

# Best Medical Schools in [State]



A series of blog posts ghostwritten for [willpeachmd.com](http://willpeachmd.com).

Each article is around 1000 words long and gives future medical students relevant information about the best medical schools in each state.

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## Best Medical Schools in Illinois

Chicago is home to prestigious institutions such as Pritzker and Feinberg medical schools, and the state of Illinois attracts medical students from across the nation.

Students enrolled in any of the nine allopathic and osteopathic medical schools located in Illinois can receive a top-tier education under the guidance of esteemed medical professionals.

### List of the 9 Best Medical Colleges in Chicago and Illinois

The following schools are ranked according to their position in the [US News Top Medical Schools – Research list](#) for 2022.

#### 1. Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine

The [Feinberg School of Medicine](#) and its affiliated hospitals uniformly rank highly in national surveys, based on quality of students and staff, as well as research and patient care.

The curriculum at Feinberg provides students with stimulating learning opportunities that better serve their individuality. Students are graded on a pass/fail basis rather than receiving letter grades.

The campus is located along the shores of Lake Michigan, in the heart of downtown Chicago. Notable alumni include Nobel Laureates, as well as Charles Mayo, founder of the Mayo Clinic.

Ranked #15 nationally by US News, the Feinberg School of Medicine has an acceptance rate of 7.1%, an average GPA of 3.91, and an average MCAT score of 520.

#### 2. University of Chicago Pritzker College of Medicine

The prestigious [Pritzker College of Medicine](#) is ranked #17 nationally by US News in 2021.

Students often attribute their decision to choose Pritzker for their medical education to the University of Chicago's academic and research reputation, the quality of the faculty, and the success of the graduates.

With such a reputation, one can expect a few prestigious names to appear amongst the alumni. And indeed, both Robert Gallo, who helped discover HIV, and Joseph Ransohoff, who advanced the field of neurosurgery, are on this list.

Pritzker is a competitive school to get into, with an acceptance rate of 4.6%. It has an average GPA of 3.91, and the average MCAT score is 520.

### **3. University of Illinois College of Medicine**

The University of Illinois plays a vital role in the state's health care system as it trains 1 in 6 Illinois physicians. From rural medicine in Rockford to family practice in Peoria, and emergency medicine in Chicago, students can choose from 75 residencies available on the four campuses.

Clinical sciences and basic sciences are integrated throughout the program. The curriculum stresses rational decision-making and clinical problem solving based on understanding biological, physical, and behavioral sciences. It also provides early clinical experience to first-year students who accompany physicians on rounds and learn to take patient histories.

The [University of Illinois College of Medicine](#) has a 7.4% acceptance rate, with an average GPA of 3.73 and an average MCAT score of 512.

### **4. Rush University Medical College**

Since 2010, [Rush Medical College](#) has implemented a system-based curriculum, in which each organ system is taught in an individual block that integrates material from all subjects of study.

The EXPLORE Program provides hands-on physical examination training in the first two years. And working alongside a mentoring physician in the field of their choice, students obtain clinical experience from the first weeks of school.

In 2021, US News ranked Rush Medical College 64th nationally among research institutions.

The average GPA at Rush Medical College is 3.63, with an average MCAT score of 509 and an acceptance rate of 5.8%.

### **5. Midwestern University Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine**

The [Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine](#) (CCOM) is a private, non-profit medical school at Midwestern University. It is the fourth-oldest medical school currently active in the state of Illinois.

Its graduates account for nearly 13% of all practicing osteopathic physicians and surgeons in the US.

CCOM has a 15% acceptance rate, along with an average GPA of 3.61 and an average MCAT score of 507.

## **6. Carle Illinois College of Medicine**

Sometimes called the "World's First Engineering-Based College of Medicine," the [Carle Illinois College of Medicine](#) is the medical school of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign since 2018. The school integrates engineering and entrepreneurship approaches into its medical training of physician-innovators.

Carle Illinois considers applications on a holistic basis and suggests that their applicants have strong backgrounds in biology, chemistry, mathematics, physics, and social sciences. The school has an average GPA of 3.67 and an average MCAT score of 512.

## **7. Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine**

The curriculum at Stritch is unique in that the first two years are done in blocks focusing on one class only. Third-year students take part in required clerkships. And fourth-year students must take two sub-internships in wards and intensive care, along with clerkships in emergency medicine and other electives.

