Amarillo, a city of about 180,000, is located in Texas' panhandle and boasts an inviting climate. The city is at an altitude of 3,671 feet and receives about 19.5 inches of precipitation annually. The altitude and constant breeze are responsible for the clean air and low humidity. There are four distinct seasons in the city, yet the temperatures remain comfortable for most of the year. Each year there are over 270 sunny days.

The cost of living in Amarillo is consistently 8 to 10% below the national average. People who move to Amarillo often discover they pay less in taxes, less for housing and everyday goods, and less for electricity.

Travel in and out of Amarillo is made easy with Amarillo International Airport, which is served by a number of major carriers, including Southwest Airlines, American Eagle, ASA Delta Connection, Continental Airlines, and Great Lakes Airlines.

There are many outdoor sports, music, and cultural activities for Amarillo residents to enjoy. Amarillo has a symphony, art museum, opera, and many live popular music venues. Nearby Palo Duro Canyon provides climbing, hiking, biking, and riding trails, and camping. Amarillo is also home to a hockey team and a baseball team.

Clinical Experiences

Clinical education in Amarillo is provided through affiliation with several major hospitals and a number of outpatient medical facilities. All are in close proximity to the Amarillo TTUHSC campus. Baptist St. Anthony Hospital, a 400+ bed private hospital; Northwest Texas Hospital, a 309 bed tertiary care hospital, and a VA Hospital serve as the School of Medicine’s primary clinical affiliates. The VA Hospital has 69 acute care beds and a 120-bed skilled nursing home, as well as an ambulatory care center.

Here’s what a few 3rd and 4th year students have to say about their experiences in Amarillo…

“Amarillo is a great town to do your third and fourth years of med school! Amarillo is about five hours away from Dallas, two hours away from Lubbock, four hours to the mountains in New Mexico and only a few more hours to skiing in Colorado. The town is easy to get around in. Most people live within 5 to 10 minutes of the hospital and some live right across the street.”

“One of the neatest things about Amarillo is the fact that there is not a surgery residency program offered here. From day one, you are assisting the surgeons with everything. I could not believe what all I was getting to see and help with during my first week of the rotation…I have always felt welcome and wanted, and to me that is more important than anything else.”

“Many students who attend the Amarillo campus decide that surgery is their calling due to the hands on learning experience. Internal medicine has amassed a collection of some of the most respected minds in their field and the unusually wide variety of pathology that exists in the panhandle provides for a rich education. Cardiology and neonatology are particularly strong areas of the (pediatrics) program. Many Amarillo students become enamored with OB/GYN. This rotation is probably the most intense here in Amarillo, but one rarely hears complaints about the long hours due to the constant action. The residents are excellent at teaching and there are ample opportunities to deliver virtually as many babies as you want and to participate in many gynecological surgeries.”

“My experience in Amarillo has been excellent. In your third and fourth year, 95% of your time is spent doing clinical work with patients, so having good physicians and residents teaching you is critical to developing good skills. It seems that no matter which physician or resident you are working with, they all have your education in mind. They are not merely going about their day and letting you follow them. They sincerely want to teach you.”

“The campus provides interested students with a membership to an upscale athletic club - the Downtown Athletic Club provides all workout clothes (except shoes) and shower supplies for you so it’s easy to make time for that power workout. Social mixers with other allied health students courtesy of the Amarillo student senate also help pass the time and make new friends.”

“Amarillo has turned out to be the best place for me to complete my training as a clinical student in medicine. The staff and professors have been there for me at every turn. I am proud and excited to be a part of the Amarillo family!”

To find out more about Amarillo, talk to students, or arrange a visit, please call the Office of Medical Education at (806) 354-5417. Check out the Amarillo campus website at http://www.ama.ttuhsc.edu/SOM/.