**MRPIP Fee and Contractual Obligations for WICHE Allopathic/Osteopathic and WWAMI Participants**

 **Montana Rural Physician Incentive Program (MRPIP) Fee Notification**

The Montana Rural Physician Incentive Program (MRPIP) was established by the 1991 Montana Legislature to encourage physicians to practice in rural and medically underserved areas of Montana or serve medically underserved populations. Per MCA §20-26-1502, the program provides loan repayment assistance to qualifying physicians and is funded through a mandatory annual fee assessed to all Montana students supported by the state through the WICHE, WWAMI, and ICOM programs.

The MRPIP program offers loan repayment benefits of up to $150,000 over a five-year service period (or proportionally reduced benefits for shorter service periods) for approved physicians. Applicants who have previously participated in WICHE, WWAMI, and ICOM medical programs receive some additional preference compared to other applicants. More information regarding the MRPIP loan repayment program can be found on the web at: <https://mus.edu/Prepare/Pay/Loans/MRPIP.html>.

If you are selected and supported by the state in any of these programs, you are required to pay this fee annually throughout your enrollment for up to 4 years. The MRPIP Fee is calculated as a percentage of the WICHE state support amount for allopathic medicine and osteopathic fields of study. As state support amounts fluctuate year to year, so will the amount of the MRPIP Fee. The MRPIP fee is separate from medical school tuition, fees, and expenses. Invoices are emailed around the first part of August, and must be paid in full each academic year. Failure to pay the annual fee may result in the forfeiture of your state funding. While schools may help with packaging this fee in your financial aid, the student is solely responsible for ensuring full payment by the due date. Your school’s financial aid office cannot pay the fee on your behalf.

**WWAMI Program Contract Requirements**

* WICHE participants are required to pay the annual MRPIP Fee but are not required to enter into a contractual agreement with the state. WICHE students are charged the “standard” MRPIP fee for allopathic or osteopathic medicine.
* All Montana students entering the WWAMI Program must enter a legal, binding contract with the State of Montana. This contract confirms whether you will commit to return to Montana to practice medicine after you graduate from medical school and complete your professional training.
* Contract selections must be made before beginning enrollment. Copies of both contract options will be provided during the award process for your review. Contract decisions are final and cannot be changed. Your contract decision directly impacts your MRPIP fee rate but does not impact the amount of state support funding you will receive.

**Option 1: Commit to Return to Practice in Montana**
* You agree to return to Montana and begin full-time medical practice within one year of completing your training, and to serve for a minimum of three years. If you fail to meet this obligation, you must repay the full amount of state support received, using current cost estimates, the repayment amount will be approximately $179,290 or more, with interest (up to 8%, repaid within 10 years). Under this “return” agreement, students are charged the “standard” MRPIP fee amount.
* Under this agreement you have an obligation to pay annual MRPIP fee at the standard rate throughout medical school, for up to four years, and to return to Montana and enter into full-time professional medical practice within 1 year of completing professional medical training, to practice medicine full-time for a minimum of 3 years.
	+ Residency in a family medicine residency program located in Montana may be credited toward the practice requirement at a rate of one-third year for each year of service in the residency program.
* If a you fail to meet the return to practice conditions of this contract, you must repay, with interest, the total amount of state support paid on your behalf during medical school (approximately $179,290 in total or more for WWAMI students, depending on state support amounts).

**Option 2: Decline to Commit to Montana Practice**

* You choose not to commit to return to practice in Montana. Under this “decline to return” agreement, students annual MRPIP Fee is charged at 2.5 times the standard rate. Under this agreement you have an obligation to pay a higher annual MRPIP fee, charged at 2.5 times the standard rate throughout medical school, for up to four years.

**Estimated 2025/2026 academic year MRPIP Fees**

* WICHE – Allopathic Medicine: $5,960
* WICHE – Osteopathic Medicine: $4,276
* WWAMI students will pay either $5,960 or $14,900 depending on what contractual agreement they select.

If you have any questions regarding the annual MRPIP fee, contracts, or MRPIP participation please email AwardMontana@montana.edu.