The [Stritch School of Medicine](#) is selective with a low 3.8% acceptance rate. Additionally, the average GPA is 3.72, and the average MCAT score is 510.

## **8. Chicago Medical School at Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine & Science**

[Chicago Medical School](#) (CMS) is a community-based medical school where students are encouraged to participate in projects supporting the local community. Moreover, the school adopts interprofessional education as a core principle.

Its allopathic medicine curriculum prepares students for the future of the medical profession. CMS teaches students to provide personalized patient care using new technologies. And to deliver care in multiple settings while working in

interprofessional teams. In particular, the curriculum promotes active learning and provides students with early opportunities for clinical experience in the community.

The Chicago Medical School has an average GPA of 3.62 and an average MCAT score of 509.

## **9. Southern Illinois University School of Medicine**

[Southern Illinois University](#) (SIU) employs problem-based learning. Students must approach a clinical scenario in small groups as if they were trying to diagnose and treat an actual patient. Additionally, SIU students begin care of patients in a clinical setting within the first two weeks of classes.

SIU has an average GPA of 3.72 and an average MCAT score of 506.

## Best Medical Schools in Ohio

### 1. Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine

Located in Cleveland, the [Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine](#) – or CaseMed – is Ohio's largest biomedical research center. It's also the highest-ranked medical school in Ohio by US News in 2021, taking the 25<sup>th</sup> spot nationally in the Research category.

Between 1850 and 1856, six of the first seven women to receive a medical degree graduated from the school, then called Western Reserve University. And one of these women was Marie Zakrzewska. She not only founded hospitals for women but also contributed to breaking the barriers deterring women from practicing medicine in the United States.

In 2006, CaseMed introduced its WR2 curriculum that unites the disciplines of medicine and public health. This curriculum emphasizes independent study. During the first 18 months of school, students participate in mentored experiences in research. Moreover, all CaseMed students complete a dedicated four-month-long research block during their four years of study.

Students can get involved in more than 35 student organizations or choose to get hands-on experience at the nearby Free Medical Clinic of Greater Cleveland.

Case Western Reserve is the most selective medical school in Ohio, with an acceptance rate of 6.7%. The average GPA is 3.85, and the average MCAT score is 518.

### 2. Ohio State University College of Medicine

As a world-renowned institution, the [Ohio State College of Medicine](#) promises to provide an excellent medical education by combining a modern curriculum and innovative research. US News currently ranks the medical school as one of the best in the nation, awarding Ohio State the 28<sup>th</sup> place in Primary Care and the 33<sup>rd</sup> place in Research.

Ohio State was the first medical center in the United States to insert a digital pacemaker in a patient. Another medical first for Ohio State was performing a heart bypass using minimally invasive robotics technology. And as a leader in imaging research, Ohio State installed the 8 tesla MRI in 1998, the world's most powerful magnetic resonance imaging scanner.

Situated in the state capital of Columbus, Ohio State is one of the most populous schools in the nation. OSU students can cheer on the much-acclaimed Buckeyes Division I sports teams.

The acceptance rate for the College of Medicine is 5.3%, the average GPA is 3.80, and the average MCAT score is 515.

### **3. University of Cincinnati College of Medicine**

The College of Medicine, located in the heart of Cincinnati, is reputed for providing leading-edge research and training prominent health care professionals. It is consistently in the top one-third of American medical schools. Indeed, US News ranks its Pediatrics specialty #3 in the nation in 2021. The University of Cincinnati is also ranked #42 for Research and #59 for Primary Care.

Some historians consider it to be the oldest medical school west of the Allegheny Mountains.

The College of Medicine is part of the Academic Health Center (AHC). The AHC is famous for developing the first live, attenuated polio vaccine and discovering the popular antihistamine Benadryl.

Since 2011, the curriculum involves more clinical instruction in the first two years of medical school.

The [University of Cincinnati College of Medicine](#) has a 7.6% acceptance rate, with an average GPA of 3.74 and an average MCAT score of 515.

