ROSS UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

RUSM Curriculum Change FAQ

Background

Ross University School of Medicine's (RUSM) is announcing a modification to the **Single Module Curriculum (SMC)** that reduces the clinical-phase graduation requirement from 90 weeks to 80 weeks by removing 10 weeks of electives. This also decreases the total program requirement from 170 to 160 semester credit hours (one clinical week equals one credit hour). The change takes effect during the September 2026 semester.

Key Details

- This change, which reduces the number of clinical elective weeks, reflects the design of the SMC, which incorporates expanded clinical foundations, longitudinal clinical skills development, simulation, structured readiness assessments, and other integrated clinical learning experiences across the curriculum.
    - The revised clinical-week requirement better aligns the clinical sciences phase with the SMC while maintaining the educational rigor and clinical preparation needed for graduation and residency readiness.
- The reduction is elective-only — all 48 weeks of required core clerkships are fully preserved.
    - Core clerkships:
        - Internal Medicine, 12 weeks
        - Surgery, 12 weeks
        - Family Medicine, 6 weeks
        - Obstetrics and Gynecology, 6 weeks
        - Pediatrics, 6 weeks
        - Psychiatry, 6 weeks
- Only SMC students (those who started in semester 1 of medical sciences September 2023 onward or clinical students who transferred January 2026 onward) are affected; legacy-curriculum students keep their existing graduation requirements.
- For some eligible students, the revised requirement may provide additional flexibility in planning their clinical education and progression toward graduation.
- The elective week reduction will be rolled out via a cohort-based transition process, using institutional records to identify students who are enrolled in the SMC and eligible for the revised requirement. Students do not need to apply for the change.
- Students will receive direct written communication confirming the graduation requirements that apply to them.

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FAQ

1. **Why make the change for single module curriculum and not legacy curriculum students?**
   The reduction from 90 to 80 clinical weeks was made possible by the additional structured experiential learning opportunities built into the Single Module Curriculum (SMC). Through the Community Medicine and Global Health (CMGH) curriculum and Community Clinical Experiences, students gain early clinical exposure, engage directly with patients and communities, build documentation skills, and strengthen clinical reasoning, communication, professionalism, and cultural humility.

   Because students reach the same competencies through this broader range of experiences, the required clinical weeks can be reduced without weakening their preparation.

2. **Can I appeal to have clinical weeks reduced for any reason (i.e. financial, meet certain graduation or residency start date)?**
   No. The reduction from 90 to 80 clinical weeks is a curriculum-based change that applies only to students who are eligible under the SMC. Your eligibility depends on your curriculum pathway, not individual circumstances such as graduation timing, residency start dates, financial considerations, or personal preference. Students who are not eligible for the revised requirement must continue to satisfy the graduation requirements associated with their curriculum.

   The 80-week requirement is tied to the design of the SMC, so it reflects your curriculum pathway rather than your individual circumstances.

3. **Can I take more than 80 clinical weeks?**
   Yes. We encourage students to proactively pursue educational experiences that will help them succeed. To assess additional electives, contact the Office of Clinical Advising and Clerkships at 754-208-4589 to speak with an advisor.

4. **Will reducing the clinical requirement affect my preparation for residency?**
   No. We have tremendous confidence in our new curriculum and in the residency readiness of future RUSM graduates. The Medical Sciences curriculum in the SMC was intentionally redesigned to integrate clinical skills, patient-centered learning, clinical reasoning, and applied experiences via hands-on, practical activities that integrate classroom learning with real-world healthcare settings throughout the pre-clinical phase, creating earlier and more consistent opportunities for students to develop the competencies required for clinical practice.

   Because clinical preparation is more intentionally embedded across the entire educational journey, RUSM can reduce the clinical sciences phase from 90 to 80

weeks while maintaining the rigor, quality, and outcomes expected of our graduates. This change aligns the clinical sciences phase with the broader design of the SMC and reflects a more integrated approach to medical education, not a reduction in educational standards or clinical readiness. You will continue to receive the robust preparation needed to succeed in residency and beyond.

5. **The change from 90 to 80 clinical weeks may affect my anticipated graduation date or Match timeline. What should I do?**
   If your anticipated graduation date is now before May 31, 2027, and you have questions regarding your timeline and Match eligibility, contact the Office of Career Advisement (OCA) at 754-208-4593 or email OCA@rossu.edu to speak with an advisor. OCA advisors will discuss eligibility requirements for the 2027 Match cycle and provide individualized guidance to support competitiveness based on your specific circumstances.

6. **How will these changes impact transfer students?**
   The clinical week requirement for transfer students is based on when they were accepted to RUSM and the curriculum under which they are classified.

   - Clinical transfer students who were accepted to RUSM beginning January 2026 or later are classified as Single Module Curriculum students and must complete 80 clinical weeks.
   - Clinical transfer students who were accepted to RUSM before January 2026 are classified as Legacy Curriculum students and must complete 90 clinical weeks.

   In short, transfer students will follow the clinical week requirement associated with their curriculum classification. Students in the SMC complete 80 clinical weeks, while students in the Legacy Curriculum continue to complete 90 clinical weeks.

7. **Will the reduction from 90 to 80 clinical weeks impact the RUSM Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) requirements?**
   No. The reduction in RUSM's clinical week requirement does not change or affect any ACGME graduation requirements. Students must still meet all eligibility requirements established by the university to graduate. The change from 90 to 80 clinical weeks reflects an evolution in RUSM's curriculum design, with clinical skills, patient care experiences, and clinical reasoning now integrated throughout the Medical Sciences Curriculum. This curricular enhancement allows students to achieve the intended educational outcomes within 80 clinical weeks while continuing to be prepared for residency training.