

# Recognition and Accreditation of Medical Schools in the Caribbean

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**TAICEP 2021 CONFERENCE**



# GENERAL OVERVIEW OF MEDICAL SCHOOLS IN THE CARIBBEAN



# GENERAL OVERVIEW OF MEDICAL SCHOOLS IN THE CARIBBEAN

## PUBLIC MEDICAL SCHOOLS

1948: University of the College West Indies (now University of the West Indies)

- first medical school in the Caribbean
- established as a constituent college of the University of London
- charter class of 33 students

1969: University of Suriname

1985: University of Guyana

# GENERAL OVERVIEW OF MEDICAL SCHOOLS IN THE CARIBBEAN

## OFF-SHORE (PRIVATE) MEDICAL SCHOOLS

1977: St. George's University School of Medicine (Grenada)

1978: Ross University School of Medicine (Dominica, now Barbados)

- Steady increase since 2000
- 57 currently operating
  - Many opened and closed
  - Name changes
  - Movement of campuses across islands
- Students primarily from U.S. and Canada
- Caribbean: highest number of medical schools per capita

# SCHOOLS BY COUNTRY

Country	Open	Closed	Accredited
Anguilla	1		1
Antigua and Barbuda	4		1
Aruba	3		1
Bahamas	1*		
Barbados	8		2
Belize	3	11	
Bonaire	1	1	
British Virgin Islands	1		
Cayman Islands	1		1
Curaçao	5		1

Country	Open	Closed	Accredited
Dominica	1		1
Grenada	1		1
Guyana	8	1	1
Jamaica	3		1
Montserrat	2	2	
Saba	1		
Sint Maarten	1		
St. Kitts and Nevis	6	4	2
St. Lucia	7	1	
Turks and Caicos		2	

\*new school in process of admitting first cohort

# ADMISSION, LENGTH OF PROGRAM, QUALIFICATIONS

## ADMISSION

- Requirements vary across institutions
  - Completion of secondary school
  - 90+ credits of undergraduate study
  - Bachelor's degree
  - Medical College Admission Test/MCAT not universally required
- Acceptance rates up to 10x higher than American medical schools

## LENGTH OF PROGRAM

- depends on previous education
  - bachelor's degree/completion of 90 credits of undergraduate study – 4 years
  - completion of secondary school – 5-6 years

## QUALIFICATION AWARDED

- depends on school
  - Doctor of Medicine
  - Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery/MBBS

# CURRICULUM

- 1<sup>st</sup> two years: basic science and clinical science
- Final two years: clinical rotations
  - Completed at hospitals in US and Canada
  - Some rotations in the UK

# OFF-SHORE MEDICAL SCHOOLS: PULL FACTORS

- Low Medical College Admission Test/MCAT score requirement
- Proximity to US
- Language of instruction
- Flexible academic calendar
- Lower tuition
- Desire to become a medical doctor

# OFF-SHORE MEDICAL SCHOOLS: ISSUES

- Lumping of schools without distinction
  - Public vs. private, for-profit
- Inadequate clinical training resources
- Absence of appropriate accreditation mechanisms
- Governments seeking potential economic gain
- Charter/registration as sole requirement to operate
- Lack of sufficient/affordable housing
- Anecdotal student stories
  - Instructors
  - Facilities
  - Bait and switch

# OFF-SHORE MEDICAL SCHOOLS: CHALLENGES

## NATIONAL QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEMS

- Dearth of requisite competence
- Difficulty in providing independent external reviewers
  - Close proximity of countries
  - Same professional field
- Differences in types of systems available

# Accreditation

# ACCREDITATION: INSTITUTIONAL VS. PROGRAMMATIC

## Permission to operate

- Registration with local accrediting body
- Licensure/charter with Ministry of Education
- Registration ≠ accreditation

## Institutional accreditation/recognition

- Country accrediting body

## Programmatic accreditation

- Medical, dental, veterinary, nursing schools may require programmatic accreditation
- Required for professional licensure outside of country where school is located

