

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING/STATE OF WYOMING
WICHE (Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education)
PSEP (Professional Student Education Program)
From the College of Health Sciences
October 1, 2015
[Pursuant to W.S. 21-16-202(b)(iv)]

To the Joint Labor, Health and Social Services Interim Committee

Program Overview

The State of Wyoming is an active participant in WICHE's PSEP program which is designed to assist residents seeking careers in health care for which professional education is not available in Wyoming. Wyoming joined the WICHE compact in 1950. See W.S. 21-16-201.

The State of Wyoming Legislature established an educational loan repayment program for all WICHE PSEP students matriculating in 2013 with the exception of veterinary medicine [W.S. 21-16-202(b)(iv)(D)]. Students receiving support from the state are obligated to engage in professional practice in Wyoming in their fields for three years or repay all amounts expended by the state for their educations.

Required Report

W.S. 21-16-202(b)(iv)(B) – Under this provision, the Wyoming WICHE Commission may relieve a student from repayment of a loan provided under this section for undue hardship. The provision requires the Commission to report to the joint labor, health, and social services interim committee on or before October 1 of each year the number of students who have been relieved of the obligation to repay the loan.

Loan Repayment Update

Since this agreement/repayment program did not go into effect until FY 2013-2014, there are no repayments yet. No repayments are anticipated until 2017, at the earliest.

In 2013-2014, the Wyoming WICHE Commission offered contracts to all 22 admitted students; 17 students accepted and received state support. In addition, 10 new students were supported in veterinary medicine (no contract required).

In the summer of 2014, 2 of the 17 students from FY 2013-2014 elected to discontinue the contract and support. Since they remain enrolled in their programs, the statutory provision regarding in-state practice or repayment will not go into effect until they complete their educations.

For FY 2014-2015, as of September 1, the Commission offered contracts to 30 students with 29 students accepting and receiving state support. Two students, both in physical therapy, remain

unsupported due to budget constraints. Eight new students are being supported in veterinary medicine (exempt from contractual obligations), as well.

As of July 15, 2015, support and contracts were offered to 29 new students for 2015-2016. Six students declined and 23 students accepted. In addition, 8 new students in veterinary medicine were offered support (no contract required).

Note that any reverted or unclaimed funds are automatically awarded to the next eligible student to the extent the budget will allow.

This coming year will see the first graduates under the new contract program with the repayment obligation starting a year later in 2016-2017.