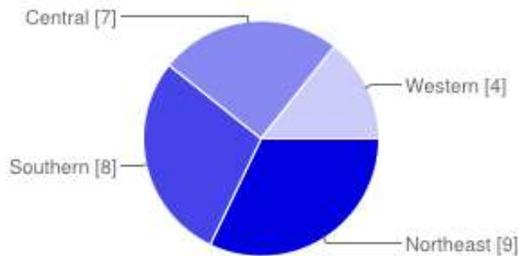


## Third-Year Scheduling Questionnaire: September 2014

University of Colorado School of Medicine OSR

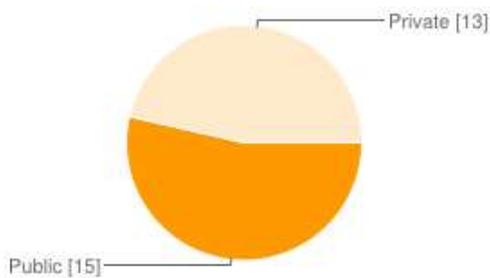
This questionnaire was created to gauge how medical schools support students who cannot begin third year with the rest of their class. Twenty-eight schools responded.

### What region is your school in?



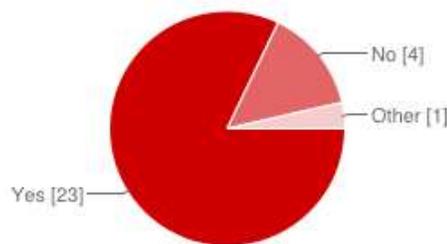
Northeast	9	32%
Southern	8	29%
Central	7	25%
Western	4	14%

### Is your school public or private?



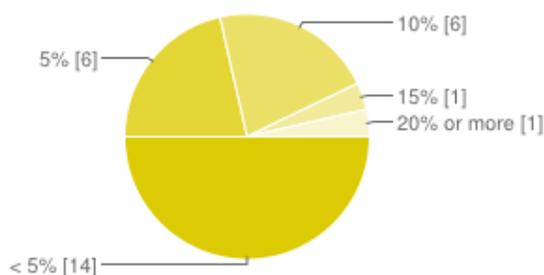
Public	15	54%
Private	13	46%

### Are students at your school required to complete Step 1 prior to starting third year?



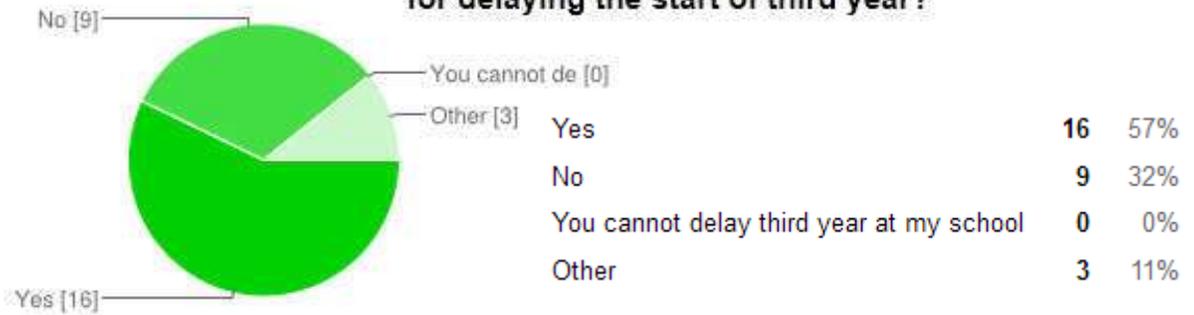
Yes	23	82%
No	4	14%
Other	1	4%

### On average, what percent of students in a given class delay the start of third year?

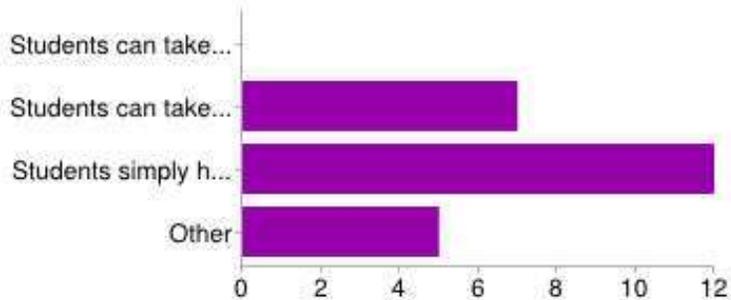


< 5%	14	50%
5%	6	21%
10%	6	21%
15%	1	4%
20% or more	1	4%

**Does your school have a formal, documented process for delaying the start of third year?**



**Please check all methods of delaying third-year that apply to your school.**



Students can take a special, made-for-this-purpose course at the start of third year	0	0%
Students can take a require or elective course at the start of third year.	7	25%
Students simply have to request a delay.	12	43%
Other	5	18%