# ACCREDITATION: INSTITUTIONAL VS. PROGRAMMATIC

## Western Atlantic University School of Medicine (Bahamas)

- In CAAM-HP accreditation process

The screenshot displays the website's navigation menu with four items: ABOUT, ADMISSIONS, MD PROGRAM, and STUDENT LIFE. The main content area features a large heading 'Accreditation' followed by a text box stating: 'Western Atlantic University School of Medicine (WAUSM) has received Candidacy Status by the Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and Other Health Professions (CAAM-HP)'. Below this, the full name of the accreditation authority is listed: 'CARIBBEAN ACCREDITATION AUTHORITY FOR EDUCATION IN MEDICINE AND OTHER HEALTH PROFESSIONS (CAAM-HP)'. A smaller text box below that repeats the accreditation news. To the right, a 'QUICK LINKS' section lists: 'Admission FAQs', 'SELECT Scholarship & Financial Aid', 'Tuition, No Fees', and 'Freeport Campus'. A red arrow points from the accreditation text box to the accreditation authority name.

ABOUT ADMISSIONS MD PROGRAM STUDENT LIFE

## Accreditation

Western Atlantic University School of Medicine (WAUSM) has received Candidacy Status by the Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and Other Health Professions (CAAM-HP).

**CARIBBEAN ACCREDITATION AUTHORITY FOR EDUCATION IN MEDICINE AND OTHER HEALTH PROFESSIONS (CAAM-HP)**

Western Atlantic University School of Medicine (WAUSM) has received Candidacy Status by the Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and Other Health Professions (CAAM-HP).

Established in 2003 under the aegis of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), CAAM-HP is a legally constituted body that is empowered to determine and prescribe standards and to accredit programs of

### QUICK LINKS

- Admission FAQs
- SELECT Scholarship & Financial Aid
- Tuition, No Fees
- Freeport Campus

# ACCREDITATION: INSTITUTIONAL VS. PROGRAMMATIC

## University of Health Sciences Antigua

- No mention of required CAAM-HP accreditation

The screenshot displays the 'Recognition and Licensure' page of the University of Health Sciences Antigua. The page features a header with the university's logo and navigation links. A large image of two smiling students is positioned on the left. The main content area is titled 'Recognition and Licensure' and lists several accreditation bodies. A red box highlights the accreditation list, and a red arrow points from the list to the text below it. The text states that this recognition confers eligibility for medical graduates to take the United States Medical Licensing Examinations (USMLE) in the U.S. and is one of the requirements of the Professional and Linguistic Assessments Board (PLAB) in the U.K. It also mentions that listing in the International Medical Education Directory (IMED-FAIMER) allows students to take the Medical Council of Canada Qualifying Examination (MCCQE) and that nursing students are eligible to take the NCLEX examinations for licensure within the United States. At the bottom, there is a 'University Administration' section with a 'Read More' button and a chat box for admissions questions.

Our next term starts on February 7th! [Apply Now!](#) [COVID-19 FAQs](#)

University of Health Sciences Antigua

About | Academics | Admissions

## Recognition and Licensure

UHSA is:

- ✓ Recognized by The Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG)
- ✓ Listed in the International Medical Education Directory (IMED)
- ✓ Listed in Avicenna Directory of Medical Schools (Formerly, World Health Organization)
- ✓ Recognized by the Medical Council of Canada (MCC)
- ✓ Recognized by the General Medical Council (GMC)
- ✓ Recognized by the Antigua & Barbuda National Accreditation Board (ABNAB)

This recognition confers eligibility for the medical graduates of the University to take the United States Medical Licensing Examinations (USMLE) in the U.S. and is one of the requirements of the Professional and Linguistic Assessments Board (PLAB) in the U.K. Our listing in the International Medical Education Directory (IMED-FAIMER) also allows our students to take the Medical Council of Canada Qualifying Examination (MCCQE). Nursing students are eligible to take the NCLEX examinations for licensure within the United States.

### What sets UHSA apart?

Our curriculum has been designed based on the need for knowledge of today's physicians and nurses. Due to the solid foundation of the courses taught, our students are very successful during the UHSA medical program's clinical portion. This is a major factor in successfully passing the required licensing examinations.

University Administration  
Meet our Administration members.

[Read More >](#)

Admissions from University of Health Sciences Antigua  
Hi! Do you have any questions? Chat with an admissions representative.

