

PROPOSED, REVISED TEXT

P10.05.040. Eligibility for the WWAMI Medical Education Program.

- A. The criteria for eligibility for the WWAMI Medical Education Program will be as set out in this section.
- B. An applicant will meet the eligibility if the applicant has physically resided in the State of Alaska for the immediate past two years ending on September 1 of the year before the participant begins classes in the WWAMI program with the intent to continue residing in Alaska indefinitely.
- C. The WWAMI Program Eligibility Committee will consider the evidence of eligibility and will determine whether the applicant has met eligibility requirements as defined in Alaska Administrative Code eligibility requirements for Alaska WWAMI. The applicant will bear the burden of proving that the eligibility requirements have been met

(09-19-08)

ORIGINAL TEXT

P10.05.040. Residence Eligibility for the WWAMI Medical Education Program.

- A. The criteria for residence eligibility for the WWAMI Medical Education Program will be as set out in this section.
- B. An applicant will meet the residence eligibility if the applicant has continuously resided in the State of Alaska for the immediate past two years with the intent to continue residing in Alaska indefinitely.
- C. An applicant who does not meet the residence eligibility requirements for admission to the WWAMI Program at the time of application will be deemed to meet them if the applicant will, in fact, meet the residence eligibility requirements prior to the first day of instruction in the program for the year in which the applicant seeks admission.
- D. The WWAMI Program Residence Eligibility Committee will consider the evidence of residence submitted with the applicant's application, and will determine whether the applicant has met the residence eligibility requirements. The applicant will bear the burden of proving that the residence eligibility requirement is met.
- E. The president will, upon application made within three weeks of an adverse ruling by the committee, consider the granting of a special exception to the residence eligibility requirements as defined herein above. The special exception will be granted by the president upon a showing, satisfactory to the president or president's designee, that the applicant ought to be considered to be a bona fide Alaska resident. An applicant granted a special exception to the residence eligibility requirement will be deemed a resident only for the purposes of the pending application, and subject to such limitations as may be imposed by the president.

(04-17-98)

CHAPTER 19. FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE WWAMI PROGRAM.

20 AAC 19.010. Purpose of WWAMI program. The Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, Idaho (WWAMI) program provides access to medical education not otherwise available to qualifying Alaskans. Residents of this state compete only with other residents of this state for the positions reserved at the University of Washington School of Medicine through this state's participation in the WWAMI program. This state participates in the WWAMI program to address state health care needs by training physicians and allied health professionals, advancing knowledge, and assuming leadership in the fields of biomedical sciences and academic medicine. For the residents of this state who participate in the WWAMI program, this state pays the educational costs of the program that are not covered by tuition. A participant who does not return to the state and become employed in the medical field for which the support was provided under this chapter must repay the state a portion of the costs in the amount of the tuition differential between a resident and nonresident University of Washington School of Medicine student. (Eff. 10/23/99, Register 152; am 7/12/2008, Register 187)

Authority: AS 14.42.030 AS 14.43.510

20 AAC 19.020. Application requirements. An applicant for participation in the WWAMI program must

- (1) apply and be accepted for admission to the University of Washington School of Medicine;
- (2) meet the eligibility requirement set out in 20 AAC 19.030; and
- (3) agree under AS 14.43.510 to repay the financial support provided under this chapter. (Eff. 10/23/99, Register 152; am 7/12/2008, Register 187)

Authority: AS 14.42.030 AS 14.43.510

20 AAC 19.030. Eligibility requirement. (a) A participant in the WWAMI program must maintain at all times an intent to return to this state upon completion of the program, and

- (1) have physically resided in this state for at least two consecutive years ending with September 1 of the year before the participant begins class in the WWAMI program; or

- (2) if not physically present in this state for the time period required under (1) of this section,

- (A) have been absent due to the applicant's, or the applicant's spouse's status as a full-time student outside of this state and have physically resided in this state for at least two consecutive years immediately before the absence;

(B) have been absent due to full-time service in the United States armed forces and have physically resided in this state;

(C) have been absent due to full-time volunteer service in the Peace Corps and have physically resided in this state for at least two consecutive years immediately before the absence; or

(D) have been absent due to full-time engagement or employment in an experiential learning position that the Alaska WWAMI Admissions Committee determines to be directly relevant to the field of medicine and have physically resided in this state for at least two consecutive years immediately before the absence.

(b) For purposes of whether absences are allowable as described in this section, a participant may not have taken any action to establish residence in another state. (Eff. 10/23/99, Register 152; am 7/12/2008, Register 187)

Authority: AS 14.42.030 AS 14.43.510

20 AAC 19.040. Employment obligation. (a) To qualify for forgiveness of a repayment obligation under AS 14.43.510, a participant in the WWAMI program must

- (1) provide a copy of the participant's Alaska medical license or residency permit;
- (2) provide proof of full-time employment that meets the qualifications set out in AS 14.43.510;
- (3) provide certification on a form obtained from the commission that the participant has satisfied the requirements for forgiveness benefits set out in AS 14.43.510 and this section;
- (4) repealed 7/12/2008.

(b) For purposes of this section, "full-time employment" means employment as a physician for at least 1,830 hours per year in the health care profession, including call and patient care.

(c) In order to qualify for a prorated forgiveness benefit as provided for in AS 14.43.510(e), a participant must have previously earned at least one year of forgiveness benefit.

(d) A participant who is engaged in qualifying employment in both rural and non-rural service areas in a single service year will receive the forgiveness percent based upon the service area in which the majority of the participant's employment occurred.

(e) A participant who has engaged in qualifying employment in both rural and non-rural service areas and has remaining forgiveness-qualifying debt of less than 20 percent of the total debt obligation must perform an additional prorated period of service to receive a full discharge of the loan obligation.

