

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING
WWAMI (Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho) Program Report
From the College of Health Sciences

October 1, 2015

[Pursuant to W.S. 21-17-109]

To the Joint Labor, Health and Social Services Interim Committee

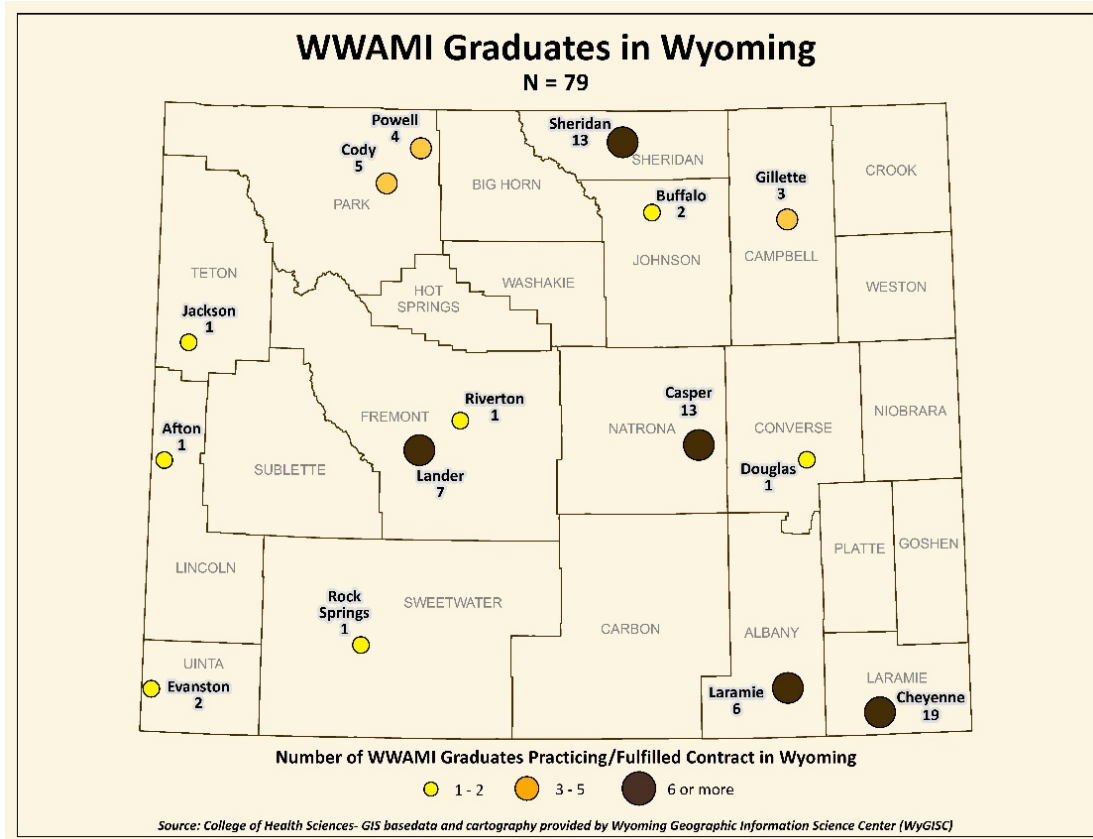
Program update

The WWAMI (Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho) Program is the current program by which the state provides a loan to students covering the bulk of the cost of attendance to a medical school (since 1997, the University of Washington School of Medicine-UWSOM). Students have the option of repaying the loan either by practicing medicine in Wyoming or by repaying in the money with interest. The program is authorized under W.S. 21-17-109.

Loan repayment does not begin until the physician has completed residency training, which can last from 3 to 8 years, or more. 263 Wyoming students will have entered the WWAMI program as of August, 2015. The program has been very successful:

- 175 Wyoming students have graduated from the UWSOM as of June 2015
- 107 Wyoming-WWAMI students have completed their residency and are now practicing medicine
- Return Rate: 74 out of 107 Wyoming-WWAMI graduates (69.16%) have completed residency and returned to Wyoming to practice medicine as of August 2015
- Non-Wyoming WWAMI in Wyoming: Even though Wyoming does not spend money on non-Wyoming WWAMI students, a benefit of the program is that WWAMI students from other states have an opportunity to do clinical rotations in Wyoming, thus exposing them to Wyoming communities. To date, 5 WWAMI students from other states practice in Wyoming, meaning that 79 WWAMI graduates have practiced in Wyoming.
- Primary Care Practice Rate: of the 74 Wyoming returnees, 63 remain in Wyoming practicing medicine as of August 2015. Of those 63 currently practicing in Wyoming, 26 (41.27%) are in family medicine, internal medicine, or pediatrics as of August, 2015.
- Eleven of the 74 Wyoming returnees have served the 3 years required of their contract and have since left the state (those eleven practiced in Lander, Casper, Laramie, Cheyenne, Gillette and Riverton).

The figure below provides the geographical distribution of WWAMI graduates who are/have practiced in Wyoming:



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, which occurred in 2007.

In 2010, 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 classes since 2011 have consisted of 20 entering students.

Required report

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 2013, there were no formal requests for loan forgiveness.

W.S. 21-17-109 (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 joint labor, health and social services interim committee regarding income and expenditures from this account during the preceding fiscal year.

FY 15 – Fiscal report

Corpus in Medical School Student fund

Beginning balance	\$ 10,541,732
Collections	\$ 1,532,551
Net gains to corpus	<u>\$ (75,890)</u>
Total in corpus	\$ 11,998,393

Total Earnings (expendable)

Unexpended balance	\$ 436,304
FY 15 earnings	<u>\$ 369,088</u>
Total available for expenditure	\$ 805,392

FY 15 expenditures \$ 298,821

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 st 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 (3)		
	Third year	\$4000/student

On-line and other educational/instructional materials for test prep	\$ 500/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.