# ACCREDITATION: INSTITUTIONAL VS. PROGRAMMATIC

## American University of St. Vincent

- No mention of required CAAM-HP accreditation (lost accreditation in 2015)

The screenshot displays the website for the American University of St. Vincent, specifically the 'Approvals And Recognition' page. The page features a navigation bar at the top with links for Home, About Us, Admissions, Academics, Faculty, Student Life, Tuition & Finance, and Contact. A 'COVID-19 UPDATE' banner indicates that the September-December (fall) sessions will be conducted online and in-person. The main content area lists three accreditation bodies:

- St Vincent:** American University of St Vincent is recognized by the Education Commission of Foreign Medical Graduates, which makes AUS students and graduates to be eligible for taking USMLE examinations.
- Ecfmg (USA):** American University of St Vincent is recognized by the Education Commission of Foreign Medical Graduates, which makes AUS students and graduates to be eligible for taking USMLE examinations.
- World Directory Of Medical Schools:** The World Directory of Medical Schools has been developed through a partnership between the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME) and the Foundation for Advancement of International Medical Education and Research (FAIMER). The World Directory provides a comprehensive compilation of the information previously contained in the IMED and Avicenna directories. AUS is listed in the world Directory of Medical School which replaces International Medical Education Directory (IMED) and Avicenna Directory (Previously WHO Directory). Listing in World Directory of Medical Schools makes.

A red box highlights the 'St Vincent' accreditation entry, and a red arrow points from this box to a larger, magnified view of the same entry on the right side of the slide.

# ACCREDITATION

Until mid-1990s:

- No multi-country accreditation body
- Individual country responsibility

Until 2001

- General Medical Council of the UK
  - Accredited University of the West Indies School of Medicine
  - Upon joining EU, could no longer accredit schools outside of UK

# ACCREDITATION

## *Nederlands-Vlaamse Accreditatieorganisatie/NVAO* (Accreditation Organization of the Netherlands and Flanders)

- 2015: Saba
- Bonaire (effective date unclear)

## Accreditation Commission on Colleges of Medicine/ACCM

- Founded 1995
- Based in Ireland
- 1997: St. Maarten first Caribbean country to require ACCM accreditation
- 2007: Cayman Islands, Nevis, Saba, St. Maarten
- 2015: Aruba, St. Kitts

# ACCREDITATION: CAAM-HP

## Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and Other Health Professions/CAAM-HP

- 2004: formally established under aegis of Caribbean Community/CARICOM
  - CARICOM: economic and political affiliation of 15 full member states & 5 associate member states
  - 13 member states are signatories to the Inter-governmental Agreement
- Set up to fill the void created when the GMC discontinued overseas accreditation
- Functions to accredit degree level programmes in medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, nursing and other health professions
- Funded primarily from member states
- Headquarters in Jamaica

# ACCREDITATION: CAAM-HP

## Signatory countries

- Antigua and Barbuda
- Bahamas
- Barbados
- Belize
- Dominica
- Grenada
- Guyana
- Jamaica
- St. Kitts and Nevis
- St. Lucia
- St. Vincent and the Grenadines
- Suriname
- Trinidad and Tobago

# ACCREDITATION: CAAM-HP

## Membership comprised of representatives of:

- universities
- students
- civil society
- professional associations
- external professionals

## Objectives

- To achieve and maintain standards of excellence in health education programmes;
- To establish an efficient system of regulation in relation to the standards and quality of such programmes;
- To secure international recognition of such programmes;
- To maintain the confidence of the peoples of the region in the quality of training offered in the region.

# ACCREDITATION: CAAM-HP

## Accreditation system

- Similar to the **LCME's**;
- Functions with a clear authoritative mandate;
- Operates independently of governments and institutions;
- Uses predefined profession-specific standards and transparent procedures.

