



ACPHS/WAUSM Accelerated Pathway to MD (APMD) Program

FAQ

What is the ACPHS/WAUSM Accelerated Pathway to MD (APMD)?

This innovative Accelerated Pathway to MD (APMD) is the first and only six-year accelerated pathway to medical school offered in upstate New York and one of only a handful offered in the US.

The APMD provides eligible [Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences](#) students with provisional admission to [Western Atlantic University School of Medicine's](#) MD Program, streamlining their journey from undergraduate studies directly to medical school.

Students will begin their bachelor's degree at ACPHS and, once all academic requirements are met, transition directly into WAUSM's MD Program where they will begin taking dual credit courses that apply to both their bachelor's and MD degrees, accelerating their timeline to practice while gaining access to personalized instruction, advanced clinical training, and a globally respected medical education. Students who successfully complete the pathway receive their bachelor's degree from ACPHS in the beginning of year three and their MD in year six from WAUSM.

Why did ACPHS and WAUSM partner to develop this accelerated pathway?

As part of ACPHS' strategic plan, ACPHS is growing its health sciences programs, and is committed to increasing opportunities for students to attend medical school. ACPHS' mission is to educate the next generation of healthcare leaders, and over the past five years the College is leading this charge - **ACPHS holds a nearly 80% acceptance rate for medical school students, compared to the national average of 40-41%.**

The pathway offers a great opportunity for international students as it is traditionally difficult for international students to gain acceptance into US allopathic medical schools. Based on a search on AAMC's Medical School Admissions Requirement database, only 43 US allopathic medical schools (MD granting institutions) accept applications from international students, and only a small fraction of those international applicants are accepted and matriculate into those institutions.

The Accelerated Pathway to MD also offers significant advantages for domestic students by streamlining and strengthening the journey to medical school. In addition to securing a conditional acceptance into WAUSM's MD Program during their undergraduate studies, domestic students benefit from the

opportunity to complete their bachelor's degree and begin medical training in a reduced overall timeframe. By eliminating the traditional application cycle - often a year or more of preparation, waiting, and expense - students save time and benefit from overall cost savings. This direct, efficient pathway not only accelerates students' progress toward becoming physicians but also makes the pursuit of an MD more financially accessible and predictable for motivated U.S. students. The pathway also allows domestic students to experience a unique study abroad opportunity, spending two years at WAUSM's campus in The Bahamas before completing two years of clinical medical rotations in the United States.

What benefits does the WAUSM/ACPHS accelerated pathway offer for students?

There are many compelling benefits for students who choose the ACPHS/WAUSM accelerated pathway for their medical education:

- **Proven academic outcomes:**
 - Over the past five years, ACPHS holds a nearly 80% acceptance rate for medical school students, compared to the national average of 40-41%
 - WAUSM's [reported outcomes](#) include a **100% first-time pass rate on the USMLE Step 1 and Step 2 in 2025**, a key milestone in medical education and a strong predictor of residency success. This reflects the strength of WAUSM's curriculum and student support
- **US-focused clinical training:**
 - Students in WAUSM's MD Program spend 50% of their training in U.S. teaching hospitals, gaining hands-on experience in the same clinical environments where they'll later apply for residency
 - This U.S.-based exposure is a major advantage for matching into U.S. residency programs
- **Where can WAUSM students do clerkships?**
 - WAUSM students can complete clerkships and electives in almost all states in the US and in The Bahamas. Some exceptions to this include New York, where they can complete up to 12 weeks, and New Jersey and Florida which have additional registration
 - WAUSM started its first class of students in 2022 and initiated an application for recognition by the New York State Education Department (NYSED) in 2023. At that time, the Program Reviewer, Ryan deOlde, advised WAUSM to wait until it had more data on student outcomes, such as retention and graduation rates, residency match rates, and other measures the NYSED considers evidence of an effective program. WAUSM currently has provisional accreditation through the Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and Other Health Professions (CAAM-HP) and will graduate its first class and apply for full accreditation in 2026. WAUSM intends to update, complete, and submit its application shortly after that.
- **Leadership with deep U.S. experience:**
 - WAUSM is led by seasoned medical educators who have trained more than 25,000 MDs over the course of their extensive careers

- Their experience and connections help shape a curriculum and mentorship model designed to guide students toward successful residency placement
- WAUSM's leadership is positioning students competitively for U.S. residencies by offering a U.S.-based clinical training program; maintaining WFME-recognized accreditation; and by individually supporting students through United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) prep and residency advising
- **Accreditation:**
 - WAUSM holds Provisional Accreditation from CAAM-HP, a recognized accrediting body under WFME
 - This status allows students to pursue ECFMG certification, take the USMLE, and apply for U.S. residency programs
- **Personalized support and selectivity:**
 - WAUSM students receive dedicated education, advisement and mentoring and are prepared to match into their specialties of choice
 - WAUSM emphasizes selectivity, accessibility, and affordability, offering merit scholarships and a holistic admissions process
 - Students benefit from small class sizes and individualized academic support
 - Students in this pathway will receive advisement and support from both ACPHS and WAUSM to ensure academic success
- **A balanced perspective:**
 - WAUSM students see attending a newer medical school as an opportunity to be part of a highly focused, innovative program with strong U.S. ties and leadership

Is Western Atlantic University School of Medicine Accredited?

Western Atlantic University School of Medicine (WAUSM) holds Provisional Accreditation from the Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and Other Health Professions (CAAM-HP). This accreditation status means WAUSM has met key standards and is actively progressing through the formal accreditation process.

Full accreditation will be awarded after WAUSM has graduated its inaugural class in Spring of 2026 and has demonstrated sustained compliance with CAAM-HP's rigorous standards. WAUSM's provisional accreditation status is the same process that U.S. MD and DO schools go through, in which the medical colleges are provisionally accredited and receive full accreditation when they graduate their first class. There are new U.S. medical schools going through this process right now.

CAAM-HP is a recognized accrediting body under The Caribbean Community (CARICOM - an organization of 21 Caribbean countries) and is widely acknowledged by international organizations such as the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME), which is important for U.S. licensure pathways.

Can WAUSM students apply for residency in the U.S. while WAUSM holds provisional accreditation from CAAM-HP?

Yes, because:

- CAAM-HP is recognized by the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME), which is a key requirement for U.S. residency eligibility under the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) guidelines.
- WAUSM is included in the [World Directory of Medical Schools](#) (WDOMS) with an ECFMG sponsor note, which means its students are eligible to pursue ECFMG certification, take the USMLE, and apply for U.S. residency programs.

Where can WAUSM graduates do residencies?

WAUSM graduates are eligible to do residencies in almost all states in the US. One exception to this is in New York, where the NYSED recognition referenced above would need to be in place first.

Where can WAUSM graduates get licensed?

WAUSM graduates will be eligible for licensure in all US states, though each state has its own requirements and some states require more than others. For example, New York requires that international medical graduates complete a minimum of three years of residency training. In some states, WAUSM graduates may need to have board certification or be licensed in another state first.