(f) Nothing in this section authorizes the refunding of any repayment of the loan or forgiveness of an amount that is already due and payable by the participant.
(Eff. 10/23/99, Register 152; am 7/12/2008, Register 187)

Authority: AS 14.43.510

20 AAC 19.050. Required notification. Within 30 days after the change, a participant in the WWAMI program shall report in writing to the commission any change that affects the conditions of a repayment obligation or a repayment schedule, including

- (1) change of name, address, or state residency status;
- (2) graduation, withdrawal, leave of absence, or dismissal from the University of Washington School of Medicine;
- (3) inability to make payments as scheduled; and
- (4) termination or change in employment status that would affect eligibility for forgiveness benefits under AS 14.43.510. (Eff. 10/23/99, Register 152)

Authority: AS 14.42.030 AS 14.43.510

20 AAC 19.060. Repayment. (a) A participant in the WWAMI program shall repay the total amount required to be repaid under AS 14.43.510 in monthly installments over a period of not more than 15 years from commencement of the repayment obligation

(b) Procedures contained in 20 AAC 15.960(b) and (c) apply to payments on a repayment obligation under this chapter.

(c) If the participant requests and economic hardship is shown, the commission staff shall extend the payment period of a repayment obligation for an additional period of up to five years. Standards contained in 20 AAC 15.960(d) apply to determine economic hardship under this section. The participant must apply for an economic hardship extension on a form obtained from the commission, along with supporting documentation as required. The commission staff shall advise a participant of the increased costs associated with the extension of the repayment period.

(d) A repayment obligation is considered in default, and is accelerated and due in full, if

- (1) a payment is 180 or more days past due;
- (2) the participant fails to comply with the applicable required notifications contained in 20 AAC 19.050; or
- (3) the participant has falsified any information on the application or information required under AS 14.43 or this chapter.

(e) For the purpose of AS 14.43.510, the commission will consider a participant to have terminated studies if the participant is dismissed, takes a leave of absence, or withdraws from the University of Washington School of Medicine. If the participant resumes studies in the WWAMI program after a leave of absence, the person will no longer be

considered to have terminated studies and interest accrual on the repayment obligation ceases at the time the participant resumes studies. (Eff. 10/23/99, Register 152)

Authority: AS 14.42.030 AS 14.43.510

20 AAC 19.065. Forbearance for suspension of medical education program. If an administrator of a medical education program approves a suspension of the medical education program before a participant's completion or termination of study under the program, that participant will not be considered to have terminated the program of study and the commission will forbear the participant's repayment and service obligations. This period of forbearance will not be considered part of the repayment period. (Eff. 2/20/2005, Register 173)

Authority: AS 14.42.030 AS 14.43.510

20 AAC 19.070. Deferment of payments and forbearance of the repayment and service obligation. (a) In order to obtain a deferment of payments or forbearance of the repayment and service obligation under AS 14.43.510, a participant must complete a form obtained from the commission, provide supporting documentation evidencing the participant's eligibility for the requested deferment or forbearance, and accept the terms of the deferment agreement or forbearance agreement. Until the request for deferment or forbearance is approved, the participant's original repayment terms continue in effect.

(b) Within 30 days of a change that would affect the participant's eligibility for the deferment or forbearance, a participant who has received a deferment or forbearance under AS 14.43.510 shall notify the commission in writing of the change.

(c) For purposes of deferment under AS 14.43.510(c)(1), a participant enrolled in a medical education residency program required for the participant's specialty field of practice is considered to be continuing the participant's medical education program. (Eff. 10/23/99, Register 152; am 2/20/2005, Register 173)

Authority: AS 14.42.030 AS 14.43.510

20 AAC 19.080. Deferment due to total disability. (a) A participant in the WWAMI program seeking deferment of repayment obligation based on total disability shall submit a request on a form obtained from the commission.

(b) A physician's certificate of total disability under AS 14.43.510 must certify that

- (1) the physician practices within the medical field covering the disability;
- (2) the physician has examined the participant within two months of the date of the certificate;

(3) the physician is licensed to practice medicine in the state where the examination took place; and

(4) subsequent to the date that the participant last received financial support under the WWAMI program, the participant is totally disabled because the participant became unable due to the disability to be gainfully employed for at least six months; the physician must state in the certificate the estimated duration of the total disability.

(c) If a period of total disability exceeds one year, the participant must annually submit a certificate that meets the requirements of (b) of this section. This subsection does not apply if the participant submits a certificate from the physician that meets the requirement of (b) of this section and the physician additionally certifies that the disability is expected to be permanent to a reasonable degree of medical certainty.

(d) If the participant seeks a deferment for a condition that existed while the commission provided financial support through the WWAMI program on behalf of the participant, the physician must additionally certify that the participant's condition has substantially deteriorated since the financial support was provided. (Eff. 10/23/99, Register 152)

Authority: AS 14.42.030 AS 14.43.510

20 AAC 19.090. Complaints and appeals. (a) The commission will only accept and decide a complaint or an appeal of a decision of, or the WWAMI program administration by, the commission. Procedures contained in 20 AAC 15.915 apply to a complaint or an appeal filed under this subsection.

(b) The commission will not accept a complaint or an appeal concerning admission to or administration of the University of Washington School of Medicine relating to the WWAMI program. (Eff. 10/23/99, Register 152)

Authority: AS 14.42.030 AS 14.43.510

20 AAC 19.900. Definitions. In this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires,

(1) "commission" means the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education;

(2) "full-time student" has the meaning given in 20 AAC 15.990;

(3) "participant" means a person participating in the WWAMI program under this chapter;

(4) "WWAMI program" means the Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, Idaho program described in 20 AAC 19.010. (Eff. 10/23/99, Register 152)

Authority: AS 15.14.030 AS 14.43.510