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University of South Florida med school gets grade of "incomplete"

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The **American Medical Student Association** said it awarded a grade of "incomplete" to **University of South Florida** College of Medicine as part of a review of conflict of interest policies caused by pharmaceutical industry marketing at medical schools nationwide.

Two medical schools in Florida, **Miller School of Medicine at University of Miami** and the Florida State University College of Medicine in Tallahassee, received grades of B on the AMSA PharmFree scorecard. They were among only 21 of the 150 medical schools surveyed that received As or Bs, the association said in a release.

University of Florida College of Medicine in Gainesville and Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine got Fs for their failure to respond to the survey, AMSA said.

USF College of Medicine responded, but the response was lost in the mail, according to AMSA. AMSA said it has requested another response and will assess USF once that is received.

The scorecard evaluates restrictions on gifts, paid speaking for products, acceptance of drug promotion samples, interaction with sales representatives and industry-funded education, among other criteria. Pharmaceutical industry marketing to doctors has been estimated at \$28 billion to \$46 billion per year with additional promotion by the medical device industry, according to the release.

AMSA, which represents the concerns of physicians-in-training, collaborated with The Prescription Project, an industry watchdog group working to eliminate conflicts of interest in medicine. The two organizations developed an interactive **Web site** that evaluates each school's policies in 11 areas.