

Transition from a Division to a Department: The University of Arizona Dermatology Program

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Arizona is one of the fastest-growing states, with an estimated population of 7.5 M people. With this rapid growth what we have seen is an increasing demand for cutting-edge academic dermatological care. A care that provides access to specialty programs and clinical trials to improve patient's outcome, which is currently NOT offered by the state's rapidly expanding private equity dermatology groups.

Currently the academic dermatology care for the state is supported by 24 providers of which 60% have insurance access limitations, this leaves 1 academic dermatologist per 900,000 people to provide cutting edge and specialized care to everyone in need.

On the education front our challenge is that we currently have 7 academic dermatologists on staff to support the educational mission at the UA which trains over 215 medical students per class across two campuses. As a consequence, our Phoenix campus is currently outsourcing training to private practice groups. In addition, we are in need to expand our research mission.

Not addressing these challenges can profoundly widen the gaps in our three academic mission areas. **Patient care, Education, and Research**

Evaluating these needs has positioned our organization for an opportunity to invest in restructuring and expanding the Dermatology Division at UA COM-T.

The justification to transition the Dermatology Division at COM-T into a Department includes:

- Dermatology has distinct practice features and regulatory oversight that sets the specialty apart from other subspecialties within the Department of Medicine including a distinct and separate US Medical Board.
- 72% of the Dermatology Programs in the US are a department.
- By transitioning to a Departmental level, the new unit will be directly engaged in the strategic planning of the college to address increasing needs in the specialty and effectively close existing and rapidly emerging gaps in the field.
- Level the organizational structure across COM-T and COM-P. Dermatology is a Department at COM-P. Faculty members: COM-P x 1 core faculty member (<https://phoenixmed.arizona.edu/dermatology/contact>), COM-T x 17 core faculty members across BUMG and VAHS (<https://deptmedicine.arizona.edu/divisions/dermatology/faculty-staff>). (Not including community affiliated faculty).
- The Division of Dermatology is the lead specialty driving clinical and research efforts as part of the UA Skin Cancer Institute