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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 the 1995-1996 academic year through 2014-2015. The four-year graduation rate ranged from 81.6% to 84.1%. Six years after matriculation, the average graduation rate of MD-only students was 95.9%.

The length of time to graduate varied for students in combined degree programs. For example, from 2001-2002 through 2010-2011, 62.8% of MD-PhD students graduated within eight years of matriculation. That percentage reached 93.4% 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 1995-1996 through 2014-2015, 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 (SRS). The national total attrition rate remained relatively stable at an average of 3.3% over those 20 years. Additionally, attrition rates appeared to vary by degree program. For academic years 2005-2006 through 2014-2015 combined, students in MD-MBA combined degree programs had the lowest attrition rate (0.3%), and students in combined bachelor’s-MD programs had the highest attrition rate (5.3%).