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English

Free Medical School Tuition

I want to become a doctor, I’ve dreamt about the profession for years. While, growing up I’ve always had a passion for taking care of people and children as well. I want to help women bring new life into the world, it’s a wonderful but painful experience. However, having babies are a blessing and bringing him/her into the world is worth every pain and ache. Sadly, I can’t go to medical school, it’s too expensive for me- African America. In fact, it’s VERY expensive for all the minorities and low-income families in the United States of America. According to the Association of America Medical School (AAMC), “the average cost of attendance for one year at a public medical school (including tuition, fees, and health insurance) was $34,592 for in-state students and $58,668 for out-of-state students in 2016–2017. Tuition and fees at a private school averages well over $50,000 a year regardless of whether you’re an in-state or out-of-state student”. Unfortunately, public and private medical schools both increased costs from the previous years and it’s still on the rise in 2019. Medical school tuition is too high, and I think the board of education/ finical department of all medical school’s should investigate the issue and try considering making their tuition free for students who cannot afford to go like myself. Free medical school tuition can bring a lot of diversity to the field, more doctors are going to be in the United States of America, student loans are going to lower, students are more likely to succeed in medical school (that’s what we want) and etc. the disadvantage about making medical school free is there going to be a lot of competition and less seats available.

In the article ‘Applications from underrepresented minority students double’ by Scott Jaschik, stated New York University's medical school in August stunned the world of medical education with the news that it had raised enough money to offer full-tuition scholarships to all students (more than 400 across classes) going forward. The announcement caused NYU's medical school application to increase by 47 percent, to 8,932. NYU Med saw a 102 percent increase, to 2,020, in applications from those who are a member of a group that is underrepresented in medicine (including black, Latino and Native American students). The largest percentage increase was among those who identify as African American, black, or Afro-Caribbean. Applications from this group went up 142 percent, to 1,062. The data was tremendous, about how many students from different back ground applied to the college to take advantage of the full-time scholarship to New York University medical school. More school should consider the idea as well and help make America a better place for the country to have more doctors to take of the population. Instead, of seeing things that way, other private school judged the college for their effort and criticized them for trying to make the rich wealthier. I can agree the rich will take advantage of an opportunity like that, but, low income families like myself need the free tuition more, to succeed in medical school. Other medical schools are trying to reduce their tuition prices however, it’s still not good enough, student loans are still going to put medical students in debt.

According to the AAMC, among those who graduated from medical school in 2017, the average debt was $181,179 for those who attended public medical schools and $190,694 for those who attended private institutions. Medical school tuition is roughly around $34,592 for in-state students and $58,668 for out-of-state students in 2016–2017. Private school tuition averages well over $50,000 a year for 4 years that’s a lot of money, without help from the government to help you pay it back. Students debate on whether its good to have a job while studying in medical school because it has its advantages and disadvantages. In the article ‘Can I (Should I) work during medical school?’ States the reason why medical school students shouldn’t work because you can take out student loans and “they are scholarship programs like The National Health Service Corps Scholarship Program. There are a bunch of programs to help you pay back those medical school loans”. Taking out loans and joining programs to help you pay for medical school is really good, at the time, because you wouldn’t have to worry about the money just focus on studying. When you’re finish with medical school, that’s where the problem comes in with all the interest rates and more loans on top of loans to pay for, until you’re an ‘official licensed doctor’. Then they’re some students who aren’t aware of the programs and do not want to take out student loans to pay for medical school. Those students prefer to work part time, 10 to 15 hours a week. Having a part-time job helps a lot of students pay for rent, tuition, loans, and personal needs during medical school. Having a part time job is also difficult to keep because more working fewer studying results in a low grade. We want students to be successful and achieve their goals not fail and be in debt for the rest of their lives. Medical school tuition should become free for students so that they can succeed, and not worry about being in debt, and paying for school.

Being a person of colored and living in a low-income neighborhood or family. You don’t have a chance to compete with the outer world. They’re no mentors that encourage students of color to pursue careers in the medical field. If you look around in hospitals, they are little to no black doctors. The main question is how would kids, see themselves becoming a doctor if they never saw one of their own ethnicity? Kids reflect upon what they see and who they talk too to determine what/ who they want to be when they grow up. This being said, we need mentors for children of color to dream big and advise him/her to make their dream a reality in the medical school. Encouraging a child to sky high and believe they can be whatever they want to be in the medical field is the greatest thing ever. However, money plays a major role on why black students do not I repeat do not want to pursue a career in the medical school because it too expensive. It’s difficult enough to be in medical school and studying but having kids like myself and having a part time job is too much. Speaking on behave of myself I’d love if the ministry of education makes the tuition for medical school, it would be a great idea because more diversity is going to occur. Kids, young adults, and adults are likely to enjoy going to the hospital and be comfortable with their doctors because they’re going to be talking to someone of the same color, race, background and experiences. A recent National Bureau of Economics Research paper stated “African American men are more likely to feel comfortable with and take health cues from- doctors who look like them”.

The dream to become a doctor, is a big one. Working in hospitals, making A LOT of money a year, don’t even get me started on the hourly rate of pay. Life is just luxurious when you’re a doctor. However, little do we know what that doctor been through or is still going through. To become a doctor first you have to graduate with a bachelor’s degree in sciences, then go to medical school for another 4 years to figure out which doctor you want to become. When you’ve figured out what type of doctor you want to become you’ll spend 3 to 7 years residency perfecting in that field. It’s a lot of years huh? Yes, I know, it’s too many years for just a career, however being a doctor isn’t just any career. A doctor is responsible for someone’s life. The first two years of medical school is for lecture and laboratory; The last 2 years is for clinical experience; medical students do rotations at hospitals and clinic affiliated with their school. Studying to become a doctor is intensive and a lot of work, but the tuition is also too expensive to compete and study for a career in the medical field. Making medical school tuition free can bring a drastic change to the medical field. A lot of students will benefit in terms of being debt free from student loans that can take years to pay back. Students wouldn’t have to worry about dropping out of school because they don’t have the money to pay. Most of all more diversity will be in the medical school and more students will pursue careers in the medical school (population increase in the medical field.)

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