4th Year Rotations

Quick Overview of 4th year rotations:

- 10 Rotation Periods (Periods 13-22)
- Each Rotation is 4 weeks in duration
- Students will need to complete EM, Geri, and 6 electives.
- You choose which rotations you complete each period, except for the periods you are assigned cores-- Emergency Medicine and Geriatrics. (You must complete those in the periods they are assigned.)
- Students who are not making up 3rd year rotations or did not have an interruption of rotations should have 2 “optional” months.
- Optional months may be used for vacation, auditions, study for COMLEX2, or additional electives.

FAQ’s about 4th Year Rotations

- When do we start applying for 4th year rotations?
  Most people start in the spring (March or April) of their third year. There will be a few exceptions, but not many. If you’re military, you may need to start sooner and some Osteopathic programs open sooner than others.

- What do I need to apply (immunization records, background check, etc.)?
  Every site is different, but here are several items that are most requested:

  * Picture
  * Letter of Good Standing (LGS)

  * Transcript (A transcript will be uploaded into VSAS, but you will not have access to it or be able to view it. If you need an official transcript, you must request that from the Registrar’s Office. If you need an unofficial transcript, you may obtain that from your MYHSC-EIS Self-Service.)

  * Certificate of Insurance

  Immunization records (most sites have their own form) If you need copies of your immunization records, you may obtain that from your MYHSC-EIS Self-Service.)
CV

Personal Statement

Drug Screen

Background check (Included in LGS)

BLS/ACLS (Included in LGS)

(*Items marked with an asterisk have been uploaded to your VSAS account.)

Your Letter of Good Standing (LGS) will meet many of the requirements asked of a program. **Generic letter of good standing includes:**

- BLS/ACLS Certified
- Statement of good standing
- Statement that an evaluation is required
- Liability limits and provider
- Statement that core rotations are completed (or, are in the process of being completed)
- HIPAA statement
- OSHA statement (blood-borne pathogens and tuberculosis workshop)
- Statement concerning the background checks
- Anticipated date of graduation

- **How do I find programs?**

You can search for electives on the VSAS website (https://services.aamc.org/20/vsas/)

Message boards, internet, Specialty College websites (i.e. ACOFP), etc.

Friends, alumni, advisors, general networking

***New elective search on MyHSC. Go to MyHSC\rightarrow Student Information (on the left hand side)\rightarrow Find an elective rotation. You can look and see where TCOM students have rotated before and filter it by specialty, city, and/or state.

- **Do I have to do a core (Geri/EM) in the fall, because I don’t want to? I need to do audition rotations.**

Yes

- **Which specialties prefer/require auditions?**

For more competitive specialties (or for weaker applications) more auditions may be required. Remember, that a large number of students match to a residency with whom they did not do an audition rotation.
• **What is VSAS? What do I use it for?**

It stands for Visiting Student Application Service. It’s an online program made available by AAMC that allows you to apply for senior electives at US medical schools and teaching hospitals. You do not need a log-in to search for electives if you want to see what’s offered or to search which institutions participate on VSAS. Not all sites use VSAS, so you may use it a lot, or you may not. It depends on where you want to rotate. Contact us if have not been able log-in. **Please do not replace your student ID picture with anything except a professional photograph in your white coat. Casual attire, “selfies,” and candid photographs are not acceptable.**

• **When do I need to decide what specialty I want to apply to?**

As you continue through the 3rd year, you need to start narrowing down your options so that you’re prepared to begin audition rotations in the Fall. Most students will start audition rotations in late August/early September.

• **Can I audition in more than one specialty?**

You can, but be careful spreading yourself too thin. Some specialties (i.e. primary care) have a sort of overlap so auditioning in two primary care fields is common.

• **Is it ok to interview somewhere else when I’m on an audition rotation?**

Programs understand that students are in their residency quest in the fall and may need to interview, but be careful of the message you send the program you are rotating with. You may not miss more than 4 days of any 4 week rotation; however, if you are rotating at a program that is one of your top choices, four days is too many to miss. If it is recommended that you do numerous interviews, you may want to consider taking an optional month to accommodate the interviews without compromising your place with programs.

• **How long are 4th year rotations?**

Every 4th year rotation is 4 weeks.

• **Can I split that and do 2 weeks at one hospital and two weeks at another?**

Not unless you’re competitive in certain specialties that commonly require 2 week rotations. You can discuss this during residency counseling.

• **I’m interested in couples matching with my significant other. How do I do that?**

Discuss “Couples Match” during your residency counseling appointment. There may be some differences in strategy than if you were trying to match on your own.

• **I’ve been approved for a rotation. How do I add the rotation to my schedule?**
Please see our website that will give you specific information on using our online Clinical Rotation Center (CRC). Students will use the CRC to enter every rotation, once they have been approved.

- **Where do I find proof of malpractice insurance (Certificate of Coverage)**

You can find the Certificate of Coverage on our forms page at: [http://web.unthsc.edu/info/200167/clinical_education/852/forms](http://web.unthsc.edu/info/200167/clinical_education/852/forms)

(One has also been uploaded to your VSAS account.)

- **Is there a special form we need to use for setting up elective rotations? What do I do if I contact a site and they ask me to “send them the paperwork to sign?”**

We have a standard “Clerkship Application and Approval Form” that you can use anytime a site wants “paperwork” to complete (this is not just for Geri, but for any application.) It’s not required by us, but many sites are used to using it as we used it for many years. It can also be found on our forms page. (See link above.)