

How many weeks of rotations do I need to have completed in order to apply for residency?

Residency application is a very complicated process which consists of a couple of various paths, which when properly linked together, will give a student interviews followed by a residency spot.

Applying for residency usually begins in June of the final year of medical school. Residency slots around the United States are filled mostly by the National Residency Matching Program (NRMP). Residency applications are made through the Electronic Residency Application Services (ERAS).

At the end of June, **eligible students*** are supposed to create their ERAS profile and obtain a TOKEN number in order to be able to upload documents required to apply.

Students upload their documents to the NRMP by the beginning of September:

- Personal statement
- Resume
- Passport size photograph
- Letters of recommendation (they need to be uploaded electronically preferably by the person issuing the letter)

School uploads between September 15th and October 1st:

- Official ERAS transcript
- Medical Student Performance Evaluation (MSPE)

*** Eligible students:**

We recognize a student as eligible to apply when he or she has enough weeks of rotations completed by July 1st of the application year to ensure he or she will graduate on time to process the ECFMG final certification (takes about a month) and residency/licensing paperwork (length depends on the particular state and program) before starting residency on July 1st of the match year. Saint James now has the 5th semester on the island. So the rotation length for students that completed the 5th semester on the islands is 80 weeks. If you completed AICM, the rotation length for those students is 96 weeks including the first 16 weeks of AICM, which are counted as elective rotations.

Here is the breakdown for students that have completed [AICM](#):

Hypothetically speaking, if the student completed AICM and most cores for a total of 60 weeks by July 1st of the application year, then the student would have about 36 weeks of rotations left. That means that the student will need to complete about 8 or 9 rotations. At the earliest, rotations will be completed by the end of March of the match year. Additionally, in order to complete the program with Saint James, the student will need to pass Step 2 CS and CK and have an approved Graduation Paper. Approval of the paper takes about one month. Assuming all of this is done and the student matches for residency, graduation will be in the middle of April; he or she will be able to get ECFMG certification by the end of May; and completion of licensure paperwork can be done simultaneously.

Here is the breakdown for students that have completed the [5th semester \(BSRC\) on the island](#):

A BSRC student will need to complete most of the core clerkships, minimally, 42 weeks by July 1st of the application year. That will leave 38 weeks of rotations, which means that the student will need to complete 9 more rotations. In this situation, rotations will be completed by the end of March of the match year. This will allow students to graduate and complete the remainder of the steps as aforementioned for AICM students by the end of May.

Please note that residency programs have a right to cancel previously offered residency spots if any of these documents are missing on July 1st.

Please note that residency applications are a very individual process and every single student may have a different situation. Saint James does not make any amount of weeks mandatory – it is just a recommendation. If students feel that if they graduate beyond these recommended timelines and can still complete all of the requirements by July 1st, we will be happy to support every single stage of the residency match.

We have experience with students who managed to accomplish those projects in shorter periods of time. We just want to be sure that once student applies for residency, he or she will be eligible to apply to programs and start residency. If not – it will be a part of student record on ECFMG website and may affect future residency application since it will be recognized as second attempt.