

Med School receives continued accreditation

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The University of Nevada School of Medicine has earned another seven years of accreditation from the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME). The LCME survey team found that "Dean Daugherty has provided outstanding leadership and direction and ability to move the institution forward" and "he is leading his institution in a direction to be able to have appropriate educational experiences for medical students in the changing milieu of health care reform."

The committee also found that the students were positive about the support services the school provides. The team noted that, because of the small class size and faculty who make themselves very accessible, students also can seek out advice and tutoring from the faculty. Faculty members also assess the cognitive and non-cognitive skills of each student, "which encourages them to get to know each student extremely well and to be knowledgeable about his or her academic performance."

Students also reported they were satisfied with the content of the curriculum and the "workload is challenging yet possible."

The committee commended the school on being able to function as a "coherent unit" in spite of the distance between the Reno and Las Vegas campuses. Committee

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members were impressed with the faculty's commitment, which requires frequent travel between the two campuses in addition to their heavy teaching loads.

Another area of praise was the scientific accomplishments of the faculty. "The extraordinary scientific productivity of the basic science faculty and their willingness to have medical students work in their labs suggests adequate time for teaching and some outstanding research."

The committee went on to say "The objectives appear appropriate to the school's mission, which is to help meet the needs for primary care physicians and the long-term health care needs of the state of Nevada."

Not all of the report was glowing. Concerns were expressed about the financial base for the school, which they found to be "marginally adequate for the educational programs. The school faces challenges similar to other medical schools in terms of competing for health care dollars and relating to changing health care delivery market."

High on their list of concerns was the school's medical library, which they found to be "quite small, with only three professional staff and a small budget, which has been almost flat in terms of growth. Space is limited, and has decreased in order to provide a computer lab for anatomy teaching. The library ranks 137 out of 140 medical school libraries in terms of journal subscriptions." The survey team felt it needs dramatic strengthening in order to serve properly the mission of the school.

Another concern was a lack of a "distinctive physical presence for the school in Las Vegas," a concern the dean shares as he strives to obtain funding for a building on land donated to the school by the city of Las Vegas.