

MS-23

MS-23. A medical education program must provide its medical students with effective financial aid and debt management counseling.

In providing financial aid services and debt management counseling, the medical education program should alert medical students to the impact of non-educational debt on students' cumulative indebtedness.

DATABASE QUESTIONS

- a. Provide the name, title, and date of appointment of the financial aid director. Is the position of financial aid director a medical school or university-level position? Is it a full-time or part-time position? To whom does the financial aid director report?
- b. Identify the office(s) and/or individual(s) who provide financial aid services to medical students. Describe the means by which medical students obtain financial aid advice and services when they are at educational sites geographically distant from the location of the financial aid office (e.g., during clinical rotations).
- c. Describe the personnel, space, equipment, and other resources available to the financial aid office. Identify any other student groups (e.g., allied health students, graduate students) that are served by the financial aid office. Indicate the number of financial aid staff members who are available specifically to assist medical students. Are the resources available to the financial aid office adequate to allow it to carry out its responsibilities? If not, please explain.
- d. Describe the system for effective counseling of medical students about debt management. When in the curriculum and in what format(s) do debt management counseling sessions occur? Note which of the counseling sessions are optional and which are mandatory. Describe the means by which medical students' questions about debt management are answered. Describe the types of information about debt management (e.g., online, printed) that are available to medical students.
- e. Provide data from the AAMC GQ or the AAMC CGQ, the independent student analysis, and/or internal school surveys on student satisfaction with financial aid counseling and services.

SELF-STUDY QUESTIONS

Evaluate the level of tuition and fees in relation to the amount of graduates' accumulated debt and to the level of financial aid needed and available. Provide an analysis of the trends in tuition and debt levels. Describe the efforts in place to minimize medical student indebtedness and comment on the effectiveness of these efforts.

Describe the adequacy and availability of financial aid services and debt management programs.

SURVEY REPORT GUIDE

Comment on the organization, staffing, operation, and accessibility of the financial aid office and note if the office serves students enrolled in other schools in addition to the medical school. Indicate whether it has sufficient staff to meet the needs of enrolled medical students. Briefly summarize the formal and informal programs and services for counseling students about financial aid and debt management, and provide data on student perceptions of the availability and utility of such efforts.