

**UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING**  
**WWAMI (Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho) Program**  
**Report**

**From the College of Health Sciences**

1 OCTOBER 2012

[Pursuant to W.S. 21-17-109 (e) and (f)]

To the Joint Labor, Health and Social Services Interim Committee

**Program update**

The WWAMI Program is the current vehicle by which the state provides loans to students covering the bulk of the cost of attendance at a medical school (since 1997, the University of Washington School of Medicine - UWSOM). Students have the option of either practicing medicine in Wyoming for up to three years or repaying the loan with interest. The program is authorized under W.S. 21-17-109. In prior years, students attended medical school under this provision at Creighton and Utah Medical Schools.

Loan repayment does not begin until the physician has completed residency training, which can last from 3 to 8 years, or more. 203 Wyoming students will have entered the WWAMI program as of August, 2012. 76 students are currently enrolled in the MD program at the UWSOM. 63 students have finished residency training, and 41 of the 63 (65%) have returned to Wyoming to practice medicine. The remaining 22 students are practicing medicine outside of Wyoming in some capacity and are still being tracked by UW. Three of those returnees have served the 3 years required of their contract and have since left the state (those three practiced in Lander, Casper, and Laramie). Of the remaining 38 returning students, the breakdown per community is:

Buffalo.....	1
Casper.....	7
Cheyenne.....	7
Cody.....	2
Douglas.....	1
Evanston.....	1
Gillette.....	3
Jackson.....	1
Lander.....	3

Laramie.....	4
Powell.....	3
Riverton.....	1
Rock Springs.....	1
Sheridan.....	3

During the 2004 Special Session, legislation was enacted to expand the size of the WWAMI program by two students each year until the WWAMI class size reached 16 students. In the fall 2005, the entering class size was increased from 10 to 12. In the fall 2006, the entering class size was expanded from 12 to 14 students. The fall 2007 entering class was expanded to 16 students, but only 12 elected to pursue the program. The entering classes of 2008-2010 have included the full enrollment of 16 students each.

During the 2010 Special Session, legislation was enacted to expand the size of the WWAMI class by four students bringing the total number of students to 20. As a result, the WWAMI entering class of 2011 had 20 entering students, and the current 2012 class has 20 entering students.

**Required reports**

W.S. 21-17-109 (f) – Under this provision, the University’s Board of Trustees, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, may relieve a student from repayment of a loan provided under this section for undue hardship. The provision requires the University to report to the Committee the number of students who have been relieved of the obligation to repay the loan. For FY 2012, no students were relieved of the obligation to repay the loan.

W.S. 21-17-116 (e) – Under this provision, effective July 1, 2005, all loan repayments under this program are credited to an account to be invested by the University and the earnings from the account used exclusively for scholarships and support for WWAMI medical students. This provision requires the University to report to the Committee regarding income and expenditures from this account during the preceding fiscal year. Note that the bulk of the payments to this account are from physicians who participated in the Creighton program.

**FY12 – Fiscal report**

<u>Corpus in Medical School Student fund</u>	
Beginning balance	\$ 5,792,830
Collections	\$ 672,913
Net gains to corpus	<u>\$ (235,672)</u>

Total in corpus \$ 6,230,071

Total Earnings (expendable)

Unexpended balance \$ 343,225

FY 11 earnings \$ 199,207

Total available for expenditure \$ 542,432

FY 12 expenditures \$ 153,113

Allowable expenditures from medical contract repayment account

Payment of USMLE Exams/Step III (9)	In residency	\$745/student
Payment of USMLE Exams/Travel stipend to Part IICS:	Third year	\$2175/student
Payment of USMLE Exam/Step I	Second year	\$ 535/student
Payment of USMLE PASS registration		\$ 9,450/student
Dislocation allowance for 1 <sup>st</sup> year relocation to Laramie		\$1000/student
Dislocation allowance for transition to Seattle:		\$1000/student
Dislocation allowance for clinical rotations	Third year	\$1000/student
	Fourth year	\$1000/student
Dislocation allowance for moving to WY to practice		\$7500/student
Dislocation allowance for enrolling in residency program in Wyoming		\$1000/student
Wyoming rural clinical rotation track	Third year	\$2000/student
Wyoming WWAMI Rural Integrated Training Experience (WRITE) program (1)		
	Third year	\$2000/student
On-line and other educational/instructional materials for test prep		\$ 483/student
ACLS Registration		\$ 215/student

In addition, assistance is offered to graduating WWAMI students to interview and relocate (if accepted) to one of the UW family medicine residency programs in Cheyenne or Casper and to set up a practice in Wyoming irrespective of where the student completed his/her residency. Financial assistance is also offered to WWAMI students entering and completing the newly developed Wyoming rural clinical rotation track, which consists of four rotations in Wyoming with only one permitted in either Cheyenne or Casper, and for the WWAMI Rural Integrated Training Experience (WRITE) program. There are WRITE sites in Douglas, Powell, and Lander where 20+ weeks of rural integrated clerkship training in the third year of the WWAMI Program is provided.

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