

2022-04-21: How Long Should Required Clinical Rotations Be?

The following links were shared during the chat:

- [Average Number of Required Weeks by Discipline \(aamc.org\)](#)
- [Does Reducing Clerkship Lengths by 25% Affect Medical Student Performance and Perceptions? - PubMed \(nih.gov\)](#)
- [Shorter psychiatry clerkship length is associated with lower NBME psychiatry shelf exam performance - PubMed \(nih.gov\)](#)



MedEd Chat (hosted by ACE) @MedEdChat8 hours ago

TOPIC 1: What disciplines of medicine are essential for medical students during their clerkship year? Do we really mean it when we talk about the pluripotent/undifferentiated med school graduate? Or should we focus on resident/specialty prep? #MedEdChat #meded



Alliance4ClinEd @Alliance4ClinEd8 hours ago

T1 Many medical schools have the 6 required clerkships: IM, FM, Peds, OB, Psych, Surg.....potentially Neuro & ER. The AAMC details required rotations here: <https://t.co/4a8u2NSJJK> #MedEdChat



Sateesh Arja, M.B.B.S., MHPE, MSPH @ArjaSateesh8 hours ago

#mededchat Sateesh Arja from Avalon University School of Medicine, Curacao #meded



Gary Beck Dallaghan @GLBDallaghan8 hours ago

T1 I agree with @croyce62 I think by the end of the third year the undifferentiated training is complete. Final year provides opportunities for deeper exploration #MedEdChat



Sateesh Arja, M.B.B.S., MHPE, MSPH @ArjaSateesh8 hours ago

@MedEdChat #mededchat T1 all disciplines are necessary as primary care physicians, including IM, FM, OBGYN, Pediatrics, Surgery, and Psychiatry #meded



Ian Pereira @IanJPereira8 hours ago

@ArjaSateesh @MedEdChat I would throw in oncology, and I'm biased. Not sure if onc exposure from the above is enough, in sub-specialized environments, unless it's focused on in some way? #MedEdChat



Gary Beck Dallaghan @GLBDallaghan8 hours ago

@ArjaSateesh @MedEdChat T1 And it used to be that the LCME listed those specialties as required. I don't believe they are any longer #MedEdChat



Sateesh Arja, M.B.B.S., MHPE, MSPH @ArjaSateesh8 hours ago

@MedEdChat #mededchat T1 I would go with pluripotent/undifferentiated medical school graduate rather than specialty prep especially requiring of primary care physicians focused on public health and to evade health disparities. This might encourage graduates into primary care #meded



Alliance4ClinEd @Alliance4ClinEd8 hours ago

@IanJPereira @ArjaSateesh @MedEdChat T1 Is Onc something that students completing required clerkships be expected to have...or something more suited to senior year when they have a better sense of medicine in general? #MedEdChat



MedEd Chat (hosted by ACE) @MedEdChat8 hours ago

TOPIC 2: For discipline-specific clinical rotations (eg, peds, medicine), how was the length of each clerkship determined in your school? #MedEdChat #meded



MedEd Chat (hosted by ACE) @MedEdChat8 hours ago

RT @ArjaSateesh: @MedEdChat #mededchat T1 I would go with pluripotent/undifferentiated medical school graduate rather than specialty prep especially requiring of primary care physicians focused on public health and to evade health disparities. This might encourage graduates into primary care #meded



Sateesh Arja, M.B.B.S., MHPE, MSPH @ArjaSateesh8 hours ago

@IanJPereira @GLBDallaghan @MedEdChat #mededchat T1 Maybe in the view of encouraging longitudinal clerkships and there will be no differentiation of disciplines. But this also encourages the graduates into primary care #meded



Gary Beck Dallaghan @GLBDallaghan7 hours ago

T2 I know at my prior institution it was driven by one discipline to get the longest time with students...essentially suggesting they were the only ones that truly thought about medicine....and all the others had to settle on time #MedEdChat



Ian Pereira @IanJPereira7 hours ago

@ArjaSateesh @GLBDallaghan @MedEdChat In regions where primary care was the priority, this seemed to make sense. Is primary care still 'the' priority? Other considerations? #MedEdChat



