

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

WYDENT Program Report

October 1, 2019

[Pursuant to W.S. 21-17-199 (f) and (g)]

To the Joint Labor, Health and Social Services Interim Committee

Program update

2007 Wyoming Session Laws, Chapter 103 (original Senate File 45) established a dental education contract program, informally referred to as WYDENT. Pursuant to that legislation, the University entered into agreements with Creighton University and the University of Nebraska Medical Center under which the State of Wyoming through UW would pay the cost of attendance for up to five dental students at each institution. The program is patterned after the WWAMI (Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho) Medical Education Program. The Wyoming residency eligibility requirements for WYDENT are the same as WWAMI. A WYDENT graduate can repay the payments Wyoming makes to the dental school on the student's behalf by practicing in Wyoming. The three year service repayment begins one year after graduation or completion of post-graduate training.

Due to FY 16 statewide budget cuts, only 3 new students are potentially admitted to each school annually, starting in the 2017-18 academic year. In the 2017-2018 year the University of Nebraska and Creighton University both admitted 2 of their allocated 3 students (this is partially due to students accepting WICHE PSEP for personal reasons rather than WYDENT). For the academic year 2018-2019, a total of 11 WYDENT students are enrolled at the Creighton University School of Dentistry, and 13 at the University of Nebraska's College of Dentistry.

Required report

W.S. 21-17-119 (f) – Under this provision, which is identical to the statutory provision for WWAMI students, 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 Joint Labor Health and Social Services Interim Committee the number of students who have been relieved of the obligation to repay the loan. To date, no student has been relieved of the obligation to repay the loan. One student was approved for a temporary decelerated repayment schedule in 2014.

W.S. 21-17-119 (g) – Under this provision, all loan repayments under this program are credited to an account (Dentistry School Student Account) to be invested by the University and the earnings used exclusively for scholarships and support for dental students. This provision requires the University to report to the Committee regarding income and expenditures from this account during the preceding fiscal year. Based upon House Bill 85, expendable funds are calculated at approximately \$115,000 for FY 19. UW began to expend some of these funds in FY 14 to recruit and support pre-dental students by subsidizing DAT (Dental Admission Test) preparation. With ongoing fiscal constraints and minimal student interest, this program is currently suspended.

Current statistics:

99 Started WYDENT (though fall of 2019) less 3 withdrawals; 1 has repaid in full
72 graduates (through 2018)
53 Practicing in Wyoming, includes 37 completed service requirements
8 Practicing outside Wyoming, includes 4 paid in full
6 Enrolled in specialty residencies
5 Grace period
24 currently enrolled in dental school
11 Creighton University
13 University of Nebraska

Wyoming WYDENT graduates and practice sites:

15 Casper
11 Cheyenne
1 Cody
3 Gillette
1 Kemmerer
5 Laramie
1 Lander
1 Lyman
1 Moorcroft
1 Mountain View
1 Newcastle
1 Powell
1 Rawlins
4 Rock Springs
3 Sheridan
1 Thayne
1 Thermopolis
2 Torrington

Legislative Report Fiscal Year 2019 costs

Creighton \$ 928,533
UNMC \$1,067,328
Total \$1,995,861

Feedback:

This program appears to be filling its intended purpose with 53 dentists returning to Wyoming practice, 5 dentists in residencies, and 5 in the grace period. Post-graduate education (residencies) in specialized areas (pediatrics, orthodontics, etc.) is optional in dentistry and is highly competitive. The fact that so many of our graduates are completing residencies speaks well of our students. This specialization will provide additional dental services to the residents of the state. The WYDENT students are grateful for relief of the great financial burden of dental school.