

Accelerated 3-Year Primary Care MD Program
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. What is the 3-year MD Primary Care (PC) Program?

The 3-year MD Primary Care Program is a program that offers students who have already been accepted into Rutgers New Jersey Medical School's 4-year MD program the opportunity to complete their MD in three years. Accepted students are also offered conditional acceptance into one of the following Rutgers-sponsored residency programs: Internal Medicine, Combined Internal Medicine/Pediatrics (Med/Peds), or Pediatrics.

Highlights of the 3 year primary care program include:

- Early Clinical Immersion (starting in July of Year 1)
- Longitudinal Primary Care Preceptorship
- Population Health Certificate from the Rutgers School of Public Health

2. What are the benefits of the 3-year MD PC Program?

The program allows students to complete the requirements for the MD degree in three years, thus saving the student time and money. The program also allows students to establish an early longitudinal, professional relationship with the Graduate Medical Education (GME) faculty in the student's selected Rutgers residency program.

3. What are other conditions of the 3-year MD PC Program?

Students have to make a final decision regarding the GME residency program they want to enter before they start medical school. Some students may not be ready to make such a commitment.

Students start the 3-year program approximately four (4) weeks prior to students matriculating in the 4-year MD program. In addition, the summer break between Year 1 and Year 2 will be shortened.

While students in the 4-year MD program have ample opportunities to complete Phase III (Year 4) electives and participate in residency interviews at other institutions, students in the 3-year MD PC program have fewer elective opportunities since they are committed to their selected Rutgers residency program.

4. Are the academic requirements for the 3-year MD PC Program more stringent than those for the 4-year MD?

The academic requirements for the two tracks are very similar, however students in the 3-year MD PC program are expected to achieve additional academic and professional standards. Students who encounter challenges completing the 3 year option may be transitioned into the traditional 4-year MD program.

5. Can a 3-year MD PC program student graduate and then take a year off for research?

No. Graduation for this track is contingent upon obtaining a residency spot. If a student decides to pursue a research year, the student will be automatically placed into the traditional 4-year MD program.

6. Can a 3-year MD PC program student participate in a joint degree program (i.e. MD/PhD, MD/MPH, MD/MBA)?

No. Students in the 3-year MD PC program must complete the requirements for the MD in 3 years and commit to one of the selected primary care residency programs. Students who wish to pursue a joint degree program will be automatically placed into the 4-year MD program.

7. Are there special career advisors for the 3-year MD PC program?

Christin Traba, MD, Associate Dean for Education is the 3-year MD PC program Career Advisor. Additionally, each GME program will have a designated GME faculty advisor for those students who have chosen that particular GME program.

8. Can a 3-year MD PC program student switch GME programs?

Switching GME programs is difficult, but not impossible and only permitted within the three Rutgers residencies offered (Internal Medicine, Combined Internal Medicine/Pediatrics, and Pediatrics). If a student wishes to pursue a residency outside of these three options, they will automatically be placed in the 4-year MD program. The student will need to discuss her/his specific situation with the Career Advisor.

9. Can a student switch from the 3-year MD PC program to the 4-year MD program?

Yes, this is always possible.

10. Can a student switch from the 4-year MD program to the 3-year MD PC program?

No. Students are selected for the 3-year MD PC program after acceptance to New Jersey Medical School and prior to beginning Phase I (Year 1) of the program.

11. How do I apply to the 3-year MD PC program?

Entry into the 3-year MD PC program is only available to students who are already accepted to the NJMS 4-year MD program. Students who are interested in applying to the 3-year MD PC program must 1) submit a specific 3-year MD PC program application, available here 2) specify the primary care GME program they wish to pursue at the time of application, and 3) interview with the selected GME program. Acceptance into the 3-year MD PC program includes a conditional acceptance into the Rutgers NJMS or partnering GME training program, subject to the student's achievement of explicit academic and professional standards.