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FAU medical students will train at 5 local hospitals

Deal aims to help keep young doctors from leaving Florida

The first-ever class of 64 medical students at Florida Atlantic University will be able to do their hands-on training in [Palm Beach County](#), under a deal that FAU struck Wednesday with 5 local hospitals.

The hospitals agreed to create 250 to 350 yearly residency slots for FAU, so its medical students would not have to leave the county or state to complete post-classroom training that results in their becoming doctors.

Being able to do their residencies here makes them more likely to set up practice here, said Dr. Michael L. Friedland, dean of FAU's medical school.

The agreement "will play a critical role in addressing the looming shortage of physicians in this region," Friedland said. "A significant number of doctors end up practicing their profession close to where they completed their residency programs."

Figures from the Association of American Medical Colleges show doctors are much more likely to practice in the area where they went to medical school and did their residencies.

About 59 percent of medical students who did their residencies in Florida stayed here as doctors in 2008. Almost 79 percent of those who completed medical school and residencies in Florida stayed here.

The five locations where FAU medical students will do their residencies are: Bethesda Memorial Hospital, [Boca Raton](#) Regional Hospital, Delray Medical Center, St. Mary's Medical Center and [West Boca](#) Medical Center.

The state and the nation expect to have physician shortages in the coming decade as baby boomers age and require more medical attention.