ROLE OF STUDENTS IN MD PROGRAM ACCREDITATION

ACCREDITATION
- Evaluation of the quality of an educational program
- Method of ensuring programs/institutions “meet or exceed nationally accepted standards regarding the educational process and student performance” (2)
- Accrediting body is the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME)

ABOUT LCME
- Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME); supported by the AMA and AAMC since founding in 1942
- Accrediting organization for the medical education programs in the US and Canada
- Sets standards for programs and assesses compliance with those standards
- Although voluntary, LCME accreditation is necessary for:
  - Access to licensure exams (USMLE)
  - Admission to ACGME residency programs
  - Eligibility for state medical licensure for graduates
  - Federal grants and loans for students and schools
- Assesses each program every 8 years via a full survey site visit
- Assures high quality medical education and a high quality physician workforce for the public
- Conducts approximately 20-30 site visits per year.

ACCREDITATION PROCESS
- Institutional self-study – self-analysis by the medical school of its performance based on the 12 standards and 93 elements
- Survey visit – on-site evaluation by a team of external peer reviewers that extends over four days
- LCME review of the survey team findings from site visit
- LCME determination of accreditation status

STUDENT-BASED INFORMATION IN THE ACCREDITATION PROCESS
- Independent Student Analysis (ISA) - review of topic areas relevant to students (completed by all four years of students)
- AAMC Medical School Graduation Questionnaire (GQ) (completed by fourth year students)
- Formal and informal meetings with the survey team during the site visit

STUDENTS’ ROLE IN THE ACCREDITATION PROCESS
- Notification and possible meeting with the Dean about the upcoming survey team visit
- Participation (via appointment) to the institutional self-study task force and committees
- Completion of the Independent Student Analysis (review of topic areas relevant to students)
- Participation in lunch meetings with survey team
- Service as a guide during site visit (e.g., tours of campus learning facilities, ambulatory care sites, affiliated hospitals, lounge areas)

GENERAL AREAS ADDRESSED IN THE ISA
- Student-Faculty-Administration Relationships
- Learning Environment and Facilities
- Library and Information Resources
- Student Services
- Medical Education Program

This document is a summary of the LCME The Role of Students in the Accreditation of Medical Education Programs in the U.S.
1. Liaison Committee on Medical Education. LCME the role of students in the accreditation of medical education programs in the U.S.