



Complete Your Family Medicine Clerkship in McPherson, Kansas!

Hey, niners. Sorry this goes to those of you who have already done Family Medicine. This message is intended for those who have yet to go through the rotation.

As you begin to consider your options in the Family Medicine Clerkship, I hope you'll give the McPherson rotation careful consideration. There is usually room for 1 student during each clerkship. I *highly recommend it* for many reasons.

What's In It For You?

- A chance to "get away from the pack," as it were, and experience medicine outside the Medical Center.
- More one-on-one time with your preceptor, Dr. Gregory Thomas.
- Experience more autonomy and more responsibility.
- Comfortable living quarters on-site with wireless Internet, cable, and free dining at the hospital cafeteria.
- Work in a modern clinic facility that runs very efficiently.
- Full-time access to an up-to-date medical library.

What's Superior About the Rotation?

- Dr. Thomas is an excellent *educator* as well as an excellent physician.
- The clerkship is highly student-focused.
- You'll really stretch your examination and clinical decision making skills since you will essentially be working as a "pseudo-resident" (with proper supervision, of course!)
- There is no daily travel involved since you'll be staying on-site.
- All students in the Family Medicine clerkship work at a community clinic, but almost all the options in the metro area are urban clinics. With the McPherson rotation, your community clinic is a rural clinic!

What's Missing from the Rotation?

NOTHING! The quality of the medical experience is on par—if not better—than the experience available in the metro area. Of course, you won't be interacting with your colleagues as much as usual, but you'll have access to all the course materials (as with any class). Course requirements are altered slightly, but the core content is identical.

There is a myth that rural medicine doesn't expose you to many disease processes. FALSE! Typically you deal with MORE variety of illnesses because so much is handled in-house instead of being referred to specialists.

Challenge Yourself - Expand Your Horizons!

Externships and medical mission trips sound exciting and exotic because they provide a chance to learn medicine in an unfamiliar setting. If you have never experienced living in a city smaller than 100,000 people, challenge yourself to a rural rotation. You'll find the experience very surprising and rewarding.

If you've read this far...

Thanks for taking the time. I've included more info below... and pictures! Last semester, no students chose the McPherson rotation, and this opportunity went to waste. I hope that you won't miss out. Take advantage of this rotation and maximize your Family Medicine Clerkship experience.

Michael Bloustine, MS-3

More About the Site

You'll be living/working in conjunction with the School of Medicine's South Central Regional Network Site. Colleen Elliott (the nice lady pictured below) is the coordinator, and she takes care of all the logistics. Dr. Thomas is the medical director and the preceptor for Family Medicine.

The site occupies the ground-floor of the section of the McPherson Memorial Hospital shown at right. There are three dorm rooms where students from surgical, family medicine, and CRNA clerkships can stay. The library is housed here (pictured below.) The family medicine clinic (also pictured below) is just around the front of the hospital.

Since this is a separate part of the hospital, there is plenty of privacy and there is easy access in and out of the building. Parking is never a problem!

There is a small kitchenette with a refrigerator. There are two study cubicles with computers. Bathrooms are clean and spacious. Linens are provided. *There is no laundry service, however.*

About the City of McPherson

While McPherson is sort of in the middle of the state, it is hardly disconnected from the rest of the world! I didn't know this, but McPherson is the quite a cosmopolitan town, with 14,000+ population, 2 colleges, and *many industries*. There are plenty of restaurants (local and fast-food) as well as standard shopping fair. The main street is very vibrant. There is a movie theater, as well.

McPherson is about 3 hours from the KC metro area. It is only 45 minutes north of Wichita on I-135. Hutchinson, Salina, and Wichita, are all major cities within commute distance.

Learn all you'd care to know at <http://www.mcphersonks.org/>.

