WHAT IS WICHE?
Six decades ago, governors and legislators of 16 Western states and territories created the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) to help provide high quality, cost-effective education in their states. WICHE enables states to share cooperatively their higher education programs and facilities for training new professionals, conducting research and sponsoring continuing education to sharpen the skills of current professionals. WICHE’s goals are to increase the availability of higher education in the West, assist states with professionally and technically trained individuals required for their workforce, and help states increase the effectiveness and efficiency of their higher education programs. Member states and territories include Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

THE PROFESSIONAL STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM
The Professional Student Exchange Program, sponsored by WICHE and administered by the Arizona Board of Regents, enables a limited number of Arizona students to enroll in one of five professional programs in other states, or at in-state private institutions, since these programs are not available at Arizona’s public universities. Through the exchange, the student receives preference in admission and pays the difference between the amount of WICHE support and standard tuition at the enrolling school. The student also pays for books, supplies, meals, lodging and other personal expenses.

Arizona pays a support fee to the school receiving the student to help cover the cost of education. This arrangement provides Arizona students with increased access to professional programs at reduced tuition rates, while saving the state millions of dollars by avoiding duplication of costly programs already available in the West.

FIELDS OF STUDY
(Note: Arizona does not fund allopathic medicine.)

For a list of schools by field, go to: WWW.WICHE.EDU/PSEP

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY
Arizona law requires that an applicant must: (1) be a United States citizen and provide verification of U.S. citizenship, (2) be able to prove that he/she has been a bonafide legal resident of Arizona for at least the last five years, and (3) must have maintained at least average (2.5) grades to be eligible for certification for possible support under the WICHE program.

This document is available in an alternate format, upon request. Arizona Board of Regents, 602-229-2500, www.azregents.edu.
Arizona statutes require that students supported by the WICHE PSEP program return to the state and spend one year in the practice of their profession for each year they were supported in the program. Students in three-year accelerated programs must practice in the state for four years since the state spends the same total amount in support of students in three-year programs as for those in four-year programs.

Students who practice in an underserved Arizona community, so designated by the appropriate licensing board, will receive one year of state service credit for each six months of practice. Students who do not discharge their obligations by Arizona practice are required by state law to repay 100 percent of the funds expended by the state in their support, plus interest.

Involuntary induction into military service or other cause beyond the control of the student that prevents establishment of practice in the state, as determined by the Board of Regents, may postpone the student’s obligation until such cause is terminated.

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