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SOCIAL DIMENSIONS OF ACCESS TO AN ELITE UNIVERSITY - UNIVERSITY OF MEDICINE AND PHARMACY "CAROL DAVILA" BUCHAREST

A b s t r a c t

After 1989, the network of higher education institutions developed very much, in terms of new institutions and new cities hosting this type of institution. They were established as public or private institutions (recognized from 1993).

This diversity has not changed much the desire of students to study in certain higher education centers and in certain types of institutions, depending on the type of higher education.

For medicine and pharmacy higher education, although new institutions and faculties were established in both public and private higher education, it was still Bucharest and, more specifically, the University of Medicine and Pharmacy (UMP) "Carol Davila", that led the top of centers and institution in Romania in attracting candidates to study. The high number of candidates for this institution meant that only the most prepared of them were able to study at UMP "Carol Davila". In addition, this type of higher education requires sustainable funding to cover the high cost of both theoretical and practical training and when this is spread over a large number of years of study, as is the case with this type of higher education, it is easy to understand why, in practice, the UMP "Carol Davila" can only be accessed by some of the candidates for higher education. Also, the level of knowledge required in medicine and pharmacy higher education is high and competition is appropriate, as is the responsibility for the future graduates. The UMP "Carol Davila" has some of the best didactical staff and auxiliary didactical personnel, and offers access to the acquisition of practical knowledge in some of the best health institutions in the country, leading to corresponding expectations from the candidates.

All of these meant that the average candidate needed a good financial situation/standard of living to cover the preparation for the entrance exam and to support the later costs; a good level of intelligence and willingness to study and later work in the health sector (and to deal with

its challenges – for example, working in a health facility in a village, dealing with poor mentalities, working with other professionals in a stressful working environment); have one or more physicians in the family to help focus the candidate's learning efforts (or at least one or more parents who have graduated from a medical institution) and to provide a good scientific and cultural start to the candidate's early life.

The UMP "Carol Davila", with its staff and infrastructure and its special status among the medicine and pharmacy higher education institutions, can be considered as an elite institution, both in terms of who generally has access to its study programs, but also in terms of the premises for future trained specialists.