### **4. Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine**

[Ohio University Heritage College](#) is the only osteopathic medical school in the state of Ohio. It trains primary care physicians and specialists to treat the whole patient, prioritizing prevention and wellness. The school's approach emphasizes physician-patient relationships. This approach includes delivering care to diverse patient populations, considering their environment, beliefs, and values.

Students follow either the Clinical Presentation Continuum (CPC) or the Patient-Centered Continuum (PCC) during the first two years. The CPC track is more traditional, with extensive lectures, problem sets, and panel discussions. In comparison, the PCC track emphasizes student-defined objectives. Students also learn patient interviewing skills through clinical and community experiences.

The average GPA at the Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine is 3.65, with an average MCAT score of 505, and an acceptance rate of 7.4%.

## **5. The University of Toledo College of Medicine**

The [UToledo College of Medicine](#) is a student-centered institution focused on healthcare and biomedical research. The school prepares its students for highly competitive careers by integrating research, education, and patient care.

In 2016, the College of Medicine and Life Sciences teamed up with Toledo-based health system ProMedica. The goal of this affiliation is to attract and keep good medical talent in Toledo. The partnership also enhances the training and education for students, creating a world-class academic medical center.

The University of Toledo College of Medicine has an acceptance rate of 7.6%, an average GPA of 3.76, and an average MCAT score of 510.

## **6. Boonshoft School of Medicine**

The [Boonshoft School of Medicine](#) is the medical school of Wright State University, located in Dayton, Ohio.

Wright State University is affiliated with six major teaching hospitals and two federal institutions in the Greater Dayton area for clinical training. It also has formal affiliation agreements with more than 25 health care institutions in southwestern Ohio's Miami Valley.

The close-knit community spirit at Boonshoft fosters an atmosphere of genuine support and encouragement. Classes have small sizes, and the faculty is accessible. The curriculum teaches skills and habits for lifelong learning, supporting students' development as curious and self-directed learners.

The acceptance rate at Boonshoft is 2.8%, the average GPA is 3.66, and the average MCAT score is 504.

## **7. Northeast Ohio Medical University**

Northeast Ohio Medical University ([NEOMED](#)) is a community-based, public medical school in Rootstown, Ohio, an hour's drive away southeast of Cleveland.

NEOMED has partnerships with the public universities of Akron, Cleveland State, Kent State, Youngstown State, and the private college of Hiram. It also partners with



24 hospitals to help bring wellness and accessible health care to the medically underserved in Ohio.

The Northeast Ohio Medical University has an average GPA of 3.76 and an average MCAT score of 506.

## Best Medical Schools in Pennsylvania

### 1. Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania

The [Perelman School of Medicine](#) is the country's oldest medical school. It was founded in 1765 and is in the University City district of Philadelphia. Also called Penn Med, it's one of the seven Ivy League medical schools.

In 2021, US News ranks the University of Pennsylvania #9 in Research and #24 in Primary Care. The magazine also ranks Perelman in the top 5 nationally for the following specialties: Pediatrics, Psychiatry, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Internal Medicine, Anesthesiology, and Radiology.

Penn Med is a competitive school to get into, with an average GPA of 3.89, an average MCAT score of 520, and an acceptance rate of 4.4%. The school attracts students from across the nation, and 79% of the entering class is from out of state.

### 2. University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

The [University of Pittsburg School of Medicine](#) is a national leader in biomedical research. US News ranks Pitt Med #13 in Research and #34 in Primary Care in 2021. The school's Surgery specialty is also ranked #11 nationally.

The curriculum for the MD program offers early and in-depth clinical experiences and focuses on the patient from day one. In the first two years, students spend one-third of their time attending lectures, one-third learning in small groups, and one-third engaging in activities such as observation, community-site visits, and laboratory exercises.

The acceptance rate for Pitt Med is 6%, the average GPA is 3.86, and the average MCAT score is 517.

### 3. Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University

The [Sidney Kimmel Medical College](#) can claim more living graduates than any other private medical school in the nation. It's also in the top third nationally in 2021, according to US News, which ranks Jefferson University #55 for Research and #59 for Primary Care.

The JeffMD curriculum focuses on the patient and provides students with early clinical exposure. The curriculum is divided into three phases to prepare future doctors to learn actively and think critically. The first phase focuses on the foundations of medicine and is taught in eight organ system blocks. The second phase focuses on the application of knowledge when students begin their clinical rotations. The third phase prepares students for their residency applications with appropriate electives.

