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FSU medical school gets reaccredited for 8 years

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Florida State's 10-year-old medical school has successfully been reaccredited, which means it will continue to receive federal grants and its **students** will be eligible for federal loans.

Dr. John Fogarty insists he was never worried about an unfavorable ruling. But that didn't keep the dean of FSU's College of Medicine from joining faculty, staff and students for an ice cream social on Wednesday to celebrate being reaccredited.

FSU's College of Medicine becomes the first new medical school of the 21st century to be reaccredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME).

"This news was not unexpected based on the remarkable outcomes this medical school has produced since the first class of 30 students arrived in 2001," Fogarty said.

FSU was awarded the maximum reaccreditation possible — eight years.

In its evaluation report, LCME praised FSU for being "student-centered" and for its community-faculty apprenticeship model.

It wasn't smooth sailing from the very beginning, however.

In 2002, LCME first denied accreditation to FSU's new medical school, before granting it a provisional accreditation the following year. The college earned full accreditation in 2005.

Accreditation is critical to the funding structure for medical schools. Only accredited schools are eligible to receive federal grants for medical education and participate in federal loan programs.

"Institutional accreditation assures that medical education takes place in a sufficiently rich environment to foster broad academic purposes," said Dr. Alma Littles, FSU's senior associate dean for medical education and academic affairs.

There are two other fully accredited, public medical schools in the state — at the universities of Florida and South Florida — along with University of Miami.