

NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN MEDICAL EDUCATION AND ACCREDITATION

NCFMEA



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NCFMEA

“The National
Committee”



NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN MEDICAL EDUCATION AND ACCREDITATION

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- PURPOSE
- PROCESS OF OPERATION
- GUIDELINES FOR EVALUATION
- FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
- DECISIONS NCFMEA HAS MADE TO DATE
- SUMMARY

HISTORY

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- **Higher Education Amendments passed by Congress in 1992**
- **General Accounting Office reports in the 1980's led to concerns about**
 1. **The quality of education in some Foreign Medical Schools where U.S. students were enrolled**
 2. **The use of taxpayer funds for Federal loans to U.S. students**

PURPOSE

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- The NCFMEA determines whether the standards that foreign countries use to accredit their medical schools are COMPARABLE to the standards used to accredit U.S. medical schools
- The NCFMEA **DOES NOT ACCREDIT MEDICAL SCHOOLS!!**

PURPOSE

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Importance of Comparability:

- ❖ **Allows accredited medical schools in the respective country to apply to participate in the Title IV, Federal Family Educational Loan (FFEL) Program**
- ❖ **Allows U.S. students attending foreign medical schools approved for participation in the FFEL Program to apply for loans to help cover educational expenses**

PROCESS OF OPERATION

NCFMEA

- Operates under By-laws signed by the Secretary of Education
- 11 members, including one student member, appointed by the Secretary
- Members are knowledgeable concerning medical education and international educational systems
- Term of service is three years
- No member may serve longer than nine years

PROCESS OF OPERATION

NCFMEA

- Meets twice a year in the Washington, D.C. area
- Reviews the accreditation standards of a foreign country **ONLY** if the country has requested a comparability determination
- Does **NOT** review a country's standards solely at the request of a foreign medical school
- Makes decisions rather than recommendations since it is an operational committee rather than an advisory committee

GUIDELINES FOR EVALUATION

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- The NCFMEA has established guidelines for reviewing the STANDARDS and PROCESSES used by a foreign country to accredit medical schools
- It periodically revises its guidelines, taking into consideration changes in the standards and processes of the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME), the accrediting agency for U.S. medical schools
- Guidelines were last revised in September 2007

GUIDELINES: STANDARDS

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The foreign accreditor is expected to have standards for a medical school's:

- ✓ **Mission and objectives**
- ✓ **Administrative structure**
- ✓ **Legal authority to provide a program of medical education**
- ✓ **Curriculum for the educational program leading to the M.D. degree**
- ✓ **Admissions policies**
- ✓ **Methods to evaluate student achievement**
- ✓ **Student services**

GUIDELINES: STANDARDS

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The foreign accreditor is expected to have standards for a medical school's:

- ✓ Procedures for handling student complaints
- ✓ Financial resources
- ✓ Facilities, including library and CLINICAL TEACHING FACILITIES
- ✓ Faculty qualifications

PROCESSES AND PROCEDURES

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The foreign accreditor is expected to have processes and procedures for:

- ✓ **Self Study**
- ✓ **Site visits**
- ✓ **Evaluators and decision-makers**
- ✓ **Monitoring**
- ✓ **Substantive Changes**
- ✓ **Adequate controls**
- ✓ **Accreditation decisions**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- 1. Does the NCFMEA accredit foreign medical schools?**
- 2. Does the NCFMEA ever travel to foreign countries?**
- 3. What factors are considered in determining whether to observe a site visit in a foreign country?**
- 4. How often does the NCFMEA review a country's accreditation standards and procedures?**

DECISIONS

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- **24 countries have been determined to have comparable standards.**
 - A country must undergo a **REDETERMINATION** of its comparability at least every six years
- **27 countries have been determined NOT to have comparable standards.**
 - A country has the option to submit additional information and request that the NCFMEA reconsider its decision
 - 6 additional countries submitted applications which were incomplete and never completed the process.

Summary

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- The NCFMEA reviews the standards that foreign countries use to accredit medical schools
- It determines the comparability of those standards to the standards used to accredit medical schools in the U.S.
- It does NOT accredit foreign medical schools.

Contacts

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For more information on the NCFMEA and its activities...

- see the U.S. Department of Education's web site at: <http://www.ed.gov/about/bdscomm/list/ncfmea.html>, or
- Contact **Melissa Lewis**, the Committee's Executive Director, at (202) 219-7009 or melissa.lewis@ed.gov

For information on the participation of foreign medical schools in the FFEL program...

- contact the U.S. Department of Education's Foreign Schools Team at (202) 377-3168, fax (202) 275-3486

Committee Members

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1. DR. RAYMOND F. CARON
2. DR. MARTIN CRANE
3. DR. J. LEE DOCKERY
4. DR. JAMES A. HALLOCK
5. DR. JOHN J. JUCAS
6. MR. PAUL LA PORTE
7. DR. NORMAN I. MALDONADO
8. DR. JOHN E. MAUPIN, JR.*
9. DR. DAVID R. MUÑOZ
10. DR. KIRAN H. SHAH
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THANKS!!!

