Cooper Medical School of Rowan University began as a promise more than forty years ago when the State recognized the need for additional medical education in southern New Jersey. In 2009, Cooper Health System and Rowan University partnered to create a brand new MD-granting program right in the heart of Camden. With one promise realized, another was made. The unique opportunity inspired us to rethink the traditional model of medical education and to go beyond what was expected. What emerged was a commitment to be innovative and forward thinking; to lead by example; to be different. Healthcare is changing rapidly. We believe that to meet the needs and challenges of 21st century patient care, medical education must pioneer long-term solutions.

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The medical education program at CMSRU is unique. To ensure that our students become confident and competent future clinicians, the curriculum features limited lecture time, small group learning, an emphasis on community service, and early and ongoing patient-centered care.

With just six hours of lecture per week, CMSRU students spend the majority of their classroom time in Active Learning Groups. These self-directed learning environments, comprised of eight students and two faculty facilitators, build the foundation for open communication, problem solving, and a team-based approach to medicine.

By the third week of their first year, students begin learning to manage a variety of primary care situations in the ambulatory clerkship, a student-run, faculty-supervised clinic for underserved individuals. In this setting, students apply their clinical knowledge while navigating the cultural barriers and socio-economic challenges of their patients.

The patient care experience intensifies in year three of medical school as CMSRU students begin the Cooper Longitudinal Integrated Clerkship (CLIC). CLIC is patient-oriented rather than program-oriented. It allows students to follow real clinical cases from beginning to end, side-by-side with their faculty mentors. Designed to give students a broad, integrated and empathetic view of healing, CLIC also provides lasting lessons in doctor-patient relationships and communication.
Early exposure to patients makes the CMSRU curriculum model different from the traditional medical education model.
We look for attributes that are not found on the transcript, such as enthusiasm for helping underserved populations, communication skills, optimism, and an eagerness to inspire action.
he physician leader cares deeply about having a positive impact on others and on the community. He or she is knowledgeable, confident, dedicated and compassionate; someone who inspires other physicians to act similarly. To ensure that we are educating future physician leaders, CMSRU nurtures the natural idealism that most medical students have when they begin their training, and cultivates opportunities for students to serve as role models.

Our promise begins with finding the right students to attend our medical school. We look for attributes that are not found on the transcript, such as enthusiasm for helping underserved populations, communication skills, optimism, and an eagerness to inspire action.

An equal emphasis on both interpersonal and basic science skills ensures that students retain and value the humanistic aspect of medicine while becoming superb clinicians. The social context of illness and treating patients with compassion, respect and dignity are seamlessly woven into the curriculum from the very beginning. Ensuring that our students maintain their empathy is one of the ways we will have a positive impact on the future of healthcare.
Caring for the underserved is a core component of the CMSRU mission, which is why outreach programs are an essential part of our curriculum and our institution. To improve healthcare delivery over the long term, we believe it is important to understand the range of socio-economic conditions affecting patients, including how basic needs like housing, food, education, and access to healthcare impact our most vulnerable citizens.

CMSRU students are required to perform a minimum of 40 hours of non-medical community service per year. From the community garden and youth soccer to feeding the homeless and tutoring at-risk teens, service helps our future physicians build a base of knowledge that will enable them to address the health and wellness needs of all populations.

In addition, CMSRU’s Office of Diversity and Community Affairs manages a range of programs designed to encourage children and teens from groups underrepresented in medicine to pursue careers in science and healthcare. Whether introducing science to fifth graders, tutoring high school students, or holding intensive summer educational programs for undergraduates interested in applying to medical school, CMSRU is continually expanding its reach to those who lack access or need encouragement to fulfill their dreams of a career in science or medicine.
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Innovation. Leadership. Service. Cooper Medical School of Rowan University has promised to transform healthcare delivery by innovating the educational model, developing physician leaders, and creating a culture of service. It is a privilege to champion an effort as important as this one, and you can help! We invite you to follow our progress, to get involved, and to contribute to a promise that, when fulfilled, will change the future of healthcare in our region and beyond.
Cooper Medical School of Rowan University is the next generation of medical education; one created specifically to address the needs and challenges of 21st century patient care. Learn how you can help fulfill the promise.

856-956-2785  www.rowan.edu/coopermed/promise