

INDEPENDENT STUDENT ANALYSIS

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Background: US Allopathic Medical School accreditation is completed by the Liaison Committee of Medical Education (LCME) and is reviewed every eight years after initial accreditation. Accreditation is important for maintaining educational standards, as well as obtaining federal funding, eligibility for standardized exams and residency applications, as well as graduate licensure. Part of this process includes completion of an Independent Student Analysis (ISA) which is created, administered, and analyzed by students without influence from school administration. The survey provides information about students perspectives covering several areas including student services, faculty relationships, learning environment, and the curriculum.

Objective: To create and administer a survey to medical students at the University of Colorado School of Medicine (CUSOM), analyze the results of the survey to gain insight into students perceptions and opinions of the school, and present findings to school administration, faculty, and LCME advisors.

Methods: A 252 question survey was developed using a previous CUSOM ISA survey from 2017 as a template. A total of 69 questions were required by the LCME. A four point likert scale was used to gauge student satisfaction with options ranging from “Very Dissatisfied” to “Very Satisfied” for the majority of survey items. An option of N/A was also provided to students with “No opportunity to assess/Have not experienced this”. A limited number of questions required yes/no responses. Focus groups and “town hall” sessions were done with students from all four years of the curriculum to develop survey items and pretest selected survey questions. Qualtrics online software was used to develop, distribute, administer, and gather results of the survey. The number of questions given to a student was dependent on their progress within the curriculum at the time of the survey. SPSS software was used to create tables of survey data and subsequent qualitative analysis was performed. Students were provided with either lunch or a small gift card for completing the survey.

Conclusions: Results were presented to school leadership, including deans, department chairs, Faculty Senate, and Medical Student Council throughout 2024. A final report was included in the Self Study provided by the school of medicine to the LCME for the site visit in March 2025. School leadership continues to work on clarifying, exploring, addressing concerns identified in the ISA. In the Fall of 2025 the University of Colorado School of Medicine was awarded full accreditation status by the LCME.