

**2026 Navy JGMESB  
Residency Selection Following an Operational Tour Pilot  
Frequently Asked Questions**

**Background:** Prior to this inception of the pilot program, medical students and incumbent interns who desired early operational experience as a General Medical Officer (GMO), Flight Surgeon, or Undersea Medical Officer had to opt out of straight-through training and apply for a categorical residency during the last year of their operational tour. In this pilot program, medical students and incumbent interns who want early operational experience can opt out of straight-through training and request consideration for selection to a categorical residency spot following a three-year operational tour.

**Q1: What specialties are included in the pilot program?**

A: The specialties participating in the pilot program are listed in enclosure (4) of the current BUMEDNOTE 1524. These specialties include Aerospace Medicine, Anesthesiology, Dermatology, Emergency Medicine, Family Medicine, General Surgery, Internal Medicine, Neurology, Occupational and Environmental Medicine, Pathology, Pediatrics, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Preventive Medicine, Psychiatry, and Radiology.

**Q2: What locations are included in the pilot program?**

A: The pilot program includes all locations with Navy training programs for the specialties listed specialties listed in enclosure (4) of the current BUMEDNOTE 1524.

**Q3: How many applicants will be selected for each residency participating in the pilot?**

A: There is no set goal for each specialty. The 2026 JGMESB is authorized to select as many qualified and eligible applicants up to their available capacity anticipated ACGME complement in 2030 and 2031.

**Q4: Who can be considered for the pilot program?**

A: Medical Students and incumbent interns.

**Q5: How do I apply?**

A: Medical student applicants who desire residency selection following an operational tour must opt into the pilot program. Applicants applying for residency training via the pilot program will not be considered for straight-through training but will be considered for categorical residency in their first-choice specialty to start their PGY-2 year in AY-2031. This option requires a 3-year operational tour following a preliminary year of training starting in AY-2027. Prospective applicants who desire consideration for this option must select the pilot program option on their application.

Incumbent intern applicants who desire residency selection following an operational tour must opt into the pilot program. Applicants applying for residency training via the pilot program will not be considered for straight-through training but will be considered for categorical residency in their first-choice specialty to start their PGY-2 year in AY-2030. This option requires a 3-year operational tour upon completion of the preliminary year of training. Prospective applicants who desire consideration for this option must select the pilot program option on their application.

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**Q6: What if I participate in the pilot and am not selected for a categorical residency starting in 2030 or 2031?**

A. Medical students not selected for a 2031 categorical residency will be selected for a preliminary year (PGY-1 only) in a full-time in-service (FTIS) program or a one-year delayed deferment in the Navy Active Duty Delay for Specialists (NADDS) program. These applicants can apply in 2027 for an operational assignment, straight-through training to a categorical residency, or the pilot program again if offered. Interns not selected should apply for residency training when eligible during their operational tour.

**Q7: If I am selected for a categorical residency starting in 2030 or 2031, can I decline it later?**

A: Applicants can decline their selections in writing to the GME Office at any time prior to the start of their training program. Applicants selected by a previous JGMESB forfeit that selection if they apply to a future board.

**Q8: If I am selected for a categorical residency starting in 2030 or 2031, can I change my mind and apply for a different residency?**

A. Yes, but GME selection is competitive. You would have to compete for the new residency spot, and applying to a future JGMESB would forfeit your prior selection.

**Q9: Can I be considered for straight-through training and this pilot program?**

A: No. This pilot program is specifically for those who want early operational experience and choose not to pursue straight-through training.

**Q10: How will participation in the pilot program affect my Active Duty Service Obligation?**

A: The rules for accruing and fulfilling ADSO, as outlined in DODI 6000.13 (December 2015), do not change. The three-year operational tour will count towards fulfilling previously accrued service obligations in the order they were accrued.

**Q11: How will I know if I was selected for the pilot program?**

A: The Navy GME office will send official selection notifications via email to the address provided on your application. Medical students not selected for a 2031 categorical residency can apply in 2027 for an operational assignment, straight-through training, or the pilot program (if offered). Interns not selected should apply for categorical residency training when eligible during their operational tour.