

Accelerated Medical Pathways

Frequently Asked Questions

How does an accelerated program impact a student financially?

Students in an Accelerated Medical Pathway will pay three years of tuition and applicable student fees.

Do students in an accelerated program graduate after three years?

Yes, students in an accelerated program graduate from medical school at the conclusion of the three years if they meet all graduation requirements for the MD degree.

What materials are reviewed at initial application?

Students who are interested in entering an Accelerated Medical Pathway will complete an application and submit a signed waiver granting permission for review of their academic and professional record. Application materials include a personal statement, curriculum vitae, MCAT score, and preclerkship grades with narrative comments. Once applications have been submitted, the Associate Dean for Curriculum, Clinical Sciences and the College of Medicine Progress Committee will conduct an eligibility screen. Eligible student applications will be provided to host residency programs for review. Residency Program Directors may choose to conduct interviews with candidates prior to selection. The host residency program may accept students into the accelerated track from the pool of eligible applicants.

What materials are reviewed at the final performance review?

Midway through the immersion phase, the College of Medicine Progress Committee will conduct a review of student performance and determine students' eligibility to continue in the program. Materials reviewed include the student's Step 1 score, academic performance, and a professionalism report. Once student eligibility has been confirmed, these same materials will be provided to the host residency program. The program will then conduct a performance review and provide confirmation that the student may continue in the accelerated track and into their residency program.

What makes a student ineligible to continue in an accelerated track?

A student would become ineligible to continue in an accelerated track if they have noted deficiencies in professionalism, clinical skills/patient care, medical knowledge, communication skills, teamwork, practice-based learning, or have not met additional track-specific criteria determined by the host residency program.

How are the tracks tailored in each specialty?

Host residency programs may specify the order of clerkships for students in their track and the medical school will make a concerted effort to accommodate them. Each track will develop a two-week Accelerated Medical Pathway Selective for students to complete prior to the final performance review. Programs may also identify the specific externship students will complete.

Do participating residency programs commit to accepting a student every year?

Participating programs will identify a number of students that they may accept in a given year (Ex: The Department of Orthopedics accepts **up to** 1 student per year). However, there could be years in which no students apply for a given program or years in which the program does not accept any students.

Can students apply to more than one specialty track?

No, students may only apply to one specialty track. Students who are not completely certain of their specialty choice should remain in the traditional 4-year track to maximize opportunities for career exploration.

What happens if a student in an accelerated track decides to switch specialties? Can they transfer to a different accelerated track?

No, students may not transfer to different accelerated tracks. Students who wish to change specialties will transition from the accelerated track back into the traditional 4-year track.

Will the accepted student(s) enter the Match?

Each participating residency program will establish a specific track for accelerated students. Students selected by the residency program will register for the NRMP and participate in the Main Residency Match. The MUSC residency program will rank the student according to the regulations of the Match.

What happens to a student who is no longer eligible or decides not to continue in an accelerated track?

Students would then re-enter the traditional 4-year program. They will complete their remaining clerkships, enter the Flex Phase with the preceding class, and will enter their fourth year on cycle with their original class.

What happens if a student decides not to enter the residency program at MUSC after the final performance review?

If a student changes their mind prior to submission of the NRMP match list, the student will transition back into the 4 year pathway and the residency program would then approach their rank list as in any other year to fill all spots traditionally.

What happens if a student experiences a major failure or breach of professionalism following acceptance into the program?

Professionalism of students is evaluated throughout the degree program and considered during the eligibility screening of students. Any academic failure or professionalism concern may make the student ineligible to continue in an accelerated pathway.

Will accelerated student(s) have sufficient time between completion of final graduation requirements and residency to complete licensing requirements and start on time?

Our pilot with the Department of Orthopedics has allowed us to carefully outline this process. Our initial experience suggests that this process can occur quickly in a timeframe that allows students to begin their residency on time.

What has been the experience of other schools with similar accelerated programs?

NYU School of Medicine has successfully implemented a similar program that offers pathways to a wide variety of residency programs at their institution. Among the 40 students in their first two cohorts, 34 graduated and entered residency. The remaining 6 returned to the 4-year traditional pathway; 2 were counseled to return and 4 chose to return citing change in specialty or personal preference.

Additional Resources

[2019 Match Participation Agreement](#)

[Match Communication Code of Conduct](#)

[NRMP All In Policy](#)

[Unraveling Interview and Match Traffic Rules](#)

References

1. Cangiarella J, Abramsom S, Cohen E, Grossman R. Accelerated three-year MD pathway. Presented at: Rethinking the UME-GME Continuum; July 31, 2017; New York, NY. <https://med.nyu.edu/education/md-degree/sites/default/files/campp-nyu-school-of-medicine.pdf>.