Kimmel Medical College has an acceptance rate of 4.6%, an average GPA of 3.74, and an average MCAT score of 514.

#### **4. Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University**

The [Lewis Katz School of Medicine](#) (LKSOM) is part of Temple University in Philadelphia and is reputed for training humanistic and dedicated clinicians.

The school is ranked #61 in Research by US News in 2021.

The first two years of the curriculum are divided into blocks teaching basic and clinical science fundamentals in an integrated approach. The clinical years feature hands-on experience in caring for patients. Third-year students rotate through core clerkships, and fourth-year students focus on areas of interest through a large variety of electives.

LKSOM has an acceptance rate of 4%, an average GPA of 3.75, and an average MCAT score of 512.

#### **5. Drexel University College of Medicine**

[Drexel University College of Medicine](#) has one of the largest enrollments for a private medical school and is the second most applied-to in the United States.

Medical students at Drexel learn to practice medicine with cutting-edge technology combined with the highest level of compassion. The “Foundations and Frontiers” curriculum introduced in 2017 is designed to train physicians for the healthcare system of tomorrow. This new curriculum covers all the enduring qualities essential to clinical excellence. Also, it includes essential emerging competencies such as an understanding of population health, health informatics, and health care systems and financing.

Drexel University College of Medicine has an average GPA of 3.76, an average MCAT score of 511, and an acceptance rate of 5.1%.

## **6. Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine**

The [Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine](#) (LECOM) was founded in 1992 to meet the growing need for physicians in the local area. It's now the largest medical school in the United States, with over 2,200 enrolled students.

The school offers three primary learning paths. Through small group interaction, student-centered and self-directed learning is at the core of the Problem-Based Learning Pathway (PBL). In comparison, the Lecture Discussion Pathway (LDP) follows a more traditional curriculum where subjects are taught in a lecture format. And the Directed Study Pathway (DSP) is a unique program providing significant flexibility for students during the first two years of medical school.

LECOM has an acceptance rate of 7.6%, an average GPA of 3.56, and an average MCAT score of 502.

## **7. Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine**

[Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine](#) (GCSOM) follows a community-based model of medical education with four regional campuses in northeastern and north-central Pennsylvania.

The school adopts the Longitudinal Integrated Clerkship (LIC) model as the standard clinical experience during the third year. Students live in the community and follow a panel of patients for a year, training with clinical preceptors in different disciplines.

Geisinger has an average GPA of 3.66 and an average MCAT score of 511.

## **8. Penn State University College of Medicine**

[Penn State College of Medicine](#) is located in Hershey, PA. The school's goal is to train humanistic, adaptive, and collaborative physicians.

The curriculum is organized around the four pillars of biomedical sciences, health humanities, clinical sciences, and health systems sciences. Students from the College of Medicine operate the LionCare free clinic for the underserved in midtown Harrisburg, PA.

Penn State has an average GPA of 3.82 and an average MCAT score of 510.

## **9. Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine**

[The Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine](#) was the third osteopathic medical school to open in the United States. Since 1899, the school has trained over 13,000 physicians, health practitioners, and behavioral scientists.

Students at PCOM learn to treat patients with a holistic approach to health care, considering factors such as nutrition, environment, and psychology. The first two years introduce both basic and clinical sciences. Then during the third and fourth years, students are exposed to a broad scope of medical problems in some of the finest teaching hospitals in the greater Philadelphia area.

## Best Medical Schools in New Jersey

### 1. Rutgers New Jersey Medical School in Newark

New Jersey Medical School (NJMS) is a graduate school of Rutgers University. Founded in 1954, it's the oldest medical school in New Jersey. In 2021, US News ranks NJMS #66 in the Research category.

The school is on Rutgers University's Newark campus. Each class at NJMS consists of about 170 students, making for a cohesive student body.

University Hospital, which is the school's core teaching hospital, is also located on campus. This hospital is home to the busiest Level I Trauma Center in New Jersey and is the state's largest provider of charity care. It also has one of the nation's most active liver transplant programs.

NJMS defines its mission as the instruction of collaborative physicians who focus on the health of underserved and vulnerable populations.

The MD program follows a curriculum based on organ systems and emphasizes early integrated clinical practice, service learning, and professional identity development.

