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Every Seat Taken at FSU Medical School

School reaches full enrollment in its 10th year

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The latest class of would-be doctors has arrived on FSU's campus and the medical school has reached full enrollment for the first time.

The school is graduating more family doctors than most in the country, but many of them still wind up practicing out of state.

Take a look at the 121 students in this room. One of them may be wind up being your family doctor one day.

FSU's College of Medicine, now in its 10th year, reached full enrollment when the class of 2014 arrived on campus last week. That includes Crawfordville native Brett Thomas.

"Although my specialty is not for certain, I do foresee myself practicing in a rural area. I'm from Wakulla County, so I understand the consequences of leaving that area," Thomas said.

There are now 480 doctors in training here and while Florida State graduates two to three times as many primary care physicians as most med schools, the dean says there's a shortage of residency programs in the state and that means some of the best will wind up learning their trade and setting up practices across state lines.

"Now, at least, our medical school is a net exporter of medical students out of state for residency programs. So what that means is ... the fear is that most residents when they finish their residency program in pediatrics or family medicine or OB, they tend to practice within 90 - 100 miles of their program," said Dr. John Fogarty, Dean of FSU's College of Medicine.

Florida ranks in the bottom five in the country in the availability of residency programs based on its population, Fogarty said.

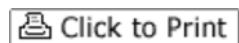
"We really need more residency programs in Florida."

The Florida Graduate Medical Education Committee estimates that about 40% of the state's med school students will find residency programs in Florida and of those about 75% will remain in the sunshine state

The challenge now, convincing the rest to return to Florida and try to ease a shortage of family physicians, that could soon top 40-thousand nationwide.

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