

U.S. Department of Education

Staff Analysis of the Report
Submitted by

Mexico

Prepared July 2009

Background

At its spring 2007 meeting, the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation (NCFMEA) determined that Mexico's medical accreditation entity the Consejo Mexicano para la Accreditation de la Educacion Medica, A.C. (COMAEM or agency) used accreditation standards and evaluation procedures for medical schools comparable to those used in the United States.

In addition, the NCFMEA requested that COMAEM provide a report for review at its fall 2009 meeting on the country's accrediting activities from 2007 to 2009, along with clarification on the status of 24 unaccredited medical education programs within the country.

Summary of Findings

Based on its review of the report submitted by the Mexican Board for the Accreditation of Medical Education, Department staff concludes that the country has provided the information requested by the NCFMEA.

The agency has informed the Department that it is in the process of developing new standards in the area of bioethics research and the humane treatment of animals. The agency has also reported that it is developing a new model for evaluating compliance with its standards; the new model evaluates compliance with 179 quality indicators. The agency did not provide the Department with any documentation regarding the new standards or the new evaluation model. As these significant events may impact the continued comparability of the country's medical accreditation system, the NCFMEA may want to request that COMAEM provide it with a report on COMAEM's progress concerning these significant activities.

Staff Analysis

With respect to COMAEM's accrediting activities Mexico provided the following information:

Current Status of Medical Schools

COMAEM reports that there are a total of 80 medical education programs eligible for accreditation. As of June 15, 2009 it has accredited a total of 52 medical programs. Eight programs have had preliminary reviews or are in an evaluation process. Accreditation terms end for programs in June 2009, July 2009, October 2009, and September 2009. Three programs are involved in the reaffirmation process while thirteen are not accredited. Three have experienced unfavorable site evaluations.

Overview of accreditation activities

The agency reported that in January, Dr. Irene Durante joined COMAEM and Dr. Arturo E Rojas was appointed as its Secretary. It also reported that during the review period, March 2007 to March 2009, it conducted fifteen decision meetings and three meetings to review its accreditation standards.

Laws and Regulations

COMAEM reports that since the revisions made in the law in 2004 and 2005 that were reported to the NCFMEA at its spring 2007 meeting, there have been no changes in the country's laws and regulations governing the accreditation of medical programs in Mexico. The agency also conducted decision meetings in May and June 2009.

Standards, Processes and Procedure

COMAEM reports that it is developing standards and an evaluation process for research and bioethics care. The standards focus on the characteristics of animal care that is consistent with the country's educational model, and COMAEM is in the process of obtaining certification from the Mexican Agriculture Office.

The agency also reports that it is developing a new evaluation model consisting of quality indicators used to assess compliance with its standards. The model has seven sections, sixty standards, and 179 indicators.

Schedule of upcoming accreditation activities

The agency reported that it will be conducting three site visits to medical programs during 2009, one of which is for reaffirmation.

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