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MEDICAL EDUCATION FOR CULTURAL COMPETENCE: POLICIES, INITIATIVES, AND STUDENT SELECTION

ABSTRACT

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Achieving a racially diverse physician workforce is a key goal of the U.S. medical profession. Policies and initiatives endorsed by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) and its member schools underlie this statement. Medical school accreditation and accreditation of graduate education programs in the medical specialties are also forged, in part, by policies that advance racial diversity. This essay has two parts. The first part reviews governing policies and initiatives that shape undergraduate and graduate medical education. The second part addresses student selection. Student selection and matriculation warrant attention because a medical school admission decision is tantamount to a medical licensure decision due to very low attrition. The essay concludes with a Coda.