**October 2021**

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

*Source: AAMC Student Records System*

**Key findings:** Medical school graduation rates for MD-only students remained stable from academic year 1996-1997 through 2015-2016. The four-year graduation rate ranged from 81.6% to 84.1%. The graduation rate six years after matriculation was 96.0% of MD-only students.

The length of time to graduation varied for students in combined degree programs. For example, 62.2% of MD-PhD students graduated within eight years of matriculation. Among MD-PhD students graduating within 10 years of matriculation, that percentage reached 93.2%. Most students in the other types of combined degree programs (e.g., MD-MPH) graduated within five years of matriculation.
From 1996-1997 through 2015-2016, more medical students left medical school due to nonacademic reasons than due to academic reasons, according to data reported by medical school registrars in the AAMC Student Records System. The national total attrition rate remained relatively stable at an average of 3.2% over those 20 years. Additionally, attrition rates appeared to vary by degree program. For academic years 2006-2007 through 2015-2016 combined, students in MD-MBA combined degree programs had no attrition, and students in combined bachelor’s-MD programs had the highest attrition rate at 5.2%.