

**REPORT TO THE
DELAWARE HEALTH CARE COMMISSION**

**DELAWARE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH
DELAWARE INSTITUTE FOR DENTAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH
DELAWARE STATE LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM**

**STUDENT PARTICIPANT AND LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM
PARTICIPANT TRACKING REPORT**

Report Excerpt: DIMER

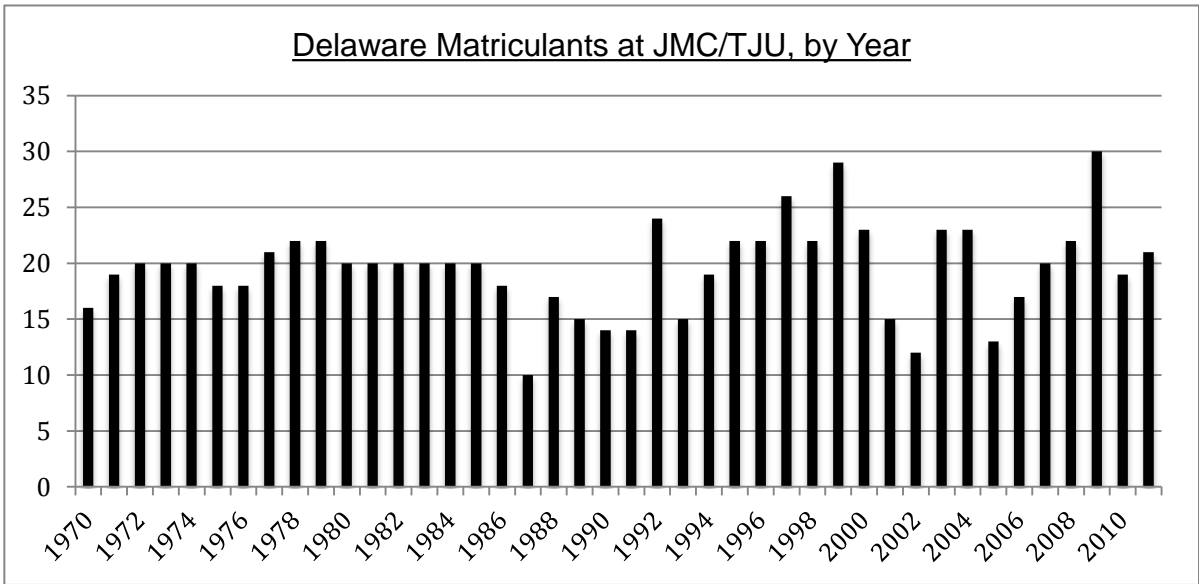
FINDINGS

The DIMER program has been in operation since 1970 with TJU and since 2000 with PCOM. The respective agreements commit to the admission of 20 qualified Delaware residents to TJU and 5 qualified Delaware residents to PCOM.

The actual experience of the number of matriculating students at each professional school is as follows:

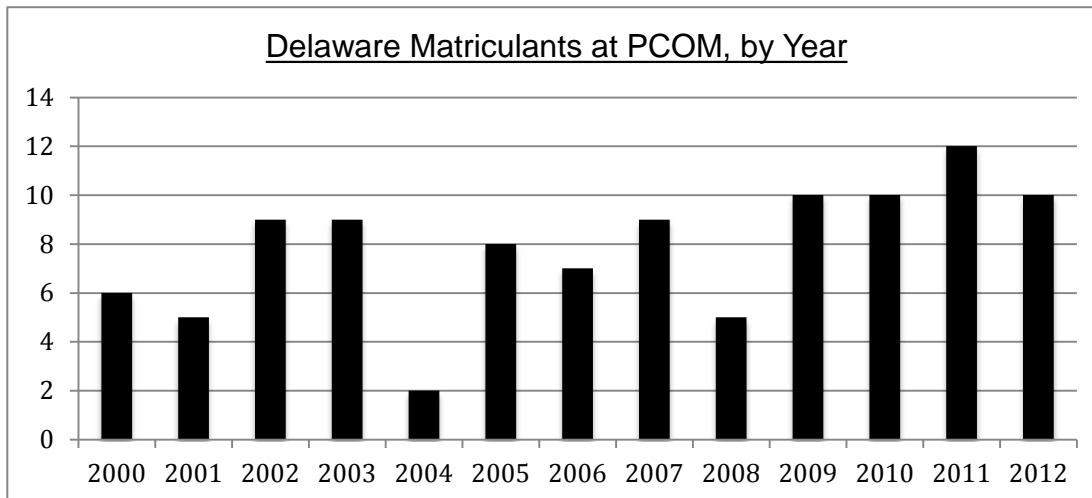
- In the 42 years since the beginning of the DIMER agreement with TJU, 821 Delaware residents matriculated at Jefferson Medical College. The range of Delaware matriculants in any single year was a low of 10 to a high of 30. In 25 of the years, the number equaled or exceeded 20.
- In the 13 years of the DIMER agreement with PCOM, 102 Delaware residents matriculated. The range was a low of 2 persons and a high of 12 persons. In all but one year, the number equaled or exceeded 5. Of note, since 2009, the number has been 10 or higher, twice the number agreed upon.

