

College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific

A Resource for Applicants with Canadian Citizenship

This document contains a brief overview of government regulations and other applicable information relating to visas, residency guidelines and Canadian licensure requirements, and is current as of June 2014. Please be aware that this document does not serve as individualized career or legal advice as the requirements of the American and Canadian governments, Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) residency hospitals systems and Canadian licensing and certifying agencies change periodically; also, the application of this information is both situation and student dependent. Consequently, it is the responsibility of each individual student that is impacted by this information to contact the appropriate agencies and systems in order to obtain the most up-to-date information regarding the requirements of his or her specific circumstances.

Pre-Doctoral Years

Preclerkship:

- You must continuously maintain your F-1 visa status.

Clerkship Years:

- You must continuously maintain your F-1 visa status, and during your senior year, it is your responsibility to contact the Director for International Student Relations to secure an F-1 OPT visa to cover your first postgraduate3 residency year.
- It is recommended that you schedule clerkship rotations at ACGME hospitals.
- If you wish to schedule clerkship elective rotations at facilities that have residency programs in Canada, this requires approval from two individual entities (1) a host facility, and (2) a sponsoring Canadian medical school. Obtaining such approval can take 6 months or more, of if you are interested in these opportunities begin making arrangements early.

Post-Doctoral Years

Applying for Residency in Canada:

- Each Canadian province has unique requirements regarding the acceptance and training of osteopathic medical residents within their jurisdictions. It is the responsibility of the individual to examine, understand, and satisfy those requirements.
- You can begin the process of understanding these requirements now by exploring the Canadian medical specialty website at <http://www.carms.ca/>.

Applying for Residency in the United States

- As of June 2014, the Canadian government only recognizes ACGME training programs within the United States. Therefore, if you plan to return to Canada after completing a residency program in the U.S., it is in your best interest to pursue ACGME residency programs only.
 - Please be aware that there are ACGMEW residency program in the United States that will only accept USMLE scores (and will not accept COMLEX scores). As you begin exploring residency programs, make sure you are informed about the specific requirements of your selected training program.
- The F-1 OPT visa covers your first postgraduate residency year so prior to the second year of your residency training; you must obtain a visa which will allow you to continue working legally in the United States. Amongst the visas that may be available to you, two of the most commonly applied for include: the J-1 visa and the H-1B visa. Regardless of which is obtained, it is your personal responsibility to remain in legal immigration status throughout your residency training while in the United States.
 - The J-1 visa requires the successful completion of Steps 1 & 2 of the USMLE prior to application.

- Every ACGME hospital system handles the visa status on non-citizen resident candidates with its own unique procedures. Due to these important differences, you must contact the appropriate medical education office for the most up-to-date information for that hospital system, as WesternU/COMP is not able to advise each student as the dynamic processes adhered to by individual training programs.

Practicing-Physician Years

If you complete residency in the United States and wish to return to Canada to practice:

- The National Practice Guidelines to practice in Canada include the following information:
 - The candidate must receive certification by either the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC), if you are a family physician, or from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC), if you are a physician in any specialty other than family medicine.
 - Neither the USMLE nor the COMLEX examinations are recognized licensing boards in Canada. As a result, the candidate must complete the examinations of the Medical Council of Canada. More information about these examinations is available on this website: <http://www.mcc.ca/en/>
- It is possible that if you successfully completed an ACGME Family Medicine Residency and passed the American College of Family Medicine certifying board examination, the CFPC may extend certification by reciprocity to practice in Canada.
- If you completed an ACGME approved residency in any other medical specialty, however, according to the National Practice Guidelines, the RCPSC will accept ACGME accredited residencies in the United States as meeting only partial completion of their requirements to practice. In many cases, specialty residencies in Canada are a year longer than in the United States, and a candidate may be required to participate in an additional year of training, often in the form of a fellowship, before being eligible to take the RCPSC examinations.

Due to the complexity of this issue, regardless of your area of practice, it is in your best interest to contact the appropriate Canadian specialty college in which you are interested in order to obtain the most accurate and up-to-date information.