

WICHE

Western Interstate Commission
for Higher Education

access collaboration innovation

PSEP

Professional Student Exchange Program



Obtaining a professional degree in healthcare can be expensive. Get affordable access to professional healthcare education in the West with WICHE's PSEP!

Have you seen your doctor, dentist, or taken Fido to the vet lately? Chances are good that your medical professionals received their professional healthcare degree through WICHE's Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP) – or know someone who did. WICHE has provided Western residents with affordable access to professional education through PSEP since the early 1950s! Over the last 65 years, some 15,000 practitioners have earned their professional degree through PSEP.

Healthcare workers of all kinds are in high demand, especially in the West's chronically underserved rural areas. Educating more healthcare professionals is crucial, but given fiscal pressures and small populations that limit the number of eligible students, it doesn't always make sense for a state to create its own program in certain healthcare professions. State policymakers who are looking for the smartest investment of limited public funds to educate future practitioners understand that *sharing educational resources within the West is a fiscally responsible approach.*

In the 2017-18 academic year, 10 WICHE states are investing more than \$14.2 million to provide affordable healthcare education to 610 students. Students can choose from more than 130 fully accredited and high-quality programs at 62 participating public and private institutions.

PSEP: The Debt Buster! Students enrolled through WICHE's PSEP pay reduced tuition at out-of-state public and private institutions. Depending on the student's field of study and where they enroll, a PSEP student can save between \$8,000 and more than \$32,000, per academic year! The student's home state legislature appropriates funds to buy down tuition costs in selected healthcare fields. Those funds are administered through WICHE and are sent directly to the enrolling institutions as a "support fee". The support fees for each professional field are negotiated biannually between WICHE and the cooperating programs.

Healthcare Studies Options [†] , by Sending State (subject to change)										
	Dentistry	Medicine	Occupational Therapy	Optometry	Osteopathic Medicine	Pharmacy	Physical Therapy	Physician Assistant	Podiatry	Veterinary Medicine
ALASKA	◆		◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	
ARIZONA*	◆			◆	◆				◆	◆
COLORADO*				◆						
CNMI	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆		◆
HAWAII*	◆		◆	◆			◆			◆
MONTANA*	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆				◆	◆
NEVADA*						◆	◆	◆		◆
NEW MEXICO*	◆									◆
NORTH DAKOTA*	◆			◆						◆
UTAH*				◆					◆	
WYOMING*	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆

* State also enrolls students through PSEP. Additional states that enroll through PSEP: California, Idaho, Oregon, South Dakota, and Washington.
[†] If you don't see your healthcare field offered here, check out WICHE's WRGP for more options: www.wiche.edu/wrgp/

How it works. Check the chart above to see if your state support students through PSEP, and in which fields. Typically a state will support students in a healthcare field if it does not operate a public program in that healthcare field.

To be considered for support, applicants must meet their home state's residency requirements and become "certified" by their "certifying officer". See www.wiche.edu/psep for your state's application. Apply prior to your state's deadline.

Applicants apply to participating programs and notify their certifying officer if they are admitted to a program. In the spring, WICHE compares the number of applicants with offers in each state cohort, to the budgeted number of seats for that state.

If the number of offers exceeds available funding, WICHE contacts cooperating programs to "rank" individual applicants who applied to their programs, by state cohort. Funding is offered first to the top-ranked applicants.

Program Advantages. PSEP helps participating programs meet their recruitment and enrollment goals. Deans are pleased with the diversity of perspectives – rural, ethnic, and regional – that PSEP students bring to their class-rooms, thereby enriching the learning experience for everyone.

State Return-on-Investment. The majority of WICHE states that support students through PSEP require their graduates to return home and practice for three to four years. WICHE states educating their healthcare workforce through PSEP get an excellent return on their investment – an average of 68 percent. Nevada reported that 89 percent of its graduates returned home to practice!



For more information, visit www.wiche.edu/psep. Or contact us at 303.541.0270 or info-sep@wiche.edu.

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Photo, l-r: Shelby, Von Miller (Denver Broncos linebacker and founder of "Von's Vision"), and Dr. Tricia Brenner, O.D. (Shelby's mother)

As a Colorado resident, I figured I would have to move to another state to become an optometrist, because there is no optometry school in the state. WICHE's PSEP allowed me to attend my top-choice school in Southern California. WICHE changed my life – and my mother's! She also benefited from WICHE's program when she went to Pacific University's College of Optometry years ago. Thank you, Colorado, for allowing my mother and me to pursue our dreams of becoming optometrists! We truly could not have done it without you!"

– Shelby, Colorado resident, Class of 2019,
Southern California College of Optometry at Marshall B. Ketchum University

Shelby's Optometry School Tuition (4 years)

Without PSEP	\$174,000
With PSEP	\$104,000
**Savings with PSEP.....	\$70,000

**Savings varies, depending on the enrolling institution and program.