



THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION
WASHINGTON, DC 20202

June 10, 2010

Honorable Jonathan Johnson
Lieutenant Governor
Government of Saba
Power Street 1
The Bottom
Saba
Netherlands Antilles

Dear Mr. Johnson:

On September 14, 2009, the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation (NCFMEA) met to evaluate the documents submitted by the Island Government of Saba describing the current accreditation standards and processes used to accredit medical schools in your country.

The purpose of the NCFMEA's review was to determine the comparability of Saba's medical accreditation system for Doctor of Medicine programs, or the equivalent, to the systems used to accredit such programs in the United States (U.S.). Under U.S. law, accredited schools in a country that the NCFMEA finds comparable may apply to participate in the U.S. William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) Program. Then, if a medical school participates in the Direct Loan Program, U.S. students attending the school may apply for Direct Loans to help cover educational expenses. For more information about foreign schools' transition to the Direct Loan Program, access the new Foreign School Information Web page at <http://ifap.ed.gov/ForeignSchoolInfo/ForeignSchoolInfo.html>.

The NCFMEA reviewed the reapplication submitted by the Accreditation Commission on Colleges of Medicine (ACCM) and wishes to thank Dr. Tony Peacock and Dr. Brian Lawlor for attending the meeting to provide additional information regarding the ACCM's activities. Their testimony was very helpful, and the NCFMEA valued their participation in the meeting.

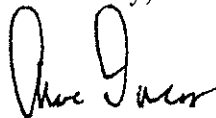
I am pleased to inform you that the NCFMEA formally reaffirmed its prior determination that the standards and processes used to accredit medical schools in Saba are comparable to those used to accredit medical schools in the United States. The NCFMEA requested that Saba submit a report for review at the Fall 2011 NCFMEA meeting that addresses the then-current status of its accreditation activities. Enclosed is a report request to help guide your response to the committee.

During the meeting, the NCFMEA also approved the revised 2009 NCFMEA Guidelines that now must be used when applying for a comparability determination. The revisions include changes concerning remote sites and site visits. A copy of the revised Guidelines is enclosed for your convenience.

If you have any questions regarding the information requested, please feel free to contact Dr. Nancy Regan, Director, Accreditation and State Liaison Unit, at (202) 219-7018 (telephone), (202) 219-7005 (fax), or Nancy.Regan@ed.gov (e-mail). If you have any questions about the Fall 2011 NCFMEA meeting, please contact Melissa Lewis, NCFMEA Executive Director, at (202) 219-7009 (telephone), Melissa.Lewis@ed.gov (e-mail), or at the fax number listed above.

Thank you for providing the information regarding Saba's accreditation of its medical schools. We deeply appreciate your ongoing interest in maintaining high quality standards for medical education.

Sincerely,



Arne Duncan

Enclosures

Report Request

September 2009 NCFMEA Guidelines

cc: Dr. Brian Lawlor, Commissioner, ACCM
Dr. Anthony Peacock, Secretary/Treasurer, ACCM

**Report Requested from Saba by the
National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation (NCFMEA)**

Accrediting Agency: Accreditation Commission on Colleges of Medicine (ACCM)

Content: The purpose of the report is to provide the NCFMEA with a summary of accreditation activities involving medical schools located in Saba, including the following information (and any applicable supporting documents):

- *Current status of medical schools:* A list of the medical schools currently operating in Saba, indicating the most recent date each school has gone through the accreditation review process and the school's current accreditation status (such as fully accredited, provisionally accredited, etc.).
- *Overview of accreditation activities:* A summary of key activities since September 2009, including the following:
 - accreditation reviews of school campuses and clinical clerkship sites;
 - meetings held and accreditation decisions reached;
 - accreditation conferences or training sessions held; etc.
- *Laws and regulations:* An indication as to whether there have been any changes since September 2009 in Saba's laws or regulations that affect the accreditation of your medical schools, and, if so, what those changes were.
- *Standards:* An indication as to whether there have been any changes since September 2009 in the accreditation standards that the ACCM uses to evaluate and accredit medical schools in the areas listed below, and, if so, what those changes were:
 - administration;
 - faculty;
 - curriculum;
 - admissions procedures;
 - student services;
 - methods for evaluating student achievement; and
 - facilities.

- *Processes and procedures:* An indication as to whether there have been any changes since September 2009 in the accreditation processes and procedures used by the ACCM for the following:
 - conducting site visits;
 - selecting and training individuals who conduct site evaluations or who make accreditation decisions;
 - periodically reevaluating and regularly monitoring medical schools;
 - reviewing substantive changes reported by medical schools;
 - ensuring the ACCM has effective controls against conflicts of interest and the inconsistent application of accreditation standards; and
 - ensuring that accreditation decisions are based, in part, on the evaluation of student performance after graduation from medical school.

- *Schedule of upcoming accreditation activities:* A listing of upcoming accreditation meetings and on-site visits to medical schools, branch campuses, and clinical clerkship sites for the period covering September 2009 through May 2011.