NUMBER OF MATRICULATING DELAWARE STUDENTS AT JEFFERSON MEDICAL COLLEGE - THOMAS JEFFERSON UNIVERSITY, BY ENTERING YEAR				
ENTERING YEAR	NUMBER		ENTERING YEAR	NUMBER
1970	16		1991	14
1971	19		1992	24
1972	20		1993	15
1973	20		1994	19
1974	20		1995	22
1975	18		1996	22
1976	18		1997	26
1977	21		1998	22
1978	22		1999	29
1979	22		2000	23
1980	20		2001	15
1981	20		2002	12
1982	20		2003	23
1983	20		2004	23
1984	20		2005	13
1985	20		2006	17
1986	18		2007	20
1987	10		2008	22
1988	17		2009	30
1989	15		2010	19
1990	14		2011	21



NUMBER OF MATRICULATING DELAWARE
STUDENTS AT PHILADELPHIA COLLEGE OF
OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE, BY ENTERING YEAR

ENTERING YEAR	NUMBER
2000	6
2001	5
2002	9
2003	9
2004	2
2005	8
2006	7
2007	9
2008	5
2009	10
2010	10
2011	12
2012	10



TJU: TJU matriculated 821 DIMER students since the beginning of the program in 1970 through the 2011 entering class. Of those 821, 29 students did not complete the program and 70 are still enrolled (2009, 2010, and 2011 entering classes). As a result, 722 have graduated. Seventy-two students are presumed to be still in GME training. That leaves approximately 650 DIMER students who have graduated, have finished their GME training, and are potentially in practice.

The location of initial graduate medical education (GME) training is known for 712 of the graduates and 166 (23.3%) received that training in Delaware.

Of the TJU DIMER graduates who have completed their GME, 224 (34.4%) possessed a Delaware license at some time since 2000; 110 (49.1%) of those graduates received their GME in Delaware and 114 (50.9%) received their GME in other states.

Of the 650 graduated and GME-trained students, 171 (26.3%) have an active Delaware license at this time; 86 of the 171 (50.3%) received their GME in Delaware and 85 (49.7%) received their GME in other states.

Of the 171 TJU DIMER graduates with active Delaware licenses, to determine those who are in active patient care practice, surrogate indicators are as follows:

- 101 are registered as participants in DHIN
 - 14 in Kent County (13.7%)
 - 72 in New Castle County (71.3%)
 - 15 in Sussex County (14.6%)
- 149 are indicated as being active practitioners on Internet sources
 - 14 in Kent County (9.4%)
 - 114 in New Castle County (76.5%)
 - 21 in Sussex County (14.1%)

Using the number of 149 as the number of TJU DIMER participants actively practicing in Delaware, this is a rate of 18.1% of the total 821 participants, 20.6% of the 722 graduates, and 22.9% of those who have graduated and completed GME.

Summary TJU DIMER data follow:

TJU 1970 to 2011	
Number of DIMER Students	821
Number of DIMER Graduates	722
Number of DIMER Graduates/GME Complete	650
DIMER Graduates with GME in DE	166
DIMER Graduates with an Active DE License	173
DIMER Graduates Actively Practicing in DE	149

PCOM: Of the 102 DIMER students matriculated at PCOM since 2000, 2 did not complete the program and 42 are still enrolled. As a result, there were 58 graduates. Twenty-one PCOM DIMER students are presumed to still be in GME training, leaving 37 persons potentially in professional practice.

Of the 58 graduates, the location of their initial GME training is known for 46 of them. Nine of those 46 graduates (19.6%) received their initial training in Delaware.

Of the PCOM DIMER graduates who have completed their GME, 10 (27.0%) obtained a license to practice in Delaware. Five of those 10 received their initial GME training in Delaware; 5 received their post-graduate training in other states.