Sateesh Arja, M.B.B.S., MHPE, MSPH @ArjaSateesh7 hours ago

@Alliance4ClinEd @IanJPereira @MedEdChat #mededchat T1 I agree with you. A graduate should have the sense of medicine in general and should be able to decide when they should refer to the specialist and when they can handle by themselves as primary care physician #meded



Gary Beck Dallaghan @GLBDallaghan7 hours ago

@IanJPereira @ArjaSateesh @MedEdChat I think it depends on the medical school. Some campuses are making it a priority while others not so much. #MedEdChat



MedEd @TelehealthBot7 hours ago

RT @MedEdChat: TOPIC 2: TOPIC 2: For discipline-specific clinical rotations (eg, peds, medicine), how was the length of each clerkship determined in your school? #MedEdChat #meded



Sateesh Arja, M.B.B.S., MHPE, MSPH [@ArjaSateesh7 hours ago](#)

[@MedEdChat](#) [#mededchat](#) T2 It depends on the institution and depending on teaching/institution facilities available. It should give sufficient time to students to experience and gain min competencies. Biggest driving factor is accreditation standards and state licensure requirements [#meded](#)



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TOPIC 3: If the time were shortened, what concerns about knowledge, skills, & attitudes do you have? [#MedEdChat](#) [#meded](#)



Alliance4ClinEd [@Alliance4ClinEd7 hours ago](#)

T3 Couple of different studies to share. This one found no difference when clerkships were shortened <https://t.co/TWejf2WPun> [#MedEdChat](#) 1/2



Alliance4ClinEd [@Alliance4ClinEd7 hours ago](#)

T3 This study found that NBME exam performance dropped in psychiatry clerkships when the length of the course was cut <https://t.co/wgRKlcMiqy> [#MedEdChat](#) 2/2 [@admsep](#)



Gary Beck Dallaghan [@GLBDallaghan7 hours ago](#)

T2 I know there are some schools that have shortened their required clinical rotations to 4 weeks to give students additional elective time and time for research. Hasn't seemed to impact their KSA [#MedEdChat](#)



Sateesh Arja, M.B.B.S., MHPE, MSPH [@ArjaSateesh7 hours ago](#)

[@MedEdChat](#) [#mededchat](#) T3 We have already seen reducing from 12 weeks to 8 weeks for rotations like IM and Surgery. It might affect skills and I am less concerned regarding knowledge and attitudes [#meded](#)



Ian Pereira [@IanJPereira7 hours ago](#)

[@Alliance4ClinEd](#) [@ArjaSateesh](#) [@MedEdChat](#) I think oncology does a great job exposing students early to the non-scholar roles - i.e the multidisciplinary orchestra of surgeons, medoncs, radoncs, pallcare, symptom management, and other professionals that can highlight the need for continued humanism in medicine. [#MedEdChat](#) <https://t.co/cGbjwTHVgT>



Gary Beck Dallaghan [@GLBDallaghan7 hours ago](#)

[@williamkellymd](#) If we're solely relying on multiple choice tests probably not. Need to have a variety to get to that [#MedEdChat](#)



william kelly [@williamkellymd7 hours ago](#)

[@MedEdChat](#) What about variable length based on individual competency? Not feasible? [#mededchat](#) [#cbme](#)



MedEd Chat (hosted by ACE) [@MedEdChat7 hours ago](#)

RT [@IanJPereira](#): [@Alliance4ClinEd](#) [@ArjaSateesh](#) [@MedEdChat](#) I think oncology does a great job exposing students early to the non-scholar roles - i.e the multidisciplinary orchestra of surgeons, medoncs, radoncs, pallcare, symptom management, and other professionals that can highlight the need for continued humanism in medicine. [#MedEdChat](#) <https://t.co/cGbjwTHVgT>



Gary Beck Dallaghan [@GLBDallaghan7 hours ago](#)

[@williamkellymd](#) [@MedEdChat](#) I've not read about any school that has been able to pull that off....probably due to logistics. If someone finishes early they should be able to go right to the next rotation....but most schools can't manage that. Would love to know if someone is doing it. [#MedEdChat](#)



