



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

November 7, 2012

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

GEN-12-20

**Subject:** Consumer Information Reporting Requirements for Foreign Graduate Medical Schools

**Summary:** This letter provides guidance on new consumer information reporting requirements for foreign graduate medical institutions.

Dear Colleague:

The purpose of this letter is to inform foreign graduate medical institutions that participate in the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program (Direct Loan Program) authorized under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of new consumer information reporting requirements. The Department's regulations, at 34 CFR 668.14(b)(7), require Title IV participating institutions to submit reports to the Department containing such information as the Secretary may reasonably require to carry out the purposes of the Title IV, HEA programs. Beginning with data from the 2012 calendar year, participating foreign institutions that offer Title IV eligible graduate medical programs must report completion rates and median and mean student debt levels for students completing the program. This new reporting requirement is in addition to the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) pass rates that are already required to be reported by these institutions for these programs. It is also in addition to the current reporting of the program's citizenship enrollment rate, as required under 34 CFR 600.55(d)(1)(iv).

### **New Reporting Requirements**

Foreign graduate medical schools must submit, on an educational program by program basis, the data described below, on a form approved by the Secretary, to the Department by the April 30 following the end of each calendar year, starting with April 30, 2013:

- The on-time completion rate for U.S. students completing the medical program in the previous calendar year (e.g., calendar year 2012 for the April 13, 2013, submittal), where a student will be considered to have completed the medical program "on-time" if the student completes all requirements for the degree within the time specified in the institution's catalog or on its Web site;
- The median and mean Title IV loan debt, the median and mean private educational loan debt, the median and mean institutional education loan debt, and the median and mean combined educational loan debt incurred by U.S. students who completed the program in the previous calendar year. These

medians and means should include only the debt incurred by the students for attendance in the medical program.

For the purposes of the median and mean Title IV loan debt reporting requirements, all loans provided under the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program and the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) Program are to be included in the calculation of Title IV loan debt.

For the private educational loan median and mean loan debt, the Truth-in-Lending regulations, at 12 CFR 226.46(b)(5), provide the definition of a private education loan. Examples of private education loans include, but are not limited to, loans made expressly for educational expenses by financial institutions, credit unions, institutions of higher education or their affiliates, and States and localities.

For the median and mean institutional education loan debt, institutions must include any loan (other than a Direct Loan or a loan that would be considered a private education loan), extension of credit, payment plan, or other financing mechanism that results in a debt obligation that a student must pay to an institution after completing the program and that is outstanding at the time that the student completes the program.

For the median and mean combined education loan debt, the combined education loan debt includes all loans provided under the FFEL and Direct Loan Programs, private education loans, as defined above, and institutional education loan debt, as defined above.

The attachment to this letter is a draft version of the reporting form that is currently in the Department's review process. Though the Department will provide further guidance when the form is approved, this draft attachment will give institutions an initial idea as to the manner in which the data must be reported.

### **Reporting of USMLE Pass Rates**

The Department's regulations, at 34 CFR 600.55(d), require all foreign graduate medical institutions, even those that are exempt from the USMLE pass rate threshold requirement, to submit all USMLE scores, disaggregated by step/test and attempt, earned during the preceding calendar year by each student and graduate, on Step 1, Step 2-CK, and Step 2-CS of the USMLE, together with the dates the student took each test, including any failed tests.

The regulations require that institutions determine the consent requirements for, and require the necessary consents of, all students accepted for admission for whom the school must report, to enable the school to comply with these collection and submission requirements. The data must be obtained and submitted to the Department by the school at its own expense by April 30 of each year.

**Disclosure of Data Reported to the Department**

The Department will publish all of the information covered by the letter on its StudentAid.gov Web site. To protect the privacy of students, the Department will not publish information about a foreign graduate medical institution if the number of students used in the relevant calculation is fewer than eight.

If you have questions regarding the information in this letter, you may contact Federal Student Aid's Foreign Schools Participation Division at (202) 377-3168 or at [fsa.foreign.schools.team@ed.gov](mailto:fsa.foreign.schools.team@ed.gov).

Thank you for your continued participation in the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David A. Bergeron". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David A. Bergeron  
Acting Assistant Secretary

Attachment

Attachment

**D R A F T****Foreign Graduate Medical School Consumer Information Reporting Form**

Institution name	
OPEID	
Name of medical program	
Length of medical program	
Most recently completed calendar year	
Number of U.S. students completing medical program on-time in the most recently completed calendar year	
Number of U.S. students completing medical program in the most recently completed calendar year	
On-time completion rate for U.S. students completing medical program in the most recently completed calendar year	
Median Title IV loan debt incurred by U.S. students who completed the medical program in the most recently completed calendar year	
Median private education loan debt incurred by U.S. students who completed the medical program in the most recently completed calendar year	
Median institutional education loan debt incurred by U.S. students who completed the medical program in the most recently completed calendar year	
Median combined educational loan debt incurred by U.S. students who completed the medical program in the most recently completed calendar year	
Mean Title IV loan debt incurred by U.S. students who completed the medical program in the most recently completed calendar year	
Mean private education loan debt incurred by U.S. students who completed the medical program in the most recently completed calendar year	
Mean institutional education loan debt incurred by U.S. students who completed the medical program in the most recently completed calendar year	
Mean combined educational loan debt incurred by U.S. students who completed the medical program in the most recently completed calendar year	

I hereby certify to the best of my knowledge and belief that all the information provided above is true and correct. I understand that if my institution provides false or misleading information, the U.S. Department of Education can take an administrative action to end the institution's participation in the U.S. Federal student loan program.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of President/CEO/Chancellor

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name