‘Students had a lot of questions. I heard many of them express a great deal of concern about how this would impact their ability to provide medical care. … Some students will not have sufficient exposure to everything medical experts expect them to know in order to practice in a specialty.’

Following **Dobbs**, medical students, faculty, and administrators around the United States have grappled with uncertainty and confusion about how the Court’s decision will ultimately affect medical education. Because of restrictive state laws put into place after **Roe** was overturned, some medical schools and residency programs are now unable to offer OB-GYN rotations that include abortion and related procedures. Many others are still determining what education they can and cannot offer in this unfamiliar legal environment.

“The first two months after the decision were incredibly chaotic, with a lot of anxiety from students,” says Pamela Merritt, executive director of MSFC. “Some medical schools told students that they would not be allowed to train out of state or receive credit for trainings they had already completed. This is all completely uncharted territory—I don’t know how we are going to navigate it.”

Faculty and students at the Warren Alpert Medical School at Brown University in Rhode Island expressed frustration after the **Dobbs** decision, says Benjamin Brown, an assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology at Warren Alpert. Although abortion remains legal in Rhode Island, students were apprehensive about how the decision will affect medical professionals and patient treatment throughout the country. “Students had a lot of questions,” he says. “I heard many of them express a great deal of concern about how this would impact their ability to provide medical care.”

Local politics will now have a significant effect on the content of medical education, Brown explains. He is concerned that this will result in trainees in some parts of the country studying only a subset of standard, science-based care. “Some students will not have sufficient exposure to everything medical experts expect them to know in order to practice in a specialty.”

Citing concerns over repercussions from administrators or the advice of lawyers, close to twenty medical faculty members and program directors in abortion-restrictive states declined to be interviewed by **Liberal Education** about their institutions’ response to the **Dobbs** decision.