

# Three-Year M.D. Handbook and Policies

Academic Year 2025-26



Eligibility  
Guidelines for the  
Three-Year M.D.  
Program



Academic Performance  
Guidelines for the  
Three-Year M.D.  
Program



Alpha Omega  
Alpha Honor  
Society  
Eligibility



**WAYNE STATE**  
School of Medicine



## ■ Three-Year M.D. Program Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What is the Three-Year M.D. (3YM.D.) program?

The Three-Year M.D. program is an integrated program that allows a select group of students to complete their medical degree within three years. Upon meeting the academic and professional standards for graduation from medical school, these students will be ranked to match by a pre-selected residency program sponsored by the Wayne State University School of Medicine (WSUSOM).

### 2. What are the advantages of the 3YM.D. program?

There are numerous advantages to students who wish to avail themselves of this opportunity, including but not limited to:

- A. A continuum of training between undergraduate medical school and graduate residency training;
- B. Direct progression into a WSUSOM residency program;
- C. Early access to potential mentors within the student's designated specialty, enriching the medical school experience and improving transition to residency training;
- D. The ability for students to save one year of housing and tuition, thus reducing debt burden; and
- E. The ability to have one additional year of physician earnings in one's lifetime

### 3. How is the 3YM.D. program different than the Four-Year M.D. (4YM.D.) program?

Segments 1 and 2 are identical for 3YM.D. students except for two differences:

- 1) 3YM.D. students MUST take either the Medical Research Elective or the Medical Education Research Elective throughout Segments 1 and 2; and
- 2) 3YM.D. students will take three weeks of the Clerkship Preparation course at the end of Segment 2 rather than the seven weeks that 4YMD students take.

3YM.D. students will start Segment 3 four weeks earlier than 4YM.D. students. The requirements for Segment 3 are identical for 3YM.D. and 4YM.D. students. Segment 4 will include an emergency medicine clerkship, a sub-internship, and Step 2. Please see schedule below for a graphical representation. 3YM.D. students will also have an additional advisor (the 3YM.D. program director) as well as a mentor within their chosen specialty.

**4. Who is eligible to apply to the 3YM.D. program?**

All students accepted into the 4YM.D. program are eligible to apply. A tertiary application will be sent to accepted students which will then be reviewed by the Three-Year M.D. Program Advisory Subcommittee. The Three-Year M.D. Program Advisory Subcommittee will interview selected candidates. If deemed appropriate, candidates will have their AMCAS and 3YM.D. applications forwarded to the program director(s) of the applicant's chosen specialty.

**5. How many students will be in the 3YM.D. program?**

The matriculating class of 2022 will have a maximum of 10 students, the matriculating class of 2023 will have a maximum of 15 students, and every class thereafter will have a maximum of 20 students.

**6. Do I have to know which residency I am interested in?**

In order to apply to the 3YM.D. program, students must know which residency they are interested in pursuing. The 3YM.D. program is one that is designed for students who already know what type of physician they wish to become. The program includes mentoring, education and participation in the selected residency program activities, so certainty regarding your residency choice is necessary.

**7. What happens if I do not meet satisfactory academic progress requirements?**

Academic performance guidelines are listed below. We encourage students that are struggling academically to speak with the 3YM.D. Program Director proactively, ideally before there is a serious problem.

**8. Can I do my internship or residency elsewhere?**

While the 3YM.D. program encourages a continuum of training from UME through GME, students are free to do internships and residencies at other institutions through the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP).

**9. Will I participate in the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP)?**

Upon meeting the academic and professional standards for graduation from the WSUSOM, students will be ranked to match into a WSUSOM residency through the NRMP. Should the student choose to rank us, the student would match into a position at a WSUSOM residency. As noted above, students will make their own choice of whether to rank only the WSUSOM program or rank outside residency programs. Students can apply to other residency programs if they so choose, but they need to coordinate their schedules carefully. If a student does not match anywhere through the NRMP process, the student will transition into the 4YM.D. program.



**10. What if I decide to switch residencies?**

A 3YM.D. student who decides to switch residency programs will transition into the 4YM.D. program.

**11. What happens to my acceptance offer to the 4YM.D. program if I am not accepted into the 3YM.D. program?**

If you apply to and are not accepted into the 3YM.D. program, rest assured that your acceptance and matriculation into our 4YM.D. program is not impacted.

**12. Can a dual degree program be combined with the 3YM.D. program?**

No. Our dual degree programs require Segment 4 for coursework required for the dual degree and thus cannot be completed in a 3YM.D. program.

## ■ Academic Performance Guidelines for the Three-Year M.D. Program

### I. Progression through the Three-Year Program

Progression to a WSUSOM residency program requires successful completion of all requirements for the three-year program (3YM.D.).

To progress through the 3YM.D. program, students should have strong academic performance among, but not limited, to the following:

- Achieve a passing grade in all the pre-clerkship courses (Stage 1). Students who fail two pre-clerkship courses will transition to the four-year program.
- Pass any re-exams on the first attempt. Students with a ranking below the 20th percentile, based on the knowledge examinations for which you are graded during the pre-clerkship year, will be discussed by the Three-Year M.D. Program Advisory Subcommittee. The Three-Year M.D. Program Advisory Subcommittee is a subcommittee of the WSUSOM's Promotions Committee. Students may be offered enhanced academic support and their weak academic performance will prompt a discussion with the student and residency program leadership regarding continuation within the 3YM.D.
- Maintain strong academic performance during Segment 3 by achieving a grade of either Pass, High Pass or Honors in all core clerkships, including passing the subject ("shelf") examination on the first attempt with a maximum of one failure with a pass on the first retake. In addition, a grade of Pass, High Pass or Honors is expected in the Segment 4 clerkships (Sub-I and Emergency Medicine).
- Pass USMLE Step 1 and Step 2 on the first attempt.
- Progress throughout the curriculum with no lapses in professional behavior as described in the WSUSOM Student Handbook. Professionalism for 3YM.D. students will also include attending mentoring sessions and other events scheduled by the 3YM.D. Program Director and/or residency program. The residency program director and/or a surrogate from the residency program is expected to interact with the student at least quarterly.

In addition to a strong academic performance, 3YM.D. students may not take any leaves of absence that would delay their ultimate graduation from the 3YM.D. program. In these cases, the 3YM.D. student will transition into the 4YM.D. program.

Students who fail to achieve any of the above will transition into the 4YM.D. program. All provisions of the 4YM.D., outlined in the Student Handbook, will now apply to this student.



In addition, at any point in time, a 3YM.D. student can choose to transition into the 4YM.D. program. Conversely, the residency program director of the student's chosen residency program may choose to halt further participation in the 3YM.D. program with the student. The residency program director is encouraged to work with the 3YM.D. Program Director to remedy any issues proactively.

## **Other Information**

### **Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society Eligibility**

Three-year pathway students are eligible for AOA. For more information see the Student Handbook.

### **Responsibilities of 3YM.D. Program Director**

The 3YM.D. Program Director provides guidance to students regarding their education, well-being and career development.

In addition, students are encouraged to be in touch with the 3YM.D. Program Director as needed. The 3YM.D. Program Director will immediately notify the residency program director if the Promotions Committee identifies academic or professionalism concerns that jeopardize the student's involvement in the 3YM.D.





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