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FSU medical school gets high marks from national grading agency

BY DOUG BLACKBURN • DEMOCRAT SENIOR WRITER • JUNE 17, 2009

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FSU's College of Medicine has received a "B" grade – the highest of any medical school in Florida – from AMSA, the American Medical Student Association.



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The organization grades medical schools on their policies for avoiding conflicts of interest with pharmaceutical companies and other institutions that pose a risk to a physician's integrity. This is the third year AMSA has given grades to 149 medical schools across the country.

Miami's medical school also received a "B", while USF got a "C" and University of Florida was given an "F" – the result of not submitting information for the scorecard.

Dr. Alma Littles, senior associate dean for medical affairs at FSU, noted that FSU has improved significantly from the "D" grade it received two years ago when AMSA's initial report card was released.

"Since our ultimate goal in developing the policy is to ensure that patient care and medical education are not influenced by considerations other than what is in the patients' and or trainees' best interests, we are striving for an 'A,'" Littles said.

FSU received the highest marks for its complete ban on gifts and on-site meals, its policy regarding industry sales representatives and its medical school curriculum.

"Being relatively new, we were in a position to implement policy without having to change decade-long behaviors within our medical school environment," Littles added.



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