

U.S. Department of Education  
Staff Analysis  
of the Annual Report Submitted by  
Dominican Republic  
Prepared July 2003

Background

At its October 1997 meeting, the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation (NCFMEA) determined that the new approval standards adopted in October 1996 and used by the Consejo Nacional Educacion Superior (CONES) to evaluate medical schools in the Dominican Republic (Republic) were comparable to those used to evaluate programs leading to the M.D. degree in the United States.

Since 1997, the NCFMEA has requested annual reports to demonstrate that CONES is actively engaged in accreditation activities. At both its September 2001 and September 2002 meetings, the NCFMEA reviewed the report submitted by the Consejo Nacional de Educacion Superior, Ciencia y Tecnologia (CONESCT), the name for CONES as prescribed under Presidential Decree 517-96. The reports were responsive to previous requests for information and the reports were accepted. The NCFMEA requested an additional annual report for review at its September 2003 meeting that would provide an overview of accreditation activities, a summary of changes to laws, regulations, standards, processes and procedures, and a schedule of upcoming accreditation activities. The Dominican Republic's annual report submission is the subject of this analysis.

Since the September 2001 meeting, the acronym used for the agency's name was changed to make it more descriptive and easier to remember in Spanish. Therefore, the acronym CONESCT has been replaced by SEESCYT. The agency's full name, Consejo Nacional de Educacion Superior, Ciencia y Tecnologia, has not changed. Also, in September 2002, Department staff and representatives of this committee observed a site visit of two clerkship sites and one medical school in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

## Summary of Findings

Based on its review of the annual report submitted by the Dominican Republic, Department staff concludes that the SEESCYT has provided all of the information requested by the NCFMEA. Department staff also concludes that the country's actions during the past year appear to be consistent with the NCFMEA guidelines.

## Staff Analysis

The Annual Report on Medical School Education submitted by the Dominican Republic consisted of the following documents:

- The Medical School Report for the Year 2002-2003
- Summaries of Medical School Site Visit Findings
- A 2003 Schedule of Seminars and Training Activities

## Overview of accreditation activities:

SEESCYT has provided overviews of the results of its evaluation of medical schools during the academic year 2002-2003. The report was prepared in accordance with the agency's quinquennial evaluation of medical schools and to assess medical school compliance with Law Number 139-01 for Higher Education, Science and Technology. During the academic year 2002-2003, SEESCYT conducted special visits to the following ten medical schools:

- National University Pedro Henriquez Urena (UNPHU)
- Instituto Tecnológico de Santo Domingo (INTEC)
- Pontificia Universidad Madre Y Maestra (PUCMM)
- Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo (UASD)
- Universidad Central Del Este (UCE)
- Universidad Católica Nordestana (UCNE)
- Universidad Católica Tecnológica del Cibao (UCATECI)
- Universidad Tecnológica de Santiago (UTESA – Santiago)
- Universidad Tecnológica de Santiago (UTESA – Santo Domingo)
- Universidad Iberoamericana (UNIBE)

In addition, the agency has authorized a new medical school, the Eugenio Maria de Hostos Medical School. This school must graduate its first class before it can apply for recognition and accreditation.

Summary of any changes or developments in the following areas:

Laws and regulations:

The agency previously reported that Law Number 139-01 for Higher Education, Science and Technology has made changes in the legal requirements imposed on medical schools in the Republic. The new law establishes minimum thresholds of quality for medical schools in such areas as administrative planning and coordination, adequacy of library bibliographies, adequacy of equipment, and documentation of faculty credentials. The agency reports that all accredited medical schools are now in reasonable compliance with the requirements of the new law.

Standards, Processes and Procedures:

The agency reports no changes in its standards, processes and procedures.

Schedule for Upcoming Accreditation Activities:

The agency has provided a schedule of activities for the remainder of 2003. In September 2003, the agency will conduct training for Commission members in the evaluation process. The agency has recently completed a review of its accreditation standards. Training has also been conducted on the agency's monitoring and follow-up procedures and processes.