

VISA INFORMATION

Visitor Exchange Visa (J-1)

The Medical College of Wisconsin – Central Wisconsin (MCW-CW) Psychiatry Residency and the Eau Claire Prevea / HSHS Family Medicine Residency accept J-1 Visa applicants.

J-1 visas must be sponsored by Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG). ECFMG Information can be found at this [link](#). To obtain ECFMG sponsorship, foreign nationals must:

- have passed Part I and Part II of the National Boards or Step 1 and Step 2 of USMLE, and pass the Clinical Skills Assessment (CSA)
- hold a valid ECFMG Certificate; and
- have written assurance from the home country Ministry of Health or equivalent agency stating that there is a need for persons with the skills the physician will acquire and that the physician will return home upon completion of the training.

ECFMG will not sponsor an individual for longer than seven years. J-1 visa holders are not permitted to moonlight (internal or external). They cannot participate in any activities outside the approved training program nor are they eligible to receive any monies that are not part of the approved training program stipend. While ECFMG has no way of monitoring a J-1's earnings, ECFMG has in the past been questioned by the U.S. Government on Exchange Visitors whose W-2s confirm earnings that are not consistent with trends seen for training stipends across the U.S.

Temporary Professional Workers (H-1B)

The Medical College of Wisconsin – Central Wisconsin (MCW-CW) Psychiatry Residency accepts H-1B applicants. WiNC serves as the H-1B Visa Sponsor.

Applicants seeking H-1B status for GME must have (1) a state medical license, or be exempt from a license under state law; (2) have passed FLEX Parts I and II, NBME Parts, I, II, and III or USMLE Parts I, II and III; (3) graduated from a U.S. or foreign medical school or hold a foreign medical license; and (4) demonstrate proficiency in written and oral English. Typically, this is shown by holding an ECFMG Certificate. Proof of English proficiency is not required if the individual graduated from a U.S. medical school or LCME accredited school from any location. Passage of the Canadian MCCQE/LMCC exams does not prevent the individual from having to have passed all steps of either FLEX, NBME or USMLE. Accumulating passing scores of various components of the three exams is not allowed for H-1B obtainment purposes. In addition to being exempt from the English proficiency proof requirement, individuals who have graduated from an accredited U.S. medical school are also exempt from having to prove passage of all steps of either FLEX, NBME, or USMLE in order to apply for an H-1B. The total amount of continuous time permitted in H-1B classification is 6 years, but only up to 3 years can be requested at a time.

WiNC will not pursue an H-1B visa for an applicant unless he/she has already passed USMLE Step 3 and the Clinical Skills Assessment.

The Department of Labor requires employers to pay all the legal and filing fees for H-1B applicants. The Program / Department is responsible for the expense of the H-1B visa.

It is often difficult to estimate the time that the H-1B processing will take. Premium Processing is available, for an additional \$1,225. For that fee, the Immigration Service will make a first determination, which may not necessarily be an approval, on an H-1B filing within 15 calendar days. Because Premium Processing is outside the normal cost of obtaining H-1B status for an International Medical Graduate, the cost must be borne by the IMG or the department; WiNC will not pay any part of this cost.