



[Robins Rx](#)

## FSU Medical College Answers Primary Care Challenge

Wednesday, April 24, 2013 at 5:15 by Robin Adams

In an earlier post on how U.S. News and World Report ranks Florida universities' graduate health education programs, I asked what it will take to get one of Florida's schools in the top tier for primary care medical training.

An impassioned, yet polite, response came from Florida State University's Doug Carlson, who answers the lengthy questionnaire that U.S. News uses as part of its ranking. He gives some very convincing points for why FSU ought to be in that top tier. Among them:

"We are the only medical school in Florida (and are unique nationally) to have students spend their clinical training years (the third and fourth years of med school) out in communities rather than primarily inside of a teaching hospital or academic medical center."

By giving students that exposure to patient-doctor relationships and real life experience, he said, FSU is achieving "notable outcomes" in producing primary care physicians. Seventy percent of its alumni [in Florida] are providing primary care, he said. Sixty one percent of its 2013 class matched in a primary care specialty, the highest percentage in Florida.

"As a new kid on the block, our reputation is just now starting to grow," Carlson wrote, emphasizing that the structure of FSU's medical school is designed with the goal of producing primary care doctors. Its first students came in 2001.

"There already is a great primary care medical school in Florida, even if the rankings have not yet come to that realization," he wrote.

Rankings such as the ones in U.S. News cause a lot of "buzz" but aren't always accurate, he said, although adding they will of course proudly display surveys when they eventually realize FSU belongs in the rankings as "one of the best primary care programs in the world."