Career Pathways for Students of Offshore Medical Schools in the Caribbean

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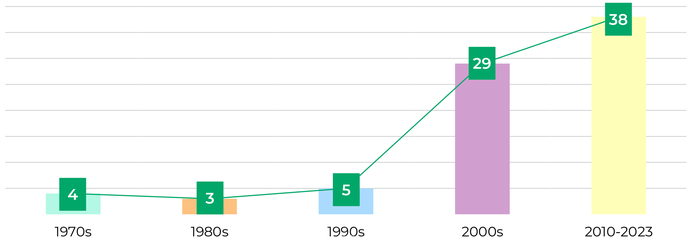
Offshore Medical Schools: An Overview

- Created in the 1970s by American entrepreneurs and medical professionals
- Mainly cater to U.S. and Canadian students who have lower GPAs and MCAT scores
- Offer a chance to pursue a medical degree and career in the U.S. and Canada
- Private, for-profit schools that offer less competitive admission requirements and lower costs

Newly Opened Offshore Medical Schools in the Caribbean Region



Source: World Directory of Medical Schools
wenr.wes.org/2024/02/medical-education-in-the-sun-a-guide-to-the-offshore-education-industry-in-the-caribbean

Institution	Annual Tuition
Public U.S. Medical Schools	$52,483
Private U.S. Medical Schools	$65,453
St. George's University	$60,024
Ross University School of Medicine	$46,568
American University of the Caribbean School of Medicine	$43,136
Saba University School of Medicine	$38,960
Xavier University School of Medicine	$27,900
Saint James School of Medicine	$18,300
Caribbean Medical University	$11,800

Source: EducationData.org and university websites
wenr.wes.org/2024/02/medical-education-in-the-sun-a-guide-to-the-offshore-education-industry-in-the-caribbean

Offshore Medical Students: Common Issues

- Graduation rates range between 90 and 95 percent at U.S. and Canadian medical schools.
- Those who are accepted often require a longer period of residency.
- Graduation rates range between 50 and 80 percent at offshore medical schools.
- These students often fail to complete their credentials.
- Graduates of these schools may be poorly prepared for the licensing process and the rigors of a professional career in medicine.
- Graduates of offshore medical schools pass licensing exams at significantly lower rates than graduates of U.S. and Canadian medical schools.
- Offshore medical students often fail to meet the standards for U.S. and Canadian residency.

Offshore Medical Schools Accreditation and Recognition Status

- None are accredited by the LCME, a U.S. accrediting body
- None are recognized by CACMS, the Canadian accrediting authority of medical education programs
- Few are accredited by CAAM-HP, the accreditation authority in 13 countries

WES Policy and Practice

- WES evaluates programs at offshore medical schools only if the institution is on the approved list of Caribbean medical schools of the **New York State Education Department** or the **Medical Board of California**.
- WES considers studies completed at offshore medical schools a professional study.
- WES does not deem offshore medical schools equivalent to accredited or recognized U.S. and Canadian medical schools and hence does not recommend an equivalency of first professional degree in medicine.

Complete and Incomplete Doctor of Medicine Credentials

Medical Schools In	Incomplete Doctor of Medicine Credentials by WES Applicants	Complete Doctor of Medicine Credentials by WES Applicants
Antigua and Barbuda	126	83
Barbados	13	33
Cayman Islands	31	29
Dominica	81	151
Grenada	120	260
Saint Kitts and Nevis	187	51

Source: WES data 2014-2024

Sources:

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