a co-dean model but anticipate that this leadership structure will be revisited. While Rutgers School of Medicine would have common goals and objectives for the medical education program, each campus could have different curricula and would be able to preserve local culture and values and academic strengths. Each campus would remain committed to their communities. We would look to combine only those components of each medical school that yield a positive outcome for all, enhancing collaboration. Growth and investment in clinical care, research, and education is the priority.

Each school would maintain the current affiliation with their principal teaching hospitals. Decisions about departmental structure and leadership would be based on the size and complexity of the departments, and we would seek input from the communities they serve.

The structure of medical education will be formulated with wide input from our internal and external communities over the next few years.

“What is the process for medical school integration?”

The decision to integrate the two medical schools is complete. We are now in the next phase of the process, which is to seek combined accreditation. It is anticipated that the first class of the new Rutgers School of Medicine will be enrolled in the 2028 academic year. Over the next five years, we will be aligning our work to achieve accreditation from the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME). Our work will be conducted in a way that promotes equitable representation and allows opportunities for all medical school community members to contribute to the vision.

An Integration Executive Committee, led by both deans, has been formed and will provide ongoing strategic oversight of the integration planning process and successful completion of integration tasks. The Integration Advisory Committee, organized to fulfill the necessary LCME work, has faculty, staff, and student representatives from both schools. In addition, Integration Task Forces are organized around cross-cutting issues of importance. The Integration Advisory Committee will partner with the relevant task forces to provide meaningful input and is actively seeking participation from faculty, staff, and students from both schools.

Read more about the process for the integration at go.rutgers.edu/IntegrationProcess.



“How can students, faculty, staff, and community members stay informed and engaged in the integration process?”

Regular updates and communications regarding the integration will be provided through official channels, including email notifications, the school websites and integration website, and town hall meetings and events. We encourage all members of the medical school communities to stay engaged and share their feedback during this transformative process.

We are seeking faculty, staff, and student volunteers to participate in task forces and focus groups organized around issues of importance. There are also opportunities to provide feedback through surveys, town halls, committee participation, and ongoing one-on-one virtual meet-ups with the deans.



“Will the medical school locations be affected by the merger?”

The physical locations of the medical schools will remain the same, with two, coequal campuses in Newark and New Brunswick. No one campus will be subordinate to the other.

“How will students be affected by the integration?”

Closer collaboration on the educational mission offers a broader scope and scale of teaching talent, learning content, and clinical experiences that will benefit educators and learners. Benefits for students include:

- **Broader and more consistent educational experiences** – Medical students will have access to a wider array of clinical clerkships/electives and types of patient experiences, without the current administrative barriers to crossing over the two schools. Graduate Medical Education (GME) will also be integrated to form larger, stronger, and more uniform programs that are able to offer broader clinical experiences to trainees.
- **More convenient learning opportunities** – A broader array of lectures (and lecture topics) will be available from faculty at both campuses, but discussion sections may remain regionally defined.
- **Enhancement of MD/PhD programs** – Over time, the individual programs could be combined, taking advantage of the scientific strengths of both schools, higher prestige, and access to more faculty and funding, and thereby becoming more nationally visible and more competitive for grants.
- **Developing and sharing best practices** – There will be an enhanced opportunity for innovation in education across both campuses, comparing approaches, and subsequently sharing and implementing innovations from one campus to the other.

Once the schools are integrated, students will not be forced to attend one campus over another, nor will they be forced to rotate at the other campus for clerkship.

With an estimated integration finishing in the fall of 2028, current medical school students will not be impacted from the integration. Throughout the duration of the five-year process, students will experience a smooth transition into the new integrated medical school. Curriculum, academic calendar, and clinical rotations will continue as planned.

“What will the relationships be like with University Hospital and Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital?”

Our commitment to University Hospital in Newark and RWJUH in New Brunswick remains strong, and our relationship with these institutions will remain unchanged.

University Hospital Newark will continue as the principal teaching hospital of NJMS. Similarly, RWJMS will maintain its ties with Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, subject to associated contractual agreements, and it remain the principal teaching hospital of RWJMS.

The integration will only enhance our community impact in Newark and New Brunswick.



“How will admissions and curriculum be handled?”

The specific implementation of the envisioned medical schools still requires more detailed planning about admissions, curriculum, campus culture, accreditation, residency placements, fiscal matters, administrative structure, governance, nomenclature, branding, and faculty affairs practices. As we embark on the five-year LCME accreditation process, there will be additional planning and faculty committee work, consultations with LCME and AAMC, and continued consultation with the University Senate, faculty, staff, students, and community members, including alumni, via town halls, focus groups, and other avenues for contribution to determine admissions and curriculum.

“Will residency placements be more limited?”

The results of the data collected by Rutgers Health and ECG consulting firm indicate that the risk of negatively impacting student placement is low. In this process, they collected and reviewed detailed residency match data for NJMS and RWJMS graduates for 2018 through 2022 and surveyed GME programs. Given this initial review, integrating NJMS and RWJMS in and of itself would not limit GME opportunities for graduating medical students. Despite this review, we share this as a priority area that will need to be considered as we create the structure of the medical school.

The bottom line is that competition for students graduating from U.S.-based allopathic schools is fierce and focused on individual qualifications, with no explicit or implicit limits on the number of residents selected from a given school.

We would engage with you, our community stakeholders, to create a structure that would minimize this concern and modify as necessary with stakeholder input.

“What will integration mean for our day-to-day lives, and will resources be moved from one school to the detriment of the other?”

The integration will continue with the same day-to-day commitment to research, patient care, leadership in education, and community service on both campuses of Rutgers School of Medicine.

New Jersey Medical School is not moving to New Brunswick or vice versa, nor are we allocating inequitably resources from either medical school.

The integration aims to retain and integrate the talented faculty and staff from both institutions. The combined expertise will foster collaboration and create a more dynamic and supportive academic environment.



Our Future: Rutgers School of Medicine

**Learn more about the journey toward
Rutgers School of Medicine at the
Our Future: Rutgers School of
Medicine website...**

<https://rutgershealth.org/envisioning-future-academic-medicine>

