

MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

Marquette University operates the only dental school in the State of Wisconsin. Beginning in 1973, the State, through the Higher Educational Aids Board, has contracted with the Marquette University School of Dentistry to provide dental education services for Wisconsin residents. As authorized under s. 20.235(1)(d), Wis. Stats., and in accordance with the terms of the contract with the School of Dentistry, the State provides a specified per capita aid payment for a prescribed maximum number of Wisconsin residents enrolled as full-time students in the undergraduate dental education program.

As required by s. 39.46(1), Wis. Stats., we biennially review the Marquette University School of Dentistry's compliance with contract provisions and with various statutory requirements included in s. 39.46, Wis. Stats. For the 1997-99 biennium, we tested the residency and the enrollment status of dental students for whom Marquette University claimed tuition assistance, to ensure the students were Wisconsin residents and that they were claimed for no more than five years. In addition, we examined expenditures charged to the state contract to ensure Marquette University spent state funds solely for the undergraduate dental education program. Finally, we reviewed the School of Dentistry's admission and minority enrollment policies.

State Tuition Aid to Wisconsin Residents

During our audit period, the School of Dentistry received \$11,670 for each Wisconsin resident, up to a maximum of 100, enrolled as a full-time student in the undergraduate dental education program.

Table 1 provides a history of state tuition aid and support provided to the School of Dentistry. The number of residents receiving tuition aid was significantly reduced between academic years 1978-79 and 1990-91 on the recommendation of the Higher Educational Aids Board, because of concerns about a potential oversupply of dentists in Wisconsin. For academic years 1991-92 and 1992-93, the per capita payment for each full-time student increased considerably, in response to Marquette University's request for additional funding to continue its operation of the School. The current per capita rate of \$11,670 has been provided since academic year 1994-95.

The dental education contract requires that the School of Dentistry request tuition aid only for full-time students who are Wisconsin residents and for no more than five years for each student. The Higher Educational Aids Board certifies the residency status of all students claimed by the School. Additionally, the tuition rate for Wisconsin residents must be equivalent to the non-resident rate, less the per student tuition aid amount.

Table 1

**Marquette University School of Dentistry
State Tuition Aid for Wisconsin Residents**

<u>Academic Year</u>	<u>Statutory Limitation</u>	<u>Residents Receiving Tuition Aid</u>	<u>Rate per Resident</u>	<u>Total State Tuition Aid</u>
1998-99	100	100	\$11,670	\$1,167,000
1997-98	100	100	11,670	1,167,000
1996-97	100	100	11,670	1,167,000
1995-96	100	100	11,670	1,167,000
1994-95	100	100	11,670	1,167,000
1993-94	100	100	11,330	1,133,000
1992-93	100	99.5	11,000	1,094,500
1991-92	93	92.5	8,500	786,250
1990-91	90	90	5,447	490,200
1989-90	100	100	5,217	521,700
1988-89	132	121	5,012	606,452
1987-88	175	167.5	5,012	839,510
1986-87	214	201.5	5,012	1,009,917
1985-86	265	251	5,012	1,258,013
1984-85	350	308	5,012	1,543,696
1983-84	350	330	4,866	1,605,780
1982-83	400	375.5	4,724	1,773,862
1981-82	450	414	4,374	1,810,836
1980-81	500	447.5	4,050	1,812,375
1979-80	500	477.5	3,920	1,871,800
1978-79	500	495.5	3,450	1,709,475
1977-78	500	491	3,300	1,620,300
1976-77	500	497.5	2,800	1,393,000
1975-76	500	490.5	2,800	1,373,400
1974-75	No limit	454	3,000	1,362,000
1973-74	No limit	435	3,000	1,305,000

We selected students claimed for tuition aid by the School of Dentistry, and reviewed their residency status. In our review of student eligibility, we evaluated the effectiveness of the system for monitoring tuition payments and the number of times students were claimed for aid. We concluded that the system, which involves both Higher Educational Aids Board and Marquette University staff, is effective in ensuring that tuition aid is paid only for eligible students and that, in the 1997-99 biennium, the students for whom the School of Dentistry claimed for tuition aid met the eligibility criteria.

