



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH DAKOTA

University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine (USD SSOM)

The General Surgery Residency at USD was established in 2014 with the express mission to train competent, confident, compassionate general surgeons prepared for entry into rural practice. Our residency is a traditional 5-year program with approval for four categorical residents per year. The residency has a direct focus on preparing trainees for rural surgical training and was started in collaboration with Sanford Health, one of the largest rural health systems in the country.

The primary teaching hospital for the program is Sanford USD Medical Center in Sioux Falls, SD (population 250,000) and a service area of nearly a million. This site is a Level-2 adult and pediatric trauma center and residents complete their subspecialty rotations at this site as well as core general surgery rotations. There are no subspecialty fellowship programs at this hospital, which allows for residents to participate fully in advanced/complex cases on all rotations.

The program's dedicated rural rotation takes place in Yankton, SD (population 15,000 and located 80 miles from Sioux Falls). This is a 2-month rotation during the PGY-2 and PGY-3 years. This rotation provides junior residents with exposure to bread and butter general surgery, increased autonomy with no senior residents on site, as well as extensive endoscopic and vascular experience. The Yankton resident continues to participate in didactics in Sioux Falls via video conferencing while living in program provided housing in Yankton.

Residents also rotate with the Sioux Falls VA Medical Center, where they have an opportunity to practice advanced endoscopic skills. During the 60-month rotations schedule, residents also rotate through Obstetrics and Gynecology, Anesthesiology, and have Elective opportunities with several residents using this time for away rotations or international experiences.

PGY-1 applications are accepted through Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS), and positions are filled through National Residency Matching Program (NRMP). ***Interested applicants should reach out to the program as Sub-I rotations are encouraged.***

Thav Thambi, MD
Program Director
Thavam.Thambi-Pillai@SanfordHealth.org
Tel: (605) 357-1391; Fax: (605) 357 1528
<https://usdgme.org/general-surgery/>
<https://www.usd.edu/medicine/residencies-and-fellowships/general-surgery>

Margie Schade
Program Administrator
Margie.Schade@sanfordhealth.org