

University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine (USD SSOM)

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The vision of the General Surgery Residency Program at the University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine is to train competent, confident, compassionate general surgeons through our mission of providing a supportive educational environment through teamwork, collaboration, and respect. Our residency is a traditional 5-year program with three categorical residents per year, with an exclusive focus on rural surgical training. Our ACGME accredited program started in 2014 in collaboration with Sanford Health, the largest rural health system in the country.

We had a unique opportunity to build a brand new general surgical residency program from scratch. We were able to develop a 60-month rotation schedule that is most conducive for the training of rural general surgeons. The Sanford USD Medical Center in Sioux Falls, SD (population 180,000) is the primary teaching hospital. This main teaching hospital is a Level-2 adult and pediatric trauma center and the residents complete all subspecialty rotations at this site. There are no subspecialty surgical training programs at this hospital, which allows our residents to participate as surgeon juniors in many of the specialty and advanced/complex cases.

The rural rotation in Yankton, SD (population 15,000 and located 80 miles from Sioux Falls), is a 2-month rotation during the PGY-2 and PGY-3 years. Residents are exposed to bread-and-butter general surgery, as well as extensive endoscopic and vascular experience. The Yankton resident connects live via video conferencing for all didactic meetings and conferences. During the PGY-2 and PGY-4 years, residents spend one month in Chicago, IL at John H. Stroger Jr. Hospital of Cook County, the busiest trauma program in the country. A furnished apartment is provided for the Yankton and Chicago rotations.

Residents rotate through the Sioux Falls VA Medical Center, where they have an opportunity to master their advanced endoscopic skills. During the 60-month rotations schedule, residents also rotate through Obstetrics and Gynecology, Anesthesia, and have Elective opportunities with the option to do an international rotation.

PGY-1 applications are accepted through Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS), and positions are filled through National Residency Matching Program (NRMP). Interested applicants should reach out to the program and Sub-I rotations are encouraged.