

Accelerated MD program doesn't mar academic performance

September 9 2015



(HealthDay)—An accelerated baccalaureate (BA)/doctor of medicine (MD) program does not impair the academic performance of medical students, according to a study published online July 3 in *Academic Medicine*.

Marianne M. Green, M.D., from the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine in Chicago, and colleagues compared educational outcomes of programs that offer a combined BA/MD degree program, which truncates the premedical phase, with programs offering conventional pathways. Data were compared for 2,583 [medical students](#) in the Honors Program in Medical Education (HPME; an accelerated seven-year program) versus non-HPME students entering the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine.

The researchers found that 21.7 percent of students entered through the HPME program; on average they were younger and less likely to belong to a racial/ethnic group underrepresented in medicine. No significant differences were seen in Alpha Omega Alpha selection, quintile performance distribution, or United States Medical Licensing Examination scores. Compared with non-HPME students, more HPME students entered internal medicine (35.8 versus 20.6 percent), while fewer selected emergency medicine (5.6 versus 8.7 percent) and obstetrics-gynecology (2.0 versus 5.3 percent).

"The academic performances of medical students in the two programs studied were equivalent," the authors write. "Accelerated BA/MD programs might play a role in ameliorating the length and cost of a [medical education](#)."

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Citation: Accelerated MD program doesn't mar academic performance (2015, September 9) retrieved 30 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2015-09-md-doesnt-mar-academic.html>

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