## Accreditation standards

- Institutional setting
- Students
- Educational programme
- Faculty
- Educational resources

# ACCREDITATION: CAAM-HP

## The Standards

- Incorporate regional circumstances and international standards
- Written to give assurance of the quality of training
  - However, graduates must meet standards for independent practice

# ACCREDITATION: CAAM-HP

## Essentially, accreditation asks:

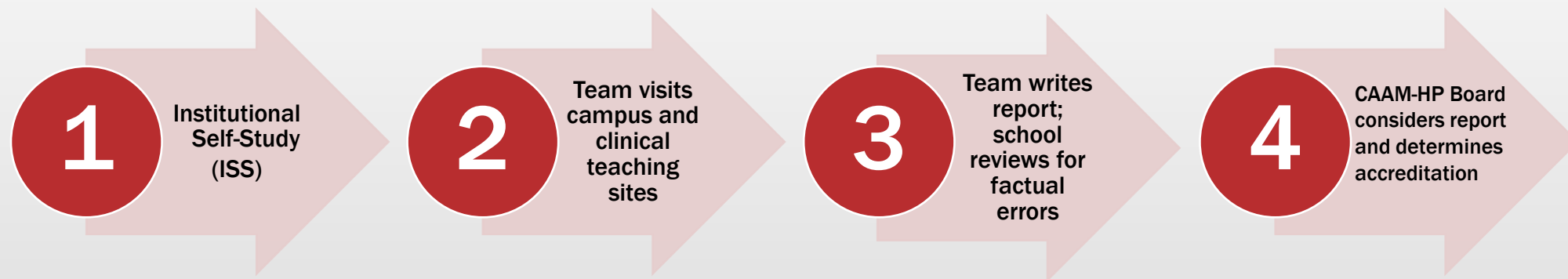
- What are the programme's objectives?
- Has the institution achieved those objectives?
- What is the evidence?

## General aims of the process:

- To certify the quality of a programme;
- To promote institutional self-evaluation and improvement;
- To assure stakeholders of the qualifications of graduates.

# ACCREDITATION: CAAM-HP

## General steps in the process



# ACCREDITATION: CAAM-HP

## Notification of Accreditation Determination

- Schools notified by letter
- Member states notified through CARICOM
- CAAM-HP publishes accreditation determinations, but not site visit report

## STATES OF ACCREDITATION

### SCHOOLS WITH ACCREDITED PROGRAMMES

- Accreditation Granted
- Accreditation Extended
- Probation
- Accreditation Withdrawn

### SCHOOLS SEEKING ACCREDITATION FOR THE FIRST TIME

- Candidacy (*Granted; Withdrawn; Denied; Refusal to Consider*)
- Provisional Accreditation Granted
- Accreditation Granted
- Accreditation Denied
- Refusal to Consider for Accreditation

# ACCREDITATION: CAAM-HP

## ACCREDITATION EXERCISES

**Site visits:** over 50 visits to more than 20 institutions in 16 countries

### Sample of institutions visited

- The University of the West Indies
- University of Guyana
- University of Science, Arts & Technology
- Avalon University School of Medicine
- Xavier University School of Medicine
- Saint James School of Medicine
- Instituto Tecnológico de Santo Domingo
- Caribbean Medical University
- St George's University School of Medicine
- Ross University School of Medicine
- American University of Antigua College of Medicine
- Spartan Health Sciences University School of Medicine
- Windsor University School of Medicine
- Trinity Medical Sciences University School of Medicine
- International American University College of Medicine

# ACCREDITATION: CAAM-HP

## ACCREDITATION EXERCISES

- CAAM-HP's reach goes beyond CARICOM to include Aruba, Curacao and the Dominican Republic
- In addition to site visits is the **evaluation of proposals for the establishment of new schools** and annual monitoring of progression

## Virtual Site Visits

- CAAM-HP working group established to develop guidelines and policy

# ACCREDITATION: CAAM-HP

## DEVELOPMENT OF STANDARDS FOR OTHER HEALTH PROFESSIONS

- Dental Medicine
- Veterinary Medicine
- Nursing
- Human Nutrition & Dietetics

## WORKSHOPS & WEBINARS; CONSULTANCY

# ACCREDITATION: CAAM-HP

## INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

CAAM-HP has membership with:

- International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE)
- Caribbean Area Network for Quality Assurance in Tertiary Education (CANQATE)
- Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA)
- CHEA International Quality Group (CIQG)

CAAM-HP participates in meetings of:

- Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB)
- Administrators in Medicine (AIM)
- Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG)

# ACCREDITATION: CAAM-HP

## INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

CAAM-HP achieved:

- Formal recognition from the **UK Government**, January 2008
- International Recognition, May 2012 – **WFME/FAIMER Recognition Team**

