

LUBBOCK-HSC Campus

The City

Lubbock, the "Hub City" of the South Plains, has a population of just about 264,000. This West Texas city is located approximately five hours west of Dallas and two hours south of Amarillo. Its central location and easy access to an airport and interstate highways make travel to and from the city simple and trouble-free. Lubbock International Airport is served by Southwest Airlines, American Eagle, and United.

The cost of living in Lubbock is about 15% - 20% below the national average, making housing affordable, as well as utilities, food, and entertainment.

Lubbock's climate is semi-arid and mild. Cool nights and warm days predominate, with low levels of relative humidity. Most of the annual rainfall occurs during the months of May, June, and July. Extended periods of cold weather during the winter months are infrequent.

Residents of Lubbock can enjoy outdoor sports, live music venues, and water activities on nearby lakes. A symphony, a ballet, and a number of museums also offer many opportunities for enjoyment.

Clinical Experiences

University Medical Center (UMC) and the Covenant Health System are the clinical teaching affiliates for medical students assigned to the Lubbock-HSC campus. UMC is a 500 bed hospital and remains the only Level I trauma center in West Texas. The UMC system includes a children's hospital and family birth center, along with a center for women's health, cancer and burn centers. The Lubbock based component of the Covenant Health System, in addition to having 977 general medical and surgical beds which maintain an average daily patient census of 400, also annually handles 62,000 adult ER visits along with 25,500 pediatric ER visits.

Here's what a few Year 3 and Year 4 students have said about their experiences at UMC:

"Training in Lubbock has been incredible. It's so interesting to see the things you studied first and second year come to life in a real patient. I've enjoyed all of my rotations, even ones that I initially dreaded. The residents and attendings all find ways to teach me things that are applicable to my chosen field through theirs."

"The third and fourth years are very busy here, but I feel that I had plenty of learning opportunities and had a vast array of clinical experiences. The clinical faculty overall are willing to teach and are very accessible to students."

"The vast majority of the patient-care component of Tech/Lubbock is in clinics here at the HSC or in the attached UMC Hospital. We also see patients at the Covenant hospitals or elsewhere in the community. At no place were the residents or faculty less than wonderful people who obviously enjoy sharing their wisdom and experience with medical students."

"My period of clinical education in Lubbock has left me grateful for the experience and confident in my preparedness. A few years ago as a preclinical student, I wondered how in four short years I could possibly be a doctor, entrusted with making decisions about real people's health and lives. As graduation day approaches, however, no doubt or indecision colors my eager anticipation to begin life as a resident."

"Although I initially requested Lubbock as my clinical campus assignment because of the ease of living here (little traffic, low cost of living, plentiful housing and numerous cultural opportunities), the clinical experience at UMC has been incredible as well. There are always numerous research projects going on and faculty are eager to get you involved, the attendings are excellent teachers, and the residents are as friendly as they are bright. There is an excellent range of patient pathology yet a volume manageable enough that teaching does not suffer as a result. Outside rotations during my fourth year revealed that I had much more "hands-on" experience with making patient care decisions than is typical. Overall, Lubbock is a great place to learn medicine and I would definitely choose it again."

To find out more about Lubbock, talk to students, or arrange a visit, please call the Office of Student Affairs at (806) 743-3005.