

AMARILLO

The City

Amarillo, a city of 200,000, is the 14th most populous city in the state of Texas, and is also the largest city in the Texas Panhandle. The city is at an altitude of 3,671 feet and receives about 21.14 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 most of the year. Each year, there are more than 260 sunny days.

The cost of living in Amarillo is approximately 10 to 12% 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 Rick Husband International Airport, which is served by a number of major carriers including American Airlines, Southwest Airlines and United Airlines.

There are many outdoor sports, music and cultural activities for Amarillo residents to enjoy. Amarillo has a symphony, art museum, opera and many popular live music venues. Nearby Palo Duro Canyon provides climbing, hiking, biking, riding trails and camping. Amarillo is also home to a hockey, indoor soccer, and 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 Health System, a 445 bed private hospital; Northwest Texas Healthcare System, a 495 bed tertiary care hospital, and a VA Health Care System serve as the School of Medicine's primary clinical affiliates. The Amarillo VA Health Care System has 55 acute care inpatient 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 ...

"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."

"Medical school was a difficult period of intellectual, professional, and personal growth for me. I am blessed to attend Texas Tech for medical school, particularly the Amarillo campus for the last half. I could not have asked for a more supportive student affairs office, faculty, and staff to assist me in this development."

"From student affairs to clinical faculty, you will have many advocates working with you, offering encouragement, and helping you to gear your life towards a career. You become an active member of your clerkship teams in having patients to follow. Your opinion and decision making abilities are not only listened to but actively invited. If you are interested in residencies not offered in Amarillo SOM, there are private physicians with whom clerkship directors are more than happy to help you build a relationship."

"Amarillo is a great opportunity for more one-on-one teaching, allowing students to develop strong mentor relationships. You are not competing with fellows to see cases. The faculty love teaching and are always eager to get students involved in research, case reports, and publications. Amarillo is a great campus for students interested in OB/Gyn, Family medicine, pediatrics. You have the residents to serve as a go-between but you also work closely with the attendings and so you gain valuable clinical experience. With fewer students, I often had higher numbers of procedures. With no surgery residents, it is good for student who would like to gain surgery exposure because they are often the primary assist in surgeries. That said, I don't think student get a good glimpse of what life as a surgical resident and surgeon is like. Psychiatry is also an excellent experience, you deal with patients via telemedicine, inpatient, as well as outpatient; basically very well-rounded exposure."

"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."

To find out more about Amarillo, please call the Office of Medical Education at (806) 414-9666. Check out the Amarillo campus website at <http://www.ama/ttuhs.edu/campus/amarillo> or Amarillo Chamber of Commerce website at <https://www.amarillo-chamber.org/>