

U.S. Department of Education
Staff Analysis
Of the Annual Report Submitted by
Poland

Prepared August 2001

Background

At its October 1997 meeting, the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation (NCFMEA) determined that the accreditation standards used by the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare to evaluate the medical schools in Poland are comparable to those used to evaluate programs leading to the M.D. degree in the United States. As part of its decision, the NCFMEA requested that the Ministry submit annual reports of its activities with respect to its accreditation of the medical schools in Poland. The country's fourth annual report is the subject of the staff analysis that follows.

Summary of Findings

Based upon its review of the annual report submitted by Poland's Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Department staff concludes that Poland has satisfied all of the reporting requirements imposed 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 submitted by Poland consisted of the following documents:

- Two letters describing the Ministry's activities since the last annual report.
- Five site visit agendas for the following medical schools: Silesian Medical Academy, Medical Academy in Lublin, Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Medical Academy in Lodz, and the Medical School in Bialystok.
- Five preliminary site team reports of the site visits to the medical schools listed above.

Overview of accrediting activities:

Regarding the accrediting activities conducted over the last year, Poland notes that it formed four three-person teams to evaluate the questionnaires submitted by medical schools seeking accreditation. Each team was assigned certain chapters of the questionnaire to evaluate. To ensure consistent application of the standards and thorough examination of the questionnaires, the country decided that the teams would always evaluate the same chapters of the questionnaire. Teams were then sent to each of the five medical schools to conduct four-day on-site evaluations. The site visit agendas showed that the teams met with administrators, faculty, department chairs, and students; and also reviewed the facilities at each site. A site visit report was then prepared that identified the strengths of the school and areas of concern that the school must address.

The Accreditation Committee for University Medical Schools (ACUMS) evaluated the reports of three schools and awarded accreditation to each of them for a period of five years. Two of the schools visited will be considered for accreditation in the fall of 2001.

During the year, ACUMS members held or participated in ten workshops and seminars dealing with higher education and accreditation. Several of the meetings focused on the European Union Program Tempus called "Medique" that was discussed in the last annual report. The Medique project allows countries to share and discuss accreditation issues.

In October 2000, Poland hosted a workshop on "Quality Assessment of Medical Programs-aim, need and forms of implementation" with the participation of Dr. Donald Kassebaum, former Executive Director of the Liaison Committee on Medical Education and a seminar on "Standards of Graduate Medical Education" attended by representatives of all the medical schools in Poland.

The country also participated in a seminar on "Towards Accreditation Schemes for Higher Education in Europe" held in Lisbon.

Summary of any changes or developments in the following areas:

Laws and Regulations:

The ACUMS did not report any changes in their laws or regulations affecting accreditation in Poland. The Minister of Health noted that he continues to be a strong supporter of an autonomous and non-governmental accrediting body. He further stated that ACUMS has improved the standards of education within medical schools.

Standards, Processes and Procedures:

ACUMS has begun a review of its standards. As part of the review, consideration will be given to the standards used in Europe and the United States. The country notes that the current standards were formed by reviewing the European and United States accreditation/approval requirements.

Schedule of upcoming accreditation activities:

ACUMS will conduct two accreditation visits by December 2001 and three visits during 2002. At the conclusion of the visits in 2002, the country states that all medical schools will have been evaluated.