New Jersey Medical School has an acceptance rate of 6.6%, an average GPA of 3.7, and an average MCAT score of 514.

### 2. Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in New Brunswick

Robert Wood Johnson Medical School (RWJMS) is one of the two graduate medical schools of Rutgers University. RWJMS operates two campuses in Piscataway and New Brunswick in New Jersey. The Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital is the main affiliated hospital.

US News ranks Robert Wood Johnson Medical School #70 for Research in 2021. The school also ranks among the top 10 percent nationally of medical schools in minority student enrollment.

Launched in 2021, the new 5 C's curriculum emphasizes curiosity, critical thinking, clinical skills, competence, and compassion. In addition to these areas of focus, health systems science, evidence-based medicine, and the community context for family-centered care serve as unifying themes across the four years.

The program aspires to be recognized for preparing its students to provide high value, ethical, and appropriate healthcare in an ever-changing system. The school's culture promotes well-being. Students are taught to develop behaviors and embrace strategies that lead to better health for all.

The acceptance rate for RWJMS is 5.7%, the average GPA is 3.69, and the average MCAT score is 512.

### **3. Cooper Medical School of Rowan University**

Cooper Medical School of Rowan University (CMSRU) opened in summer 2012 in Camden, New Jersey. It's the only institution granting a four-year MD in South Jersey. It was established to improve healthcare and address the physician shortage in the region.

The Cooper Medical Education Building contains a 260-seat auditorium, 25 active learning rooms, a clinical simulation center, and a satellite medical library on the Cooper Health Sciences campus.

The curriculum is designed as a seamless continuum over four years. It integrates knowledge of scientific concepts, early experience in patient care, teamwork, and activities that benefit the greater community. Teaching at Cooper is done primarily in a small group setting, and students begin seeing patients from their fifth week.

Third-year students apply their knowledge and skills with rotations in different medical specialties. Fourth-year students complete required rotations in Chronic Care, Critical Care, and Emergency Medicine. Then they take a sub-internship, followed by 20 weeks of elective time.

Cooper Medical School has an acceptance rate of 4.0%, an average GPA of 3.77, and an average MCAT score of 511.

### **4. Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine**

The Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine, also known as RowanSOM, offers a student-centered education in a family-like atmosphere. Located in the

suburbs of Philadelphia, it's one of two medical schools associated with Rowan University.

RowanSOM is affiliated with Jefferson Health Stratford Hospital and the Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital of Camden, New Jersey.

Since 2019, RowanSOM has offered two pre-clerkship curriculums, the Synergistic Guided Learning track (SGL) and the Problem-Based Learning track (PBL).

In the SGL track, organ systems are combined into blocks. Each block first presents the ideal, or normal, human structure and function. It then describes the progression of diseases, their diagnosis, and treatments. This way, it's immediately apparent to the learner how basic sciences are relevant. This approach reduces redundancy and allows for a more intuitive progression of learning.

The PBL approach is centered on the student, and clinical case presentations are a catalyst for understanding the underlying mechanisms, relying on scientific knowledge, and developing clinical reasoning skills.

The acceptance rate for Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine is 7.6%, the average GPA is 3.65, and the average MCAT score is 506.

## **5. Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine**

Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine (HMSOM) is a private medical school that opened in 2015, with a state-of-the-art campus in Nutley and Clifton, New Jersey.

The school is affiliated with the largest hospital network in New Jersey, Hackensack Meridian Health, with three regional hubs and sixteen hospitals across the state.

The curriculum relies on evidence-based teaching methods to promote effective student learning. Hackensack Meridian graduates integrate into their practice an understanding of the role of community, of context, and of the impact of healthcare system fragmentation on health outcomes. They're also trained to use evidence to make medical decisions effectively.

Central to the HMSOM curriculum, the Human Dimension course puts the focus of medicine on the individual, the family, and the community. The system is structured around the Determinants of Health, which are the many elements such as biology, genetics, and socio-economic factors that drive health and disease.



Pairs of students are matched with families in the community. Following and getting to know these individuals, students see the Determinants of Health in action through structured experiences in home and community-based, as well as medical settings.

At Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine, the average GPA is 3.7, the average MCAT score is 512, and the acceptance rate is 4.9%.