

March 18, 2020

Dear Graduate Program Director,

This is a brief update regarding recent developments in graduate medical physics education in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. SDAMPP, CAMPEP, AAPM, and other organizations are working together in a coordinated manner to work on solutions to new challenges that we will face together. We are also working together to coordinate and streamline our communication; we will collect, synthesize, and collate information from a variety of sources so you can focus on running your program successfully during this difficult time. Our communications will focus on items specific to medical physics education and will not repeat general guidance of the type being provided by governmental agencies and by your institution.

At this point in time, the major focus is helping program directors to keep their medical physics trainees progressing on schedule. A few of the most pressing aspects of that goal are addressed here.

- What is the general outlook for graduate students who are planning to complete their degrees this semester? We anticipate most students should be able complete their degrees on schedule. Many degree requirements can be completed remotely, including classroom courses, examinations, defenses, etc.
- What resources are available to help get my classes online? An absolute smorgasbord of knowledge and software tools is available. On the SDAMPP website, see the thread on our Bulletin Board regarding continuity of instruction during the pandemic. You will find links to comprehensive resources there.
- Is my program's accreditation(s) at risk of delay or expiration due to the pandemic? No, we are working with CAMPEP to make a variety of accommodations to ensure that accredited programs may maintain their accreditation. This may comprise a statement clarifying existing accreditation standards as well as employing administrative extensions of accreditation periods if necessary. In the meanwhile, note that CAMPEP's residency standards (<http://www.campep.org/ResidencyStandards.pdf>) allow flexibility in exceptional circumstances.
- Will the residency match process be delayed? No, upon consultation of leaders of SDAMPP and AAPM, we are pleased to announce that the match will proceed on schedule. The pool of qualified applicants to residency programs is large relative to the number of positions available.
- What about potential delays in graduations? We recognize there are some challenges that could lead to delays in students completing their degrees. For example, the completion of laboratory courses, clinical rotation courses, performance of laboratory-based research, travel restrictions, and other tasks may be challenging. We, as a community, have yet to sort out many of these issues, and we will stay in touch as helpful information and resources become available.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us directly.

Sincerely,

SDAMPP, CAMPEP, AAPM Education Council