



## Guideline for Consideration for Reduction in Program Length

Source: Department of Family and Community Medicine

The Department of Family and Community Medicine's Residency Program Committee has set the family medicine residency program length at 24 months for all residents, regardless of any individual's reason for a leave of absence. Only by exception and under unusual circumstances will the department agree to review or grant a shortened program.

The College of Family Physicians of Canada expects residents to have completed 24 months of training. The residency program in Family Medicine in Canada is shorter than most training programs for Family Medicine throughout the world. Given the complexity of our discipline and training requirements, any consideration for a reduction in program length must be treated seriously. There is a need to ensure optimal training for practice and to maintain program standards and integrity. Thus any requests for this privilege will be considered carefully at the University of Toronto DFCM level through the office of the Director of Postgraduate Education.

Without limiting the scope of the review by the Director of Postgraduate Education, residents should consider the following factors before making application:

1. The resident must demonstrate that undue hardship would be incurred by a requirement to complete the full 24 months of training.
2. The resident will be required to demonstrate exemplary performance throughout the residency program, customarily reflected by in-training evaluations;
3. The core experiences in Family Medicine must be completed;
4. Supportive documentation reflecting contributions of leadership, and strong participation in residency community life would enhance the application;
5. A maternity or paternity leave would not in itself be accepted solely as a reason to be granted a shortened training experience;
6. Under no circumstances will a resident be permitted to complete residency training in Family Medicine in less than 23 months;
7. For residents who have transferred into the Family Medicine residency program from another postgraduate training program, the expectation is that 24 months of training in Family Medicine will be completed. However, upon review of prior postgraduate training experiences, and on the advice of the Site Director, the Director of Postgraduate Education may grant a transfer resident up to 6 blocks (1 block = 4 weeks) credit for prior training in experiences relevant to Family Medicine. Decisions regarding credit for previous training will be made after the resident has been observed for a minimum of 4 blocks as a Family Medicine Resident. The Director of Postgraduate Education will then apply to the College of Family Physicians of Canada Board of Examinations and Certification on behalf of the resident to obtain approval for a shortened family medicine residency no less than 18 months.

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