## CONFERENCES

## NCFMEA COMPARABILITY DETERMINATIONS

Successful determinations made for

- Antigua
- Jamaica
- Grenada
- Barbados
- St Vincent & the Grenadines

# Accreditation: Implications for Licensure

# ACCREDITATION: IMPLICATIONS FOR LICENSURE

## WORLD FEDERATION FOR MEDICAL EDUCATION

Primary goal enhance medical education worldwide

- Development of medical education standards
- Databases on medical education
- Recognizes accrediting bodies

CARICOM recognized accrediting bodies

- CAAM-HP (until March 2023)
- ACCM (until December 2026)
- NVAO (until November 2028)

Currently applying for WFME recognition

- Grenada Medical and Dental Council

# ACCREDITATION: IMPLICATIONS FOR LICENSURE

## WORLD DIRECTORY OF MEDICAL SCHOOLS/WDMS

Medical schools by country

- Type of school
- 1<sup>st</sup> year of instruction
- Operational status
- Contact information
- Program details
- Sponsor notes
- Listing in WDMS does not grant accreditation/recognition

# ACCREDITATION: IMPLICATIONS FOR LICENSURE

## WORLD DIRECTORY OF MEDICAL SCHOOLS/WDMS

**World Directory of Medical Schools**

Home About Sponsors Subscription Search

[Home](#) > [Search](#) > School Details [New Search](#)

### American University of Antigua College of Medicine

Antigua and Barbuda

School Details Contact Information **Program Details** Sponsor Notes

Current Programs

- Qualification Title: Doctor of Medicine (M.D.)
- Year Instruction Began: 2004
- Curriculum Last Revised: 2017
- Curriculum Duration: 4.5 years
- Language of Instruction: English
- Prerequisite Education: Admission follows completion of an undergraduate degree.
- Foreign Students: Foreign students are admitted
- Genders Admitted: Both men and women are admitted
- Entrance Exam: An entrance exam is required

Enrollment: Counts of new students admitted to the program and those who graduated, as reported by the school, are displayed below. "N/A" indicates that no data are available for that year.

Year	Admitted	Graduated
2019	519	216
2018	467	272
2017	523	313

FAIMER SCHOOL ID: F0000993

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School Details Contact Information **Program Details** Sponsor Notes

Current Programs

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# ACCREDITATION: IMPLICATIONS FOR LICENSURE

## WORLD DIRECTORY OF MEDICAL SCHOOLS/WDMS

**World Directory of Medical Schools**

Home About Sponsors Subscription Search

Home > Search > School Details New Search

**American University of Antigua College of Medicine**

Antigua and Barbuda

School Details Contact Information Program Details **Sponsor Notes**

The information below has been provided by the World Directory's sponsoring organizations.

**Canada**

- Unless indicated otherwise, Medical degrees obtained from this medical school are acceptable to the provincial/territorial medical regulatory authorities in Canada, and therefore acceptable to all medical organizations in Canada. For more information about the acceptable medical schools as defined in the Model Standards for Medical Registration in Canada [click here](#).
- À moins d'avis contraire, les diplômes de médecine de cette faculté de médecine sont acceptables aux ordres des médecins dans les provinces et territoires du Canada, et par conséquent acceptables à toute autre organisation au Canada qui œuvre dans le domaine médical. Pour plus d'information au sujet des facultés de médecine acceptables, telles que définies dans les normes modèles pour l'inscription médicale au Canada, [cliquez ici](#).

**Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG), United States of America**

- Students and graduates of this medical school are eligible to apply to ECFMG for ECFMG Certification and for examination, provided that:
  - For medical school students officially enrolled in this school, the graduation years are listed below as "current".
  - For graduates of this medical school, their graduation year is included in the graduation years listed below.

