Graduation Rates and Attrition Rates of U.S. Medical Students

Source: AAMC Student Records System (SRS)

Key Findings: Medical school graduation rates for MD students remained stable from 1993-1994 through 2012-2013. The four-year graduation rate ranged from 81.6% to 84.3%. Six years after matriculation, the average graduation rate was 95.9% of MD students not participating in combined degree programs.

The length of time to graduate varied for students in combined degree programs. For example, in a 10-year period from 1999-2000 through 2008-2009, 63.0% of MD-PhD students graduated within eight years of matriculation. That percentage reached 93.5% of MD-PhD students graduating within 10 years of matriculation. Most students in the other types of combined degree programs (e.g., MD-MPH) graduated within five years of matriculation.
From 1993-1994 through 2012-2013, more medical students left medical school for nonacademic than for academic reasons, according to data reported by medical school registrars in the AAMC Student Records System (SRS). The total national attrition rate remained relatively stable at an average of 3.3% over those 20 years. Additionally, attrition rates appeared to vary by type of degree program. For academic years 2003-2004 through 2012-2013 combined, students in MD-MBA combined degree programs had the lowest overall attrition rate (0.8%), and students in combined bachelor’s-MD programs had the highest overall attrition rate (4.8%).