We concluded that tuition rates for Wisconsin residents and nonresidents are equivalent. The School of Dentistry's tuition rates were \$28,000 for academic year 1997-98 and \$28,840 for academic year 1998-99. Wisconsin residents who were claimed for state tuition aid received the \$11,670 credit and were charged the tuition balance of \$16,330 for academic year 1997-98 and \$17,170 for academic year 1998-99.

The Legislature has directed that, in return for receiving state aid, the School of Dentistry should give Wisconsin residents preference in admissions. Marquette University staff noted that they actively recruit resident applicants by visiting several Wisconsin universities. Our review of student admission procedures found the School of Dentistry gave preference by enrolling more Wisconsin residents than the 100-student maximum for which the state will provide tuition aid. For the 1997-98 academic year, 112 Wisconsin residents were enrolled in the School of Dentistry, and 108 were enrolled for the 1998-99 academic year. Specifically for the freshman class, 116 residents applied to the School of Dentistry for the 1997-98 academic year and 27 of those were admitted, while only 46 of 2,099 non-residents were admitted. For the 1998-99 academic year, 25 of the 95 residents who applied as freshmen were admitted to the School of Dentistry, and 51 of the 1,872 non-residents were admitted.

The dental education contract stipulates that tuition aid will be used to fund undergraduate dental education. We reviewed the expenditures incurred by the School of Dentistry during the 1997-99 biennium and determined that the School had complied with the contract and spent state funds solely on undergraduate dental education.

Minority Enrollment

The dental education contract and s. 39.46(2)(g), Wis. Stats., require the School of Dentistry to make every effort to ensure that at least 5 percent of total enrollment consists of minority students, but neither the contract or the statutes define who is considered a minority student. To assess whether the School of Dentistry met the 5 percent minority enrollment goal, we used the definition included both in s. 39.44, Wis. Stats., which is related to state grants to minority undergraduate students at institutions of higher education, and s. 39.40, Wis. Stats., which is related to the minority teacher loan program. By this definition, minority students are African Americans; Hispanics; Native Americans; and certain persons from Laos, Vietnam, or Cambodia.

Since the School of Dentistry does not have information readily available on the number of students from Laos, Vietnam, or Cambodia, for the purpose of this analysis, we excluded all students who indicated on School of Dentistry applications that they were of Asian heritage. As shown in Table 2, based on the number of African American, Hispanic, and Native American students enrolled at the School of Dentistry, minority enrollment remains well above the 5 percent goal. However, the number of minority students has declined since the 1994-95 academic year due to a decline in the number of Hispanic students. Enrollment of Native American students has also decreased during the past two academic years, while enrollment of African American students has remained fairly constant over the last five academic years.

Table 2

Marquette University School of Dentistry
Minority Enrollment
 Academic Years 1994-95 through 1998-99

	<u>1994-95</u>	<u>1995-96</u>	<u>1996-97</u>	<u>1997-98</u>	<u>1998-99</u>
African American	15	12	14	13	14
Hispanic	41	29	30	33	31
Native American	4	4	5	1	2
Laotian, Vietnamese, or Cambodian*	<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>
Total Minority Students	60	45	49	47	47
Total Enrollment	286	280	287	288	294
Percentage of Total Enrollment	21.0%	16.1%	17.1%	16.3%	16.0%

* Information on Laotian, Vietnamese, or Cambodian students was not readily available.

The School of Dentistry recruits minorities throughout the state, as well as from college campuses throughout the country. In order to enlarge the pool of qualified Wisconsin minority applicants, the School of Dentistry staff noted they have become involved in local programs that focus on minorities and dental education at the middle and high school levels.
