



SANFORD SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
The University of South Dakota.
MEDICAL STUDENT AFFAIRS

Student Affairs Update

Quarterly Publication

April/May/June 2006

Academic Events

MS I

Please have your lockers cleaned out and padlocks removed by May 5th.

MS II

Sophomore Preceptorships will begin on Monday, April 10th at 8:00 a.m. and ending on Friday, May 5th.

Please have your lockers cleaned out and padlocks removed before you leave on your preceptorships!!

Schedule your USMLE Step 1 exam if you have not already done so.

MS III

USMLE Step 2: Have you completed your application?

Deadlines for having your 4th year scheduling done on-line and submission of your schedule and forms (clerkship manual pages 13-14) completed and sent to Kay in Med Student Affairs by the April 13th deadline.

MSIV

Auditing of courses and grades are done April-May. Have you submitted all of your log sheets, your course evaluations and/or SPED? You must have these completed in order for your grades to be submitted and for you to move to graduated status for receipt of diplomas..

Pre-Graduation Ceremonies will be held in Sioux Falls on Friday, May 12th. You should have received your information on the pre-graduation ceremonies at Match Day or by mail.

Kay will bring all the Caps and Gowns to Sioux Falls for the **Rapid City and Sioux Falls students.** **Yankton students** you must notify Kay if you want to pick you cap and gown up in Vermillion otherwise all caps and gowns will be taken to the Yankton Campus to Carol Pollman

GRADUATION-May13th at the USD Dakota Dome in Vermillion.

The graduation ceremonies are required and you need to be at the USD Dakota Dome by 8:30 as you will be instructed on the hooding process and you will need to get your name cards at this time.

Medical Student Affairs

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**Congratulations
to the
"Class of 2006"**

USMLE Step 1 Review

You know it is a true sign of spring when the MS II's start turning their attention to preparing for the USMLE Step 1. The following is some information that I hope will be useful as you start your review.

Kaplan MedPass

For those students who plan to form study groups, there are a limited number of rooms available on the Sioux Falls and Vermillion campuses from May 8th through June 2nd. Please contact Cathy (clogue@usd.edu) or call at 677-5303 to reserve a room.



For those students who plan to study on the Yankton campus please contact Carol Pollman (Carol.Pollman@usd.edu) and for the Rapid City campus contact Sharon Saunders (Sharon.Saunders@usd.edu).

If you have not logged into your Kaplan account please do so as soon as possible to make sure there are no problems.

Watch your email in May for information on the Kaplan Mock Step 1 Exam. This is a full length 350 question web-based simulated Step 1 exam that will be offered on all four campuses the week of May 22nd. This exam gives you the opportunity to practice a full day of testing. Scores are available upon completion of the test. The overall score and scores by subject and systems on this exam are a very useful guide for planning the remainder of your review.

Other Step 1 Review Resources

PASS Program Lecture Videos:

Students from our medical school who have attended the PASS Program for USMLE Step 1 review in Champaign, Illinois, have given their enthusiastic approval of this program run by Dr. Francis Ihejirika. Dr. Francis is a very dynamic teacher and has developed a unique review program based on key medical concepts and their application. A set of the videotaped lectures are available on the Vermillion campus.

Step 1 Review Books:

Several review books are available for checkout from Cathy's office. The [Step-Up: A High Yield Systems-Based Review for the USMLE Step 1](#) is one review book that has been highly recommended.

**“Doctors
recommend
laughter as a
tranquilizer
with no side
effects”**

Financial Aid News

Attention Graduates

In the next few weeks you should receive an e-mail from University Accounting Services regarding your Perkins loans. You will be advised to go to their website and complete the exit materials to satisfy federal requirements for this loan. This is different from the Exit interview you completed with Medical Student Affairs and it must be completed or the university will put a hold on your record. The website should be available after May 1st.



FAFSA

Have you completed your FAFSA? This year we asked that you complete your FAFSA by Mar. 15th. If you do not have it done you are putting yourself in jeopardy of not having your financial aid available when school begins. Please remember the longer you wait to process your FAFSA, the more volume the federal processor is dealing with, which means longer response time. If you have not completed the FAFSA or made necessary corrections please do so IMMEDIATELY.

AWARD LETTERS

Financial aid will send out award letters the end of May. Scholarship awards should be posted by the middle of May. Please remember to **return the award letter to Carol in the Medical Student Affairs office** so I may take a copy for your file before forwarding to Financial Aid. I then flag the award letters as medical students and hand deliver them to a specific individual in Financial aid so that these can be processed before the undergraduates.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

MARCH 15, 2006- FAFSA should be submitted to ensure receipt of data by awarding time.

APRIL 3, 2006 - USDSM Scholarship and Supplemental Applications and must be completed.

APRIL 15, 2006 – Copies of parent's and your income tax must be submitted to be considered for Title VII or institutional funds.

