



2025 ACGME Proposed Changes to Emergency Medicine Residency Training FAQ for EM Advisors and Applicants

1. Are these changes definitely occurring?

- **No, these changes are not final.** They were proposed by the ACGME EM Residency Review Committee and were open for public comment until May 1. The committee will review all feedback, make any necessary revisions, and submit written responses to the larger Committee on Requirements. Any approved changes will then be presented to the ACGME Board for final approval.

2. When will we know what changes will be required for EM residencies?

- A final decision regarding changes to EM residency requirements is expected by **Late Spring 2026.**

3. Who proposed these changes?

- These changes were proposed by the **ACGME Emergency Medicine Residency Review Committee (RRC)**, which includes EM physicians appointed or elected by stakeholder organizations such as SAEM and ACEP, as well as members of the general public. CORD does not hold a specific position within the EM RRC.

4. When will these changes take effect?

- If approved, these changes would take effect **no earlier than July 1, 2027.**

5. How will these changes affect EM applicants in the 2025-2026 application cycle?

- **Applicants in the 2025–2026 cycle will not be affected by the proposed changes.** These applicants will begin residency on July 1, 2026, under the current ACGME requirements. However, programs are allowed flexibility within the existing guidelines to preemptively adapt their curricula. For example, a program might introduce a rural EM rotation ahead of a formal requirement. Applicants should be aware that such program-specific adjustments have always been possible, regardless of pending ACGME changes.

6. If I match into a 3-year EM residency, could the program later require me to complete 4 years of training if its format changes?

- No. Programs cannot retroactively change the required length of training for their residents post-match.

7. What should I ask programs about this potential transition?

- Applicants should **ask how individual programs are preparing for the proposed changes** and whether they plan to implement any curricular adjustments before the final ACGME decision. Understanding how these changes might affect training during your residency can help you make a more informed decision. It is also important to assess how a program is planning to proactively tackle these changes as these are a major set of changes which will change the face of EM residency training.

8. Should I apply only to 4-year programs because they're less likely to be affected, or only to 3-year programs since it might be the last chance to complete training in 3 years?

- We recommend applying to and ranking programs based on their overall fit with your goals and values, as well as the quality of training they offer. Both 3- and 4-year programs may adapt in different ways. The most important factor is finding a program that aligns with your educational and professional priorities.

9. Where can I read more about these changes and the rationale behind their proposal?

- The proposed program requirements and impact statement from the Review Committee can be found in [\(https://www.acgme.org/programs-and-institutions/programs/review-and-comment/\)](https://www.acgme.org/programs-and-institutions/programs/review-and-comment/).

10. Besides the ACGME, where are some reliable sources of information regarding the proposed ACGME changes?

- CORD
- EMRA
- SAEM/RSA