

Additional Data and References for “Medical School Graduation and Attrition Rates”

Information about sample of three cohorts included in study:

Total sample: 47,315 students, 97.6 percent of eventual 48,468 matriculants. Sample included only students who entered between July 1 and October 31 in each year. The three cohorts (1987, 1992, and 1995) comprised 0.7 percent American Indian/Alaska Native, 14.7 percent Asian, 6.8 percent Black/African-American, 6.1 percent Hispanic/Latino, 68.7 percent White, and 3.0 percent other students.

References for national postgraduate time-to-degree rates:

Bradburn, E.M., et al. (2006). Where Are They Now? A Description of 1992-93 Bachelor's Degree Recipients 10 Years Later (NCES 2007-159). U.S. Department of Education. Washington, DC: National Center for Education Statistics, 5.

Hoffer, T.B., et al. (2006). Doctorate Recipients from United States Universities: Summary Report 2005. Chicago: National Opinion Research Center, Table A-3a.

Categories of medical student withdrawal and dismissal:

The AAMC's Student Record System enables registrars to identify many indicators for a student's academic status. The indicators for withdrawal consist of “Withdrawal-Academic Reasons,” “Withdrawal-Financial Reasons,” “Withdrawal-Health Reasons,” and “Withdrawal-Other Reasons.” The indicators for dismissal consist of “Dismissed-Academic Reasons” and “Dismissed-Non Academic Reasons.”

To calculate attrition due to academic reasons in our study, we counted only students with either the “Withdrawal-Academic Reasons” or “Dismissed-Academic Reasons” status.