

FAQs: HonorHealth and ASU clinical affiliation

Q: What is the goal of HonorHealth's collaboration with Arizona State University's (ASU) School of Medicine and Advanced Medical Engineering?

A: The clinical affiliation between ASU's School of Medicine and Advanced Medical Engineering and HonorHealth will enhance our status and brand as a market-leading, innovation-focused "learning health system". It will help us retain and attract expert clinicians dedicated to fulfilling HonorHealth's mission and will allow us to collaborate across the full care continuum, including primary care, specialty care and community-focused population health management.

Also, this partnership will allow us to continue to develop the quality and reputational value of our Graduate Medical Education Programs, and further our efforts toward becoming a leading center for both undergraduate and graduate medical education. There will be opportunities for collaboration between the HonorHealth Research Institute and ASU, enabling both parties to advance efforts for healthcare-related research and innovation. It will also permit us to collaborate across the many other divisions of ASU Health to bring nursing and other healthcare-related talent into the HonorHealth ecosystem.

Q: What is the purpose of this affiliation and why is it needed?

A: Medical education involves hands-on experience and hospital-based learning, which usually occurs in a university's teaching hospital. Medical students spend several years rotating through various hospital units to gain real life clinical experience, always under the guidance of a physician or other faculty. In the ASU Health model, the ASU School of Medicine and Advanced Medical Engineering's affiliation with HonorHealth ensures that students will have access to high-quality local hospital facilities to advance their education and careers.

Q: When will ASU's School of Medicine and Advanced Medical Engineering open?

A: ASU is currently working to obtain accreditation for the Medical School Education Program through the Liaison Committee for Medical Education (LCME), which is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as the national accrediting body for medical schools. Subject to LCME action and any required regulatory approvals, ASU's School of Medicine and Advanced Medical Engineering expects to admit its first class of approximately 35 students in the 2026-27 academic year.

Q: Is this an exclusive affiliation or will ASU's School of Medicine and Advanced Medical Engineering have other partners?

A: HonorHealth will be the primary clinical affiliate and health system partner for ASU's School of Medicine and Advanced Medical Engineering.

ASU is a comprehensive public research university, and part of ASU Health's mission is finding ways to collaborate with others to enhance the education, health and social well-being of Arizona residents. It has affiliations in research, training and other areas within and outside the local market and may continue such arrangements or develop new ones. Similarly, HonorHealth has (and will continue) its research, innovation and educational affiliations with numerous other institutions, both locally and nationally.

Q: Why was HonorHealth ASU's choice to be its primary clinical affiliate?

A: ASU and HonorHealth share a collaborative mindset, a commitment to community and a robust spirit of innovation, making this a strong affiliation for improving healthcare outcomes in Arizona.

HonorHealth is one of Arizona's largest nonprofit healthcare systems with a legacy spanning nearly 100 years, and its comprehensive network encompasses nine acute-care hospitals, an extensive medical group with primary, specialty and urgent care services, a cancer care network, clinical research, a foundation, community services and more.

Q: How will this affect our current Academic Affairs teams?

A: Our Academic Affairs Department will remain intact and continue to evolve to serve the growing needs of both our graduate and undergraduate medical education programs.

Q: What will happen to our current residency programs?

A: For the moment, our residency and fellowship programs will continue unchanged and will remain under HonorHealth's ACGME sponsorship. Our graduate medical education programs will list the primary affiliation with ASU.

Assuming certain milestones are successfully met (such as ACGME approval), ASU will assume sponsoring institution responsibilities in the 2030 academic year. HonorHealth will continue its current operations including employment of residents, faculty and staff.

Q: How will innovation be incorporated as part of the ASU and HonorHealth affiliation?

A: Innovation, represented by the "I" in HonorHealth's ICARE values, is foundational to both organizations. ASU is the top-ranked university for innovation in the U.S., and we share a common vision for collaborating on innovation projects to advance healthcare, while respecting existing partnerships. This may involve researching, vetting and exploring health innovations that leverage each other's expertise and resources to accelerate projects.

Q: When will we start to see things happening related to this affiliation?

A: Priya Radhakrishnan, MD, chief academic officer at HonorHealth, will serve as the Vice Dean for Clinical Affairs, and has been actively collaborating with ASU Health leadership on the planning and search for an inaugural dean for ASU's School of Medicine and Advanced Medical Engineering. HonorHealth physicians will serve as core clerkship directors and faculty over the next few years, developing clinical curricula. Facility-related investments, such as learning spaces and call rooms, are planned to begin next year, though specific details are still pending.

Q: In which HonorHealth hospitals or facilities will ASU medical students rotate?

A: Medical student rotations will be distributed across our current residency training sites. Clinical rotations are also being developed.

Q: Who will develop the curriculum and teach the medical students?

A: The curriculum will be developed and taught by faculty from ASU's School of Medicine and Advanced Medical Engineering, along with HonorHealth physicians and other educators. The curriculum will provide a sufficient breadth and depth of medical education to prepare medical students to meet the defined medical education program objectives and MD degree requirements. The medical school will have and exercise final overall authority over the medical school curriculum.

Q: Considering the Steward Health Care acquisition, will any activities take place in the former St. Luke's Medical Center in Tempe and/or will ASU be participating with HonorHealth to shape the future of that facility?

A: The proximity is obvious and intriguing, but our Steward Health Care acquisition is a very recent development, which was completed independent from our primary clinical affiliate agreement. We've not yet determined any opportunities that the future may present.

Q: How will you determine faculty for the new medical school?

A: ASU will grant faculty appointments to members of our HonorHealth faculty, Medical Group or other members of our hospital medical staff who fulfill the requirements for such academic appointments. Existing ASU faculty will also comprise a portion of ASU's School of Medicine and Advanced Medical Engineering faculty. Both organizations are currently collaborating to establish a process for identifying key faculty appointments.

All final decisions concerning faculty appointments will be made in ASU's sole judgment and discretion, in accordance with its academic standards, policies and processes for such appointments.

Q: Will ASU and HonorHealth collaborate on other ASU Health initiatives beyond the medical school?

A: Several preliminary conversations are already underway, and both organizations intend to collaborate on additional health initiatives, as this affiliation opens many new and exciting opportunities. The breadth and depth of our footprint, infrastructure, capabilities and expertise were significant factors in selecting HonorHealth as ASU's School of Medicine and Advanced Medical Engineering primary clinical affiliate.

Q: Will our logo or branding change?

A: Our agreement includes a co-branded logo lockup that will appear on all joint marketing, advertising and public relations materials. It can be included in signage and other opportunities beneficial to ASU's School of Medicine and Advanced Medical Engineering and HonorHealth.

The co-branded logo will eventually be used on promotional items and apparel, including medical student lab coats. HonorHealth's Marketing Department will be responsible for the approval and use of all co-branded materials.

Q: Will we have any benefits or perks related to ASU?

A: At this time, no additional benefits or perks have been discussed or established.