

**UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING**  
**WWAMI (Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho) Program Report**  
**From the College of Health Sciences**  
1 OCTOBER 2010

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

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 through which the state provides a loan to students covering the bulk of the cost of attendance at a medical school (since 1997, the University of Washington School of Medicine). 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(e). 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. To date 163 Wyoming students have entered the WWAMI program. 47 students have finished residency training and 31 (65.9%) have returned to Wyoming to practice medicine. Three of those 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 28 students, the breakdown per community is:

Buffalo.....	1
Casper.....	5
Cheyenne.....	2
Cody.....	2
Douglas.....	1
Evanston.....	1
Gillette.....	2
Jackson.....	1
Lander.....	4
Laramie.....	2
Powell.....	2

Sheridan..... 3  
Riverton.....1  
Rock Springs.....1

During the 2004 Special Session, legislation was enacted to expand the size of the WWAMI program by two students each year until all four years of WWAMI classes had 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. The fall 2007 entering class was expanded to 16 students, but only 12 elected to pursue the program. Since then, all entering classes have included the full enrollment of 16 students each. Currently there are ongoing negotiations to increase the class size to 18 starting in the fall of 2011 and to 20 in the fall of 2013. This will reach the maximum capacity for the physical facilities of 20 students per year.

**Required report**

W.S. 21-17-109 (d)(iv) – 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 2010, one student has been relieved of the obligation to repay the loan, due to her returning to Wyoming to practice.

W.S. 21-17-116 (f) – 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 thereon 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.

FY10 – Fiscal report

Corpus in Medical School Student fund

Beginning balance	\$2,923,960
Collections	\$ 873,324
Net gains to corpus	\$ 226,436
Total in corpus	\$4,023,720

Total Earnings (expendable)

Unexpended balance	\$ 286,775
FY 10 earnings	\$ 132,951
Total available for expenditure	\$ 419,726

<u>FY 10 expenditures**</u>	\$ 70,114
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Notes:

Actual expenditures from this account for FY10 were \$70,113.94

\*\* FY10 expenditures, summarized below, include both expenditures from this account, as required by statute, and prudent spending from other available WWAMI resources. However, since all expenditures essentially address the same general purpose (student benefits), they are consolidated for reporting purposes and total \$97,123.94

Breakdown of expenditures from repayments to medical contract

Payment of USMLE Exams/Step III (3)	In residency	\$705/student
Payment of USMLE Exams/Travel stipend to Part IICS:	Third year	\$2080/student
Payment of USMLE Exam/Step I	Second year	\$ 505/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 (3)		\$7500/student
Wyoming rural clinical rotation track (1)	3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> year	\$1000/student
Other rural rotation - international (1)		\$3500/student
MCAT prep materials and instruction		\$4900
Educational/instructional materials for test prep (1)		\$ 271

In addition, assistance is offered to graduating WWAMI students to interview and relocate (if accepted) at 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 (for the first time this year there were three WWAMI physicians who took advantage of this offer and either relocated to Wyoming or initially set up practice in the state). Financial assistance is also offered to WWAMI students entering and completing the newly developed Wyoming rural clinical rotation track (4 rotations in Wyoming only one of which can be in either Cheyenne or Casper), for other rural rotations on a case-by-case basis, and an MCAT prep course.