

University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, ND

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The rural surgery tract of the University of North Dakota (UND) General Surgery Residency Program is designed to better prepare general surgeons who wish to practice in rural environments.

The UND General Surgical Residency Program has a long history of preparing residents for practice in rural environments. In fact, the UND surgical residency program has a higher percentage of graduates practicing in rural areas than most other programs in the country. More than 40% of former graduates of the UND program currently practice in rural environments.

Based on its long history of training for rural surgery practices and the current involvement in major rural surgical initiatives, the UND surgical residency program has designed a rural surgery tract to recognize and better train residents who wish to practice in rural environments.

The rural surgery tract involves nine months of training in surgical subspecialty and rural surgery rotations in PGY 2, 3, and 4. A representative sample of the rotations is shown below. Six of the nine months are dedicated to subspecialty rotations that are common subspecialties in which rural general surgeons often perform cases. The subspecialty rotations are designed to allow the rural general surgeon to be familiar with and competent in the basic procedures in these subspecialty areas. In addition, rural surgery residents will have a better perspective on the types of subspecialty cases that can be safely performed in their local institution and be better able to decide when it is best to refer patients for subspecialty care. The management of emergency situations in these subspecialties is also stressed. The PGY-1 and PGY-5 residents in the rural surgery tract are the same as the general surgery tract residents. All ACGME Surgery Residency Review Committee and American Board of Surgery requirements are fulfilled with the rural surgery tract rotation schedule.

PGY Year	Rural Rotations		
PGY-2	Ob-Gyn	Orthopedic Surgery	Rural Surgery
PGY-3	ENT	Urology	Endoscopy
PGY-4	Rural Elective Mission	Ob-Gyn	Rural Surgery

The UND Department of Surgery has two categorical tracts listed through the Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS) and National Residency Matching Program (NRMP). One tract is for categorical general surgery which has two positions and the other tract is for categorical rural surgery also with two positions. Applicants may apply to one or both of the tracts.

Applicants who are interested in a rural surgery tract should contact the Department of Surgery at the UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences for additional information.

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