Graduation Years:  
2004 - Current

FAIMER SCHOOL ID: F0000993

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Graduation Years:  
2004 - Current

# ACCREDITATION: IMPLICATIONS FOR LICENSURE

## USA

### Liaison Committee on Medical Education

- Accrediting body for medical schools in US and Canada

### Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates/ECFMG

- Evaluates readiness of doctors educated outside of USA and Canada
- Review of medical education
  - Eligibility requirements in WDMS
  - Medical school accreditation
- 2024: student or graduate of school accredited by WFME recognized accrediting body
  - Can apply for certification if school is accredited at time of application
  - May not be eligible if school is still in accreditation process
  - May not be eligible if school's accrediting body is still WFME recognition process
  - May not be eligible if school loses accreditation or if transfer to non-accredited school

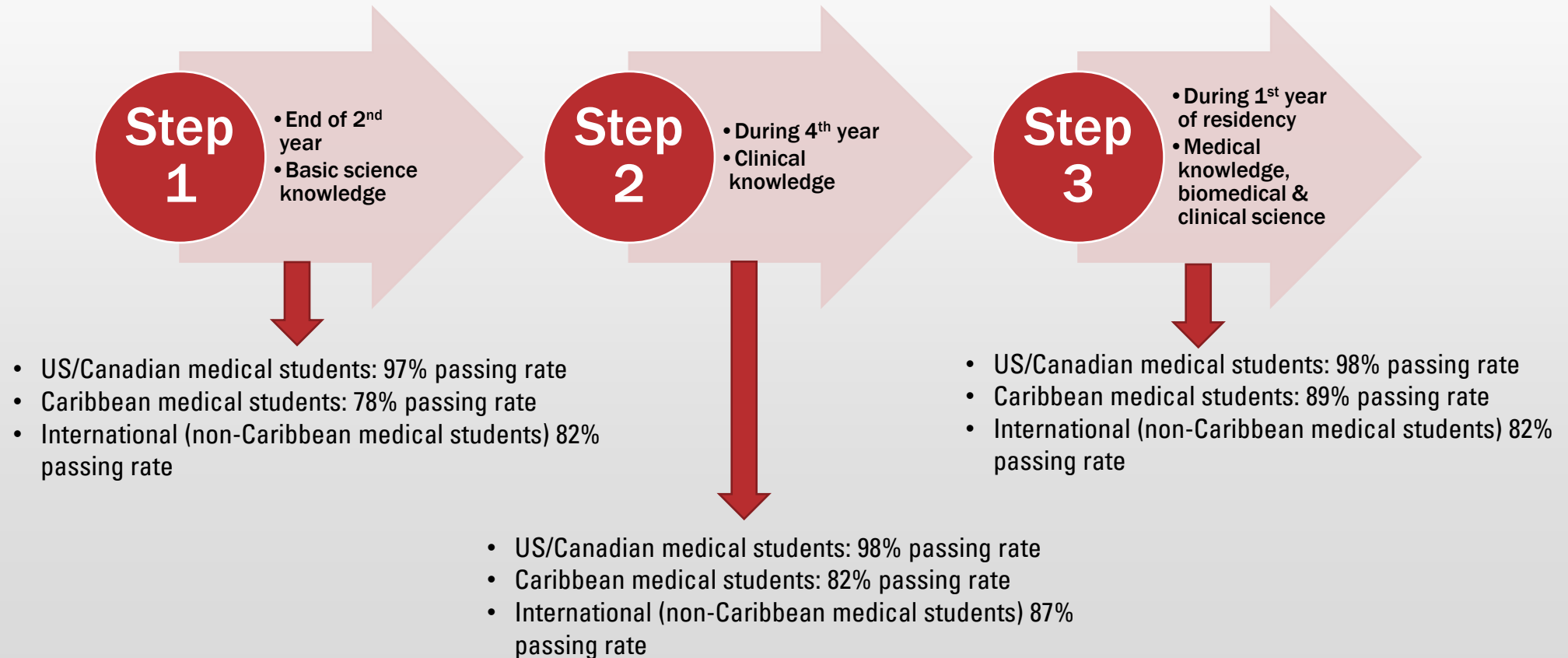
# ACCREDITATION: IMPLICATIONS FOR LICENSURE

## USA

- Must pass United States Medical License Exam/USMLE Step 1 and Step 2 CK
- ECFMG certification required to take USMLE Step 3
- Pass English proficiency examination (TOEFL, IELTS, etc.)
- Passing USMLE Step 3 required to apply for residency positions