**Comments:**

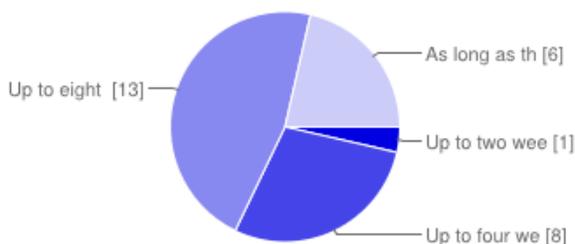
*Student[s] can defer pending approval to take the USMLE Step 1*

*All students who fail a Year 2 course are required to delay in order to remediate the failed courses & then study for Step 1. Students considered at risk of failing Step 1 (low Year 1 & 2 z-score) are offered additional time to prepare & a formal course. Others who request a delay must request a 2 month personal leave of absence.*

*Clerkships can be made-up during 4th year*

*Students submit a written request to start on one of two start dates in September or January. Students take a leave of absence during this time.*

**At your school, by how many weeks can a student delay third year without delaying graduation?**



Up to two weeks	1	4%
Up to four weeks	8	29%
Up to eight weeks	13	46%
As long as they need	6	21%

**Please describe the process for delaying the start of third year at your school.**

*The administration is very supportive, but the process is largely on an ad-hoc basis. Only a small handful of students experience this problem every year as a result of personal or academic difficulties, though virtually all (or all) end up completing third year and graduate medical school.*

*Ordinarily, students are expected to graduate within three years and nine months. Occasionally a student may be confronted with special problems that may be solved if the curriculum is extended. It should be noted that curriculum extension requires compelling reasons (e.g. illness, pregnancy, academic difficulties) and involves enrollment in some courses during each academic year. Requests for extensions will be sent to the Associate Dean for Student Affairs with final approval from the Medical Student Progress Board and Associate Dean for Medical Education.*

*Talk to dean of students.*

*I don't know if there is a formal process, except that students who do not pass step 1 are not permitted to start third year, and the process involves retaking the exam. Otherwise, students who start the PhD program leave after second year and they along with anyone else are required to fill out a leave of absence form requesting permission. Otherwise, any students who have not passed certain shelf exams during the first two years are also required to pass those before starting third year, as well.*

*Students may take request with the office of student affairs to delay the beginning of third year by one month. Typically this is utilized for extended USMLE Step 1 preparation. Those students that do so forfeit one of the 4th year months "off" of which we have 3. Students that must delay based on poor academic performance follow a different formal protocol. That varies depending on the number of courses deemed marginal or failed. This includes 3 outcomes; (1) Remediation, (2) Repeat 2nd year or (3) Dismissal.*

*Cases are address[ed] on an individualized basis with the deans (and progress and promotions committee depending on the reason).*

*there is not a formalized process in place*

*The student meets with the Dean of Students, and the first rotation is deferred until the beginning of second year. There is no paperwork that I had to fill out, though they heavily recommend taking as many electives in third year as possible, to make up the loss.*

*Contact SAO and ask for delay. Technically we are not allowed to do that because the deadline to take Step 1 is a hard deadline. But quite a few student did that my year regardless, the school didn't end up enforcing the deadline.*

*Meetings with administration/Dean. Only during extenuating circumstances e.g. Failed Step 1, health/family issue.*

*Normally, only students with special circumstances, such as health issues or difficulty with classes, are permitted to delay the start of their third year. This is done on an individual basis with the student speaking and getting formal approval from the Office of Student Affairs. Sometimes this means delaying a whole rotation, while usually it means changing schedules so that they start with another rotation.*

**Please add any thoughts you'd like to share, in particular on how delays affect student success in fourth year and in the Match.**

*These procedures are not documented in our handbook (as far as I'm aware), but my responses reflect the experience of a couple students and extrapolation that you can survive 8 weeks of delay and still graduate on time...*

*As far as I know, students who do not go directly into 3rd year will generally restart their school-ing at a later year. This year, 6 people took a break to do other activities, research, etc, and 6 joined from time off doing masters, PhDs etc.*

*All of our students are required to complete a year-long research project. This coupled with a 4th year with no requirements makes it easy for time to be made up if needed.*

*Many students matching into competitive specialities take this option to have extra time to study, usually with good payoffs. About 1/5 of the class schedules their elective time first in their third year (ranging from 2-6 weeks) to allow them extra study time depending on their needs. We have 6 weeks of available elective time during 3rd year. I think it can be challenging for students to meet graduation requirements if they do not take 2 weeks of elective for credit during third year, though not impossible (just would mean more electives for credit would need to be done over the interview season).*

*I actually don't know if there is a set number of weeks you are allowed to miss, usually, the first thing that is affected is that if you delay past October 1st, then your financial aid is reneged.*

*The impact for those that delay is minimal.*

*I'm just now starting third year, so I don't know how it affects fourth year or Match. My first rotation was deferred, but I'm taking electives during the allotted break time, so I'll only come out about three weeks behind.*

*Students who delay until Sept may still be able to Enter the Match with their current class, depending on their speciality of interest and required electives in year 4. However, students who delay for 6 month, will be off cycle and unable to match with their current class.*

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