

PGY, short for postgraduate year, refers to a North American numerical scheme denoting the progress of postgraduate dental, medicine, podiatry or pharmacy residents in their residency programs. It is used to stratify responsibility in most training programs and to determine salary. The grade of the resident is denoted with a numeral after the PGY designation, such as PGY-3 for a third-year resident.

The length of residency depends mostly on the field a graduate chooses to take. Medical specialties such as family medicine and internal medicine often requires three years, whereas surgery usually requires a minimum of five, and neurological surgery is the longest at seven years. Subspecialization (vascular or orthopedic spine surgery as a branch of surgery, for example) in any field will add time to postgraduate training.

For more information on specific medical residency programs, see the American Medical Association's Fellowship and Residency Electronic Interactive Database.

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