JUNE 1, 2006 – Award letters returned to **Carol in Medical Student Affairs** to ensure loan checks will arrive on time.

JULY 10, 2006 – Loan checks available for MS 3 & 4 provided you have followed this timeline.

AUGUST 7, 2006 – Loan checks available for MS 1 & 2 provided you have followed this timeline.

DECEMBER 1, 2006 – Deadline to submit additional loan applications to cover second semester tuition (if needed, and if you have not met your cost of attendance maximum).

JANUARY 1, 2007– Begin FAFSA application for 2007-08 academic year.

MARCH 1, 2007 – Deadline to apply for additional financial aid for the 2006-07 academic year, provided you have not met your cost of attendance maximum.

(financial aid continued from page 3)

Emergency Loan

The Emergency Loan fund is available to medical students to meet the transition from 2nd to 3rd year. This loan is also available to students who have an emergency and need additional money. This loan is to be paid back with your next financial aid disbursement. No interest.

Have you accessed your Free Credit Report?

Last year the government established that every individual should be able to get one free credit report from each of the following credit bureaus; Equifax, Experian and TransUnion. If you go to the following link you can obtain copies from each of the bureaus listed. www.annualcreditreport.com You may also call (877) 322-8228 to obtain the information. It is recommended that you check your credit report once a year to make sure incorrect information does not end up on your report. Errors can take some time to resolve and could prevent you from getting approval or even the best possible loan terms.

HEALTH INSURANCE

The plan year for the health insurance ends June 30, 2006. The new deductible year begins on July 1, 2006. Anyone wishing to make changes to their health insurance must do so in June, otherwise you will be committed to the school's insurance for the next academic year. Please remember that health insurance is required of everyone and you are required to provide proof of insurance each year if you are not enrolled in the school sponsored plan.



If you have any newsworthy event regarding yourself or one of your fellow students, please contact Judy in the Student Affairs Office....we would like to include it in our next newsletter or add to [The School of Medicine and Health Science](#) page under news.

It is foolish to argue with your physician because he has inside information.

Notes From The Deans Desk

Physician Workforce

Paul C. Bunger, Ph.D.,
Dean, Medical Student Affairs

“Besides calling for increased enrollments, another strategy will be to seek incentives to retain active physicians longer in the workforce.”

At a recent meeting of the Group on Student Affairs of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), one of the speakers was Edward Salsberg, the Director of the Center for Workforce Studies of the AAMC. His data was extremely interesting with information about projected physician shortages, the impact of International Medical Graduates (IMG's) on the supply of physicians and the ability of allopathic medical schools to increase their enrollments by as much as 30%. (More information is available at www.aamc.org and scroll to “Focus on Issues” and then click the “Workforce” link.)

The current position of the AAMC is to expand enrollment in LCME-accredited medical schools by 30% by 2015. Some of the increased enrollment may occur by establishing new medical schools. I know of three new schools that are at some level of legislative approval – two in Florida and one in Texas. In addition, the AAMC is taking a position of expansion of Residency programs to accommodate the increased enrollment and also continuing to leave specialty choices up to the students/residents. Obviously, if there are no expansions to the Residency programs, the net effect will be to increase competitiveness of all programs, and an anticipated reduction of IMG's without any change in total number of practicing physicians.

By the year 2020, there will be approximately 23,000 physicians a year reaching retirement age. Currently, we train approximately 15,000 from LCME schools, 6,000 IMG's and 3,000 from Osteopathic schools for a total of 24,000 per year. With the increasing age of the population, the number of active physicians per 100,000 population will peak in 2016 (at 295 physicians per 100,000) and even with a 30% increase in enrollments, would peak in 2024.

In addition, the average number of ambulatory care visits to physicians for individuals age 45 and over has increased from 3 per year in 1980 to 7 per year in 2003. This is due in part to the increasing number of individuals living longer and acquiring more of the age-related illnesses.

Besides calling for increased enrollments, another strategy will be to seek incentives to retain active physicians longer in the workforce.

As students who will be graduating in 2006 through 2009, you can expect that some of you will enter the work force in 2009 for those choosing a three year residency, and others from the class of 2009 who choose a five year residency can expect to enter the workforce at approximately the time that demand for physicians will significantly increase. Of course the positive side of this is that your choice of career will place you in a position of high demand for your skills and services. On the down side, you may be faced with difficult choices that relate to your ability to assist all who are in need and will no doubt discover changes in lifestyle and career that were not anticipated.

As we look at the future of medicine, I want to remind you that this is the time in your career when you have significant support structure to assist you with your learning and with your decisions. It is not only important that students gain the knowledge and skills needed to practice quality medicine, but students must also learn the process of decision making, re-affirmation of their values that brought them to medicine, and discovering efficiencies in their lifestyle in order to achieve a productive and satisfying career. Don't miss out on the opportunity to seek assistance throughout your training.