

# FSU College of Medicine adds residency program in Winter Haven

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(Photo: COLIN HACKLEY, COLIN HACKLEY)

Florida State University's College of Medicine has established its fifth residency program with the announcement Friday of an agreement with Winter Haven Hospital.

The college will establish a family medicine program in Winter Haven, about 45 miles southwest of Orlando.

FSU currently has a family medicine residency program at Lee Health in Fort Myers, internal medicine and emergency medicine programs at Sarasota Memorial Hospital and internal medicine and general surgery programs at Tallahassee Memorial Hospital.

It also has a residency program and fellowship at Dermatology Associates of Tallahassee.

"Bringing medical residents here for their training in family medicine significantly increases the ability of Winter Haven Hospital and others in this community to recruit future physicians," FSU President John Thrasher said in a release.

More than 60 FSU medical alumni are practicing within 50 miles of Winter Haven, he said.

The three-year program in Winter Haven plans to admit six new residents each year for a total of 18 residents.

According to the Florida Department of Health, Polk County has 50 primary-care physicians per 100,000 residents, below the state average of 77.

Polk County commissioners recently voted 5-0 to use \$3.7 million from the county's indigent health-care fund to help finance a clinic where the residency program will be based at Winter Haven Hospital.

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