MedEd Chat (hosted by ACE) [@MedEdChat7 hours ago](#)

TOPIC 4: If the required clerkship year was shortened to 9 months, how would you distribute time by discipline and why? Would an LIC structure affect your thinking? [#MedEdChat](#) [#meded](#)



william kelly [@williamkellymd7 hours ago](#)

[@MedEdChat](#) [#mededchat](#) T4 It sounds so short! But we're essentially there now once you deduct elective rotation and vacation... so probably condense all specialties down by same proportion or do a 50:50 primary care:surgery mix which may become a lot like a LIC



Gary Beck Dallaghan [@GLBDallaghan7 hours ago](#)

T4 This is what some of those schools with 4-wk experiences do. I could see where a hybrid LIC would work with some required inpatient med/surg as part of the 9 mos [#MedEdChat](#)



Sateesh Arja, M.B.B.S., MHPE, MSPH [@ArjaSateesh7 hours ago](#)

[@MedEdChat](#) [#mededchat](#) T4 IM-8 weeks Surgery- 8 weeks, FM-4 Psychiatry-4, OBGYN- 6 weeks and Pediatrics- 6 weeks total 36 weeks and 9 months [#meded](#)



MedEd Chat (hosted by ACE) [@MedEdChat7 hours ago](#)

We have about 5 more minutes left in our discussion. Please feel free to give some final thoughts [#meded](#) [#MedEdChat](#)



william kelly [@williamkellymd7 hours ago](#)

[@MedEdChat](#) [#mededchat](#) I really appreciated hearing your thoughts — and just having this strategic pause to reflect on just why we do things the way we do!



Ian Pereira [@IanJPereira7 hours ago](#)

[@ArjaSateesh](#) [@MedEdChat](#) What is driving the shortening of clinical clerkship? [#MedEdChat](#) (and does it meet the needs of students and society? - CT)



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Join us again next week at 9 PM ET/NYC Thursday. Don't forget to suggest topics by DM or email [#meded](#) [#MedEdChat](#)



MedEd Chat (hosted by ACE) [@MedEdChat](#) 7 hours ago
That's a wrap...I will post the [#MedEdChat](#) transcript tomorrow morning on <https://t.co/mJivoKroXx>. Thanks everyone for participating! [#meded](#)



Sateesh Arja, M.B.B.S., MHPE, MSPH [@ArjaSateesh](#) 7 hours ago
[@IanJPereira](#) [@MedEdChat](#) [#mededchat](#) I doubt if we are meeting the needs of students and society [#meded](#)



Sateesh Arja, M.B.B.S., MHPE, MSPH [@ArjaSateesh](#) 7 hours ago
RT [@ArjaSateesh](#): [@MedEdChat](#) [#mededchat](#) T2 It depends on the institution and depending on teaching/institution facilities available. It should give sufficient time to students to experience and gain min competencies. Biggest driving factor is accreditation standards and state licensure requirements [#meded](#)



Med Student Bot [@MedStudent_Bot](#) 7 hours ago
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RT [@MedEdChat](#): That's a wrap...I will post the [#MedEdChat](#) transcript tomorrow morning on <https://t.co/mJivoKroXx>. Thanks everyone for participating! [#meded](#)



Shadia Constantine [@shadiasantos6](#) 6 hours ago
[@MedEdChat](#) [#MedEdChat](#) T1- I have questioned while developing a "Global Medicine" rotation in Guam. Should I focus on the specialty the Med student is interested OR should I give them experiences in different fields, those likely they won't experience anymore? I lean towards the 2nd choice.

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[@AriaSateesh](#) 1.9K



[@shadiasantos](#) 207.0

The Numbers

133.055K Impressions

42 Tweets

9 Participants

5 Avg Tweets/Hour

5 Avg Tweets/Participant

Twitter data from the [#MedEdChat](#) hashtag from Thu, April 21st 2022, 9:05PM to Fri, April 22nd 2022, 4:45AM (America/New_York) – Symplur.