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NCFMEA	2002	S (W)

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**U.S. Department of Education**



**Staff Analysis  
of the  
Annual Report Submitted by  
Canada**

**on the Evaluation of Medical Schools**

**March 1, 2002**

U.S. Department of Education  
Staff Analysis of the Annual Report

Submitted by  
Canada

Prepared February 2002

Background

At its February 1995 meeting, the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education Accreditation (NCFMEA) determined that the accreditation standards used by the Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools (CACMS) to evaluate medical schools in Canada were comparable to those used to evaluate programs leading to the M.D. degree in the United States.

The NCFMEA reviews the comparability of countries' standards on a periodic basis. During its March 2001 meeting, the NCFMEA again reviewed the CACMS standards and processes and concluded that they remained comparable to the standards used to accredit medical schools in the United States. As part of its decision, the NCFMEA requested that the CACMS submit annual reports of its activities with respect to the accreditation of the medical schools in Canada. The information provided by the country in response to that request is the subject of this report.

NOTE: The accreditation standards and processes used to evaluate medical schools in Canada are the same as those used in the United States. All Canadian medical schools are accredited by both the CACMS and the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME). The LCME is recognized by the Secretary for the accreditation of M.D. programs in the United States. In addition, one of the co-chairs of the LCME is a voting member of CACMS, and LCME secretariat staff sit on CACMS as observers. Similarly, the chair of CACMS is a voting member of the LCME and the CACMS secretary is an LCME observer.

Summary of Findings

Based on its review of the annual report submitted by the Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools, Department staff concludes that the Committee has provided all of the information requested by the NCFMEA. Department staff also concludes that the country's accreditation activities during the past year appear to be consistent with the NCFMEA guidelines.

## Staff Analysis

The CACMS reported on the following three categories of information as requested by the NCFMEA:

### Overview of accreditation activities:

During the past year the CACMS held its annual meeting to consider survey reports, progress reports and other matters of interest in September 2001.

- Accreditation actions: The CACMS reviewed progress reports for five universities and continued their accreditation.
- Other action: The CACMS developed a new financial questionnaire specifically for Canadian schools. It will be piloted this year.

### Summary of any changes or developments in the following areas:

#### Laws and Regulations:

The annual report noted that there have been no changes in the laws or regulations of Canada or any of its provinces that affected the accreditation of Canadian medical schools.

#### Standards, Processes and Procedures:

Members of the CACMS attended all the LCME meetings in 2001. The LCME, with the participation of CACMS, undertook a revision of the existing standards contained in the booklet entitled "Functions and Structure of a Medical School". The revision was undertaken to make the document more readable and user-friendly; no substantial new standards were incorporated. CACMS gave its approval to the revised version, which will take effect during the 2003-2004 academic year, if all other parties approve it as well.

The annual report noted that over the past year the LCME with the CACMS has looked at ways to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of on-site surveys, survey reports and progress reports. Training sessions for site evaluators are conducted by the LCME at the annual meetings of the American Medical Association and the Association of American Medical Colleges. All Canadian surveyors undergo training at one of these sessions.

Schedule for upcoming accreditation activities:

- During 2002 full accreditation surveys will be carried out at two universities; three limited on-site university surveys will be undertaken; and there will be secretariat visits to two universities.
- The Chair and the Secretary of the CACMS will continue to attend all meetings of the LCME as a voting member and as an observer, respectively.
- The annual meeting of CACMS will be held on September 24, 2002.