

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING
WYDENT Program Report, FY 2021 (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024)
[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. 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 increasing tuition and FY 16 and FY 20 statewide budget cuts, only 3 new students were potentially admitted to each school annually, starting in the 2017-18 academic year. Higher admissions rates in previous years has resulted in only 1 or 2 students being admitted to each program until the budget returns to balance with the hope of returning to higher numbers in a few years. For the 2024 academic year the University of Nebraska and Creighton University matriculated a total of 4 WYDENT students. For the academic year 2024-2025 academic year, 6 WYDENT students are enrolled at the Creighton University School of Dentistry, and 6 at the University of Nebraska's College of Dentistry.

Required report

W.S. 21-17-119 (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 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 worked in the state 75% of the time and repaid the remaining 25%.

W.S. 21-17-119 (g) – Under this provision, all loan repayments under this program are credited to the Dentistry School Student Account to be invested by the University with earnings used exclusively for scholarships and supporting dental students. This provision requires the University to report to the Committee regarding account income and expenditures during the preceding fiscal year. Income of \$188,112 was credited to the fund in Fiscal Year 2024 and \$2,978 was expended.

Current statistics:

115 Started WYDENT (though fall of 2024) less 2 withdrawals; 5 have repaid in full.
101 graduates (through 2024)
92 Practicing in Wyoming, includes 75 completed service requirements or paid in full and then returned to Wyoming
5 Practicing outside Wyoming, includes 4 paid in full
1 Enrolled in specialty residency
3 Grace period
12 currently enrolled in dental school
6 Creighton University
6 University of Nebraska
Wyoming WYDENT graduates and practice sites:
1 Buffalo
20 Casper
22 Cheyenne
2 Cody
1 Evansville
5 Gillette
1 Greybull
1 Kemmerer
9 Laramie
1 Moorcroft
1 Mountain View
1 Powell
1 Rawlins
1 Riverton
5 Rock Springs
1 Saratoga
4 Sheridan
1 Thayne
3 Torrington
1 Worland

Legislative Report Fiscal Year 2024 costs

Payments to Dental Schools	\$1,188,202
Support Services	<u>\$ 2,978</u>
Total	\$1,191,180

Feedback:

WYDENT fulfills its purpose with 92 dentists returned to Wyoming to practice, 1 in residency and 3 in the grace period. Education in specialized areas (pediatrics, orthodontics, etc.) is optional and highly competitive. This specialization provides additional dental services to the state. WYDENT students are grateful for relief of the financial burden of dental school. In recent years we have also seen individuals who repaid their loan, in full or part, returning to Wyoming later in their careers to practice dentistry.