



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER
JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, TEXAS

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FROM: HQ AFPC/DP2NP PHYSICIAN EDUCATION
550 C Street West Suite 1
JBSA Randolph TX 78150-4703

SUBJECT: Guidance to Prospective HPSP Participants Enrolling in a Three-Year Accelerated Medical School Curriculum

1. In response to anticipated physician shortages in the United States, several allopathic and osteopathic medical schools are now offering accelerated three-year degree programs. Students in these programs typically attend school year-round and graduate in three years as opposed to the traditional four-year timeline.
2. The year-round curriculum of these programs creates significant challenges in fulfilling the professional military training requirements of the Health Professions Scholarship Program (HPSP) and the ability to perform Military Clerkships at prospective residency training sites. HPSP students considering enrollment in a three-year accelerated curriculum need to be fully counseled on the impact of their medical school timeline.
3. Under the year-round curriculum, HPSP participants will not have the ability to attend their professional military training courses while in medical school as required by statute, DoD policy, and the HPSP Service Agreement. Currently, the majority of HPSP participants attend the 5 week Commissioned Officer Training Course (COT) between their 1st and 2nd years of medical school. Three year sponsored HPSP members also miss the opportunity to attend the two-week Aerospace Medicine Primary course (AMP 101) that is only offered to four-year sponsored members.
4. Additionally, under the year-round curriculum, HPSP participants will have very limited opportunities for elective and outside rotations to include those at Air Force facilities. HPSP students currently have two funded rotations, typically 4 weeks in length, that provide the student with the opportunity to rotate and interview at prospective residency sites. This limited exposure may represent a competitive disadvantage for the student matching into his or her desired specialty.
5. The point of contact for any questions regarding this memorandum is Col Alice Barsoumian at AFPC.DP2NP.physicianeducation@us.af.mil or at (210) 565-2638.

Alice E. Barsoumian, MD, FIDSA, FACP
Colonel, USAF, MC
Chief, Physician Education