

**UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING**  
**WYDENT Program Report, FY 2020** (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021)  
[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 contract 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 for 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 and FY 20 statewide budget cuts, only 3 new students are potentially admitted to each school annually, starting in the 2017-18 academic year. **With increasing tuition, further cuts to numbers will be necessary.** In the 2019-2020 year the University of Nebraska and Creighton University matriculated a total of 3 WYDENT 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 8 WYDENT students are enrolled at the Creighton University School of Dentistry, and 11 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. An additional student is working in the state 75% of the time and repaying remaining 25%.

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. No income was credited to the fund in Fiscal Year 2020 and no funds were expended.

**Current statistics:**

- 108 Started WYDENT (though fall of 2021) less 3 withdrawals; 1 has repaid in full
- 86 graduates (through 2020)
  - 68 Practicing in Wyoming, includes 52 completed service requirements
  - 9 Practicing outside Wyoming, includes 7 paid in full
  - 1 Enrolled in specialty residencies
  - 8 Grace period
- 19 currently enrolled in dental school
  - 8 Creighton University
  - 11 University of Nebraska

**Wyoming WYDENT graduates and practice sites:**

- 17 Casper
- 18 Cheyenne
- 2 Cody
- 3 Gillette
- 1 Greybull
- 1 Kemmerer
- 6 Laramie
- 1 Moorcroft
- 1 Mountain View
- 1 Newcastle
- 1 Powell
- 1 Rawlins
- 1 Riverton
- 5 Rock Springs
- 1 Saratoga
- 3 Sheridan
- 1 Thayne
- 1 Thermopolis
- 2 Torrington
- 1 Worland

**Legislative Report Fiscal Year 2020 costs:**

Payments to Dental Schools	\$ 2,058,284
Payroll	\$ 19,614
Support Services	\$ <u>30</u>
Total	\$ 2,077,928

**Feedback:**

WYDENT appears to be fulfilling its purpose with 68 dentists returning to Wyoming practice, 1 in residencies, and 8 in the grace period. Education in specialized areas (pediatrics, orthodontics, etc.) is optional and highly competitive. This specialization will provide additional dental services to the state's residents. The WYDENT students are grateful for relief of the great financial burden of dental school.