

## Kansas "Rural" Definition

Using the US Census Bureau's boundaries for the Primary Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA) in Kansas as guidelines, the following definitions were adopted by the Admissions Committee, effective with the 2008 entering class.

"Urban" (MSA central cities and suburbs) is defined specifically as:

- Wichita (Eastborough, Andover, Derby, Maize, Haysville, Park City, Valley Center, Bel Aire, and Kechi)
- Topeka
- Lawrence
- All of Johnson County
- All of Wyandotte County
- All of Leavenworth County

"Metropolitan" (towns within the MSA counties plus more urbanized regional cities) is defined specifically as:

- Butler, Sedgwick, and Harvey Counties, excluding urban areas above
- Shawnee, Douglas, and Miami Counties, excluding urban areas above
- Cities of Hutchinson, Salina, and Manhattan (not within MSA, but more urbanized regional cities)

"Rural" is defined as:

- All other Kansas cities and counties

In general, "Urban" communities are not underserved except for unique special populations. "Metropolitan" communities may have some medically underserved areas, but have closer access to care due to proximity to the MSA central cities. "Rural" communities consist of most areas of Kansas that are historically underserved.

This recommendation enhances our view of "rural" and emphasizes those areas that struggle with physician shortages. It makes allowance for smaller communities that are close to central cities, but does not give them the same weight as a rural community.