

# **Western Atlantic University School of Medicine, The Bahamas**

## ***Provisional Accreditation***

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### **July 2024 Determination: *Provisional Accreditation***

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The Report of the March 2024 Clinical Site Visit to St Anthony Hospital as well as the June 2024 progress report were presented to the CAAM-HP at its meeting held July 22-23, 2024. Both reports were accepted and the following areas of concern were highlighted:

- Quality of students admitted
- Performance of the at-risk students at the end of year 2 (M1-M2) on Step 1 at the end of M3
- Daily census of patients and number of students in rotation – students may get inadequate patient exposure

After careful consideration of the reports, the Board decided to offer WAUSM Provisional Accreditation, while strongly urging the School to put in place a remedial programme for students admitted with low or no MCAT scores and to monitor closely the progress of at-risk students, in order to mitigate against slow throughput rates and high attrition. The Board looks forward to receiving evidence of the outcome of these interventions in subsequent annual progress reports.

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### **January 2024 Update**

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The CAAM-HP at its meeting held January 24, 2024, considered the report of the focussed site visit which took place on November 14, 2023.

The Board accepted the report and, while acknowledging the progress made by WAUSM, noted the concerns about the quality of clinical education envisaged by the school at sites in Florida. The Board directed that the school prepare for an assessment visit to the St Anthony Hospital as well as to the Larkin Hospital and the Miami Mission Clinic as soon as possible. Those students who are about to begin their clinical rotation could still meet the 2024 Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates' (ECFMG) deadline of graduating from an accredited school, if WAUSM would quickly implement all the recommendations emerging from the proposed site visits and thereby qualify for provisional accreditation.

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### **July 2023 Update**

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The 2023 Progress Report from Western Atlantic University School of Medicine was presented to CAAM-HP at its Annual General Meeting held July 19-20, 2023. The Authority, in considering the progress report, acknowledged the positive steps taken in addressing some of the concerns

arising from the November 2021 site visit but expressed deep concern that some major issues identified still remain.

The Authority is hopeful that these concerns can be resolved **before** the current student cohort embarks on its clinical training, if the school makes the effort to follow the recommendations.

Once these issues are met, the Secretariat will arrange for a verification site visit.

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## **July 2022 Update**

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The 2022 Progress Report from Western Atlantic University School of Medicine (WAUSM) was presented to the CAAM-HP at its Annual General Meeting held July 25-26, 2022. The Authority accepted the report but noted that it would have appreciated to have been advised when the first cohort of students was to be admitted pre-empting the completion of the site visit. The Authority expects to receive audited financial statements before or at the time of the next scheduled site visit.

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## **January 2022 Update**

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A CAAM-HP survey team visited the campus of Western Atlantic University School of Medicine (WAUSM) in The Bahamas, November 3-4, 2021. In its deliberations the board members expressed deep concerns about some issues.

The school was asked to provide certain information by February 4, 2022. Failure to comply would pose a threat to the school's Candidacy status.

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## **September 2021 Update**

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The 2021 Progress Report from Western Atlantic University School of Medicine (WAUSM) was presented to the CAAM-HP at its Annual General Meeting held September 22-23, 2021. The Board of the Authority noted, with satisfaction, the progress made by WAUSM in preparing to receive its first cohort of students in January 2022. However, the Board asked to be advised of the full staff complement by December 30, 2021. The CAAM-HP Secretariat will arrange a site visit to the new campus, in order to inspect the facilities to ensure that they will be ready for the start of operations in 2022. The progress report was accepted.

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**January 2021 Determination: *Candidacy for two years, 2021-2023***

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The Western Atlantic University School of Medicine (WAUSM) is being established in The Bahamas. CAAM-HP accorded Candidacy status in January 2021 following a review of the submission from the principals.