# ACCREDITATION: IMPLICATIONS FOR LICENSURE

## UNITED STATES MEDICAL LICENSING EXAMINATION/USMLE



# ACCREDITATION: IMPLICATIONS FOR LICENSURE

## CANADA

### Medical Council of Canada/Le Conseil Médical du Canada

- Medical Council of Canada Qualifying Examination
  - Required to obtain Licentiate of the Medical Council of Canada
    - Required to apply for medical doctor licensure
  - Medical degree from
    - school listed in WDMS at time of program completion or
    - Canadian or US medical school accredited by Liaison Committee on Medical Education or Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools
  - Canada Sponsor Note on WDMS institution list
  - Certain medical schools may be acceptable during defined periods

# ACCREDITATION: IMPLICATIONS FOR LICENSURE

## UNITED KINGDOM

### General Medical Council/GMA

- Must hold “acceptable overseas qualification”
  - Institution listed in the World Directory of Medical Schools
  - May consider qualifications awarded by closed institutions or countries not recognized by United Nations
- Will not accept qualifications awarded from these countries based on “previous assessments against our (GMC) criteria”

Belize: St. Matthew’s University School of Medicine, Grace University School of Medicine

Curaçao: Avalon University School of Medicine, Caribbean Medical University

St. Lucia: Atlantic University School of Medicine, St. Mary’s Medical School, Spartan Health Sciences University (enrollment beginning December 21, 2008 or earlier)

# ACCREDITATION: IMPLICATIONS FOR LICENSURE

## INDIA

### National Medical Commission of India

- Growing number of medical schools in Caribbean founded by Indian nationals
- Must pass Foreign Medical Graduates Examination/FMGE
  - Medical school must be listed in World Directory of Medical Schools
  - Registration with state medical council for registration upon passing
  - 2022: replaced for National Exit Test/NExT
    - Must take examinations within 2 years of completing medical school

# Accreditation: Implications for Credentials Evaluation

# ACCREDITATION: IMPLICATIONS FOR CREDENTIALS EVALUATION

## Unaccredited schools

- Never accredited
- Accredited, but lost accreditation

## Schools operating before CAAM-HP, ACCM or NVAO accreditation required

- Local accreditation in place?
- Local accreditation acceptable?

## Provisional / conditional accreditation

- Acceptable?

# Resources

# Resources

Accreditation Commission Colleges of Medicine/ACCM

<https://www.accredmed.org>

Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and Other Health Professions/CAAM-HP

<https://www.caam-hp.org>

*Nederlands-Vlaamse Accreditatieorganisatie/NVAO* (Accreditation Organization of the Netherlands and Flanders)

<https://www.nvao.net/en>

World Directory of Medical Schools

<https://www.wdoms.org>

# Resources

World Federation for Medical Education <https://wfme.org/>

Educational Commission on Foreign Medical Graduates <https://ecfm.org/>

ECFMG certification fact sheet <https://ecfm.org/forms/certfact.pdf>

ECFMG medical school accreditation <https://www.ecfm.org/accreditation/>

National Medical Commission of India <https://www.nmc.org.in/>

Medical Council of Canada/Le Conseil Médical du Canada <https://mcc.ca/>

Liaison Committee on Medical Education <https://lcme.org/>

# Resources

Pathway to medical licensure in the US <https://www.fsmb.org/siteassets/usmle-step3/pdfs/pathway-to-licensure.pdf>

*AACRAO White Paper on Off-Shore Medical Schools in the Caribbean*  
[https://www.aacrao.org/docs/default-source/international\\_docs/papers/off-shore-medical-schools-in-the-caribbean-final-\(print\).pdf?sfvrsn=1c4207f8\\_2](https://www.aacrao.org/docs/default-source/international_docs/papers/off-shore-medical-schools-in-the-caribbean-final-(print).pdf?sfvrsn=1c4207f8_2)

*A Guide for International Medical and Dental Graduates Thinking About Working or Training in the UK*  
[https://www.nhsemployers.org/sites/default/files/media/Working-and-training-in-NHS-2021\\_0.pdf](https://www.nhsemployers.org/sites/default/files/media/Working-and-training-in-NHS-2021_0.pdf)

*“It’s Tough to Get Out: How Caribbean Medical Schools Fail Their Students”* New York Times, June 29, 2021 <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/06/29/health/caribbean-medical-school.html>

# THANK YOU!

Contact us:

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