Of the 10 licensees, 9 have active licenses at the time of this report; the other individual had a license for approximately one year from 2010 to 2011.

With regard to actively practicing patient care in Delaware, all 10 licensees are found on the Internet to be or have been practicing in the State, including the individual whose license expired in 2011. Eight are practicing in New Castle County and 2 are practicing in Sussex County. Five are listed as DHIN participants and 5 are not.

Using the number of 9 as the number of PCOM DIMER participants actively practicing in Delaware currently, this is a rate 8.8% of the total 102 participants, 15.5% of the 58 graduates, and 24.3% of those have graduated and completed GME.

Summary PCOM DIMER data follow:

PCOM 2000 to 2012	
Number of DIMER Students	102
Number of DIMER Graduates	58
Number of DIMER Graduates/GME Complete	37
DIMER Graduates with GME in DE	9
DIMER Graduates with an active DE License	9
DIMER Graduates Actively Practicing in DE	9

CONCLUSIONS

The primary purpose of the DIMER program is to provide improved access to medical school training for Delaware residents. An unofficial expectation of the DIMER program is that it will enhance the decisions of newly trained physicians to practice in Delaware.

The DIMER agreement with TJU calls for 20 seats each year to be provided for qualified Delaware residents. In the 42 years of the TJU DIMER program, 821 Delaware residents matriculated at Jefferson Medical College, an average of 19.5 per year. Although the range of Delaware matriculants was a low of 10 to a high of

30, in the past 5 years the average has been 22.4 persons, in the past 10 years the average has been 20.0 persons, and in the past 20 years the average has been 20.9 persons. These data appear to support that the TJU DIMER program is meeting its goal of 20 seats for Delaware residents.

In the 13 years of the DIMER program, 102 Delaware residents matriculated at PCOM, an average of 7.8 per year. Although the range is a low of 2 to a high of 12 Delaware matriculants, the low year of 2 appears to be an aberration with every other year at or exceeding the agreement target of 5 seats. In the last 5 years, the average is 9.4 matriculants. These data appear to support that the PCOM DIMER program is meeting its goal of 5 seats for Delaware residents per year.

Determining the effects of DIMER on recruitment is less precise, but it is possible to determine the general effect. The number of graduates of each of the 3 professional schools is known and the number of persons who have completed required GME can be estimated with confidence. The number of persons who have a Delaware license is known. The number of those licensees who are actively practicing in Delaware can be estimated, though less confidently. For purposes of this study, the number of persons with active licenses to practice in Delaware who are actively engaged in patient care are those who are either listed as a participant in the Delaware Health Information Network (DHIN) and/or are listed on the Internet or in telephone directories as engaged in patient care services.

Using the above methodology, it was determined that there are 149 TJU DIMER participants who are in active patient care practice in Delaware. This is 22.9% of the estimated 650 TJU DIMER participants who have graduated and completed their GME. Using the same methodology, there were 9 PCOM DIMER participants in active patient care in Delaware. This is 24.3% of the estimated 37 PCOM DIMER participants who have graduated and completed their GME.

In order to assess these “return rates” for Delaware residents at TJU and PCOM, the experience of the only other states that do not have medical schools was examined. The other four states that do not have a medical school (Alaska, Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming) have joined together with the University of Washington School of Medicine (UWSOM) in a program called WWAMI (an acronym composed of the first letters of the five participating states). Over the past thirty years, WWAMI reports that over 60% of the graduates have remained in the WWAMI states to practice; over the past twenty years, approximately 50% have selected primary care specialties; and an estimated 20% practice in Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs). The national “return rate” is reported as 39%. The state-specific “return rates” are:

Alaska	45%
Idaho	50%
Montana	40%
Wyoming	67%

The TJU DIMER “return rate” of 22.9% and the PCOM DIMER “return rate” of 24.3% compare poorly to the WWAMI “return rates” and the national “return rate”. In fairness, it should be borne in mind that DIMER was not constructed primarily as a home state retention program, but rather a medical school admission program, at which it succeeds. In addition, the WWAMI program is constructed and operated differently than the DIMER program. Three of the four years of medical school training occur in the home state versus all four years of medical school taking place at TJU or PCOM and their related elective and clerkship sites. However, as Delaware strives to improve physician supply, determining the reasons for the lower return productivity will be important. Studying the features of the WWAMI program may be helpful. This may also be useful in the program planning for the Delaware Health Sciences Alliance.