

USU Graduates' Preparedness for Military Medical Service: Four Studies



Four studies published in *Military Medicine* demonstrate that USU graduates are better prepared to perform in military environments than graduates of civilian medical schools.

“Impact of Medical School on Military Physicians’ Readiness for Their First Deployment”

Cole, Rudinsky, Conley, Vojta, Kwon, Garrigan, Prosek, Goolsby

USU’s leadership and operational medicine training instills graduates with greater confidence and ability to succeed in a first deployment than graduates of civilian medical schools.

Table: *USU graduates outperform civilian medical school graduates across several key measures*

Key Measure	Civilian Med School	USU
Medical Readiness	Prepared (Residency)	Prepared (Military Field Practicums)
Operational Readiness	Lack of operational preparedness; “steep learning curve”	Confident in abilities on deployment; “natural state”
Command Interactions	Difficulty communicating with commanders; struggle with military terminology and command hierarchy	Positive working relationships with commanders; comfortable with military culture and rank structure
Role as a Military Physician	Medically focused mindset	Mission-focused mindset; advisor to commander

“A Comparison of HPSP and USU Graduates’ Preparation for Residency”

Cole, Durning, Reamy, Stewart, Williamson, Rudinsky

This qualitative study examines preparedness for military GME across FIVE KEY THEMES:

1. Ability to Navigate Military Culture
2. Understanding of the Military’s Medical Mission
3. Clinical Preparation
4. Navigating the MHS
5. Teamwork

USU outperformed HPSP in **4 of the 5** areas measured (both groups performed equally well in teamwork).

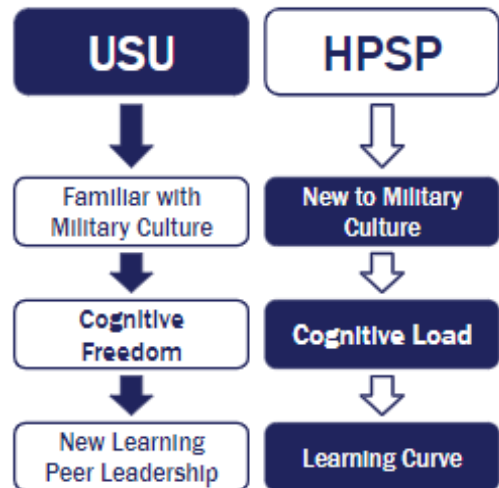
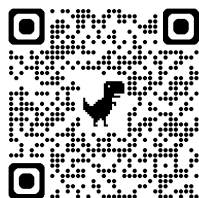


Figure: *Navigating military culture - Cognitive load for incoming residents, USU vs. HPSP*



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“A Comparison of USU and Health Professions Scholarship Program Graduates’ First Deployment Readiness”

Cole, Dong, Rudinsky, Tilley, Reamy, Durning

This study quantified differences in first deployment preparedness between USU and HPSP graduates. The researchers compared first deployment experiences using a Likert survey distributed to military physicians within 10 years of their medical school graduation.

“Civilian and Military Medical School Graduates’ Readiness for Deployment: Areas of Strength and Opportunities for Growth”

Cole, Durning, Shen, Reamy, Rudinsky

In this large-scale study, a research team analyzed open-ended survey responses of 451 early career military physicians. They found that USU prepared graduates to navigate the operational aspects of their first deployment while HPSP graduates were not prepared for the austere conditions or officership challenges of the operational environment.



Readiness for first deployment	>
Ability to navigate operational environment	>
Confidence communicating with commanding officer	>
Self-rated stress level during first deployment	=
Self-rated clinical preparedness skills (KSAs)	=
Effort navigating combined role as physician and officer	>
Confidence in ability to lead a healthcare team	>
Overall success of first deployment	=
Medical school preparation	>
Self-rated overall preparedness compared to peers	>

= Self ratings between USU and HPSP did not differ significantly
 > USU graduates self-rated more positively; difference is statistically significant

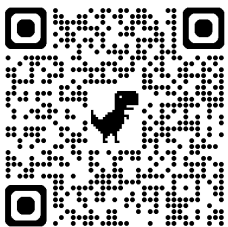
HPSP Graduates

USU Graduates

Equipped with soft skills and medical knowledge	Equipped to navigate austere conditions and operational environments
Not prepared for austere environments or officership challenges	Not prepared for the stress of their first deployment

Figure: Four preparedness themes (two HPSP and two USU) emerged from the data analysis

“There is **NOTHING** comparable to the prep given by USU over the four years of medical school...”



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