

Guide to Construction of a Block Diagram

A block diagram is a representation of the rotation schedule for a resident in a given post-graduate year. It offers information on the type, location, length, and variety of rotations for that year. The block diagram shows the rotations a resident would have in a given year; it does not represent the order in which they occur. There should be only one block diagram for each year of education. The block diagram should not include resident names.

- Create and upload a PDF of your program's block diagram using the information below as a guide.
- Two common models of the block diagram exist: the first is organized by month; the second divides the year into 13 four-week blocks. Rotations may span several of these time segments, particularly for subspecialty programs. Both models must indicate how vacation time is taken. This can be done by allocating a time block to vacation, or by indicating this in a "Notes" section accompanying the block diagram. Examples of other less common models are also provided below.
- In constructing the block diagram, include the **participating site** in which a rotation takes place, as well as the **name of the rotation**. If the name of the rotation does not clearly indicate the nature of the rotation, then clarifying information should be provided as a footnote to the block diagram or elsewhere in the document.
- **Group the rotations by site.** For example, list all of the rotations in Site 1 first, followed by all of the rotations in Site 2, etc. The site numbers listed in the Accreditation Data System (ADS) should be used to create the block diagram.
- When "elective" time is shown in the block diagram, the choice of elective rotations available for residents should be listed below the diagram. Elective rotations do not require a participating site.
- Clinical rotations for some specialties may also include structured outpatient time. For each rotation, the percentage of time the resident spends in outpatient activities should be noted.
- Clinical rotations for some specialties may also include structured research time. The fourth line of the schedule should be used to represent the percentage of time devoted to structured research on a clinical rotation. If a block is purely research, it should be labeled as such, and should *not* be associated with a participating site.
- If needed, additional information to aid in understanding your program's block diagram may be entered in a "Notes" section at the end of the Block Diagram Data Collection Form.

Sample Block Diagrams

Block Diagram 1 ⁽¹⁾ *In this example, the year's rotations are divided into 12 (presumably one-month) clinical rotations. Rotations may include structured outpatient or research time and electives.*

Block	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Site	Site 1	Site 1	Site 1	Site 1	Site 1	Site 2	Site 2	Site 2	Site 2	Site 3	Site 3	
Rotation Name	Wards	Wards	ER	CCU	ICU	Wards	ER	ICU	Clinic	Wards	Clinic	Elec/Vac
% Outpatient	20	20	100	0	0	40	100	0	100	20	100	
% Research	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Block Diagram 2 ⁽¹⁾ *In this example, the year's rotations are divided into 13 equal (presumably four-week) clinical rotations. Rotations may include structured outpatient or research time, and electives.*

Block	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Site	Site 1	Site 1	Site 1	Site 1	Site 1	Site 2	Site 2	Site 2	Site 2	Site 3	Site 3	Site 3	
Rotation Name	Wards	Wards	ER	CCU	ICU	Wards	Wards	ICU	Clinic	Wards	Wards	Clinic	Elec/Vac
% Outpatient	30	30	100	0	0	20	20	0	100	0	0	100	
% Research	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Block Diagram 3 ⁽¹⁾ *In this example, the year's rotations are divided into six blocks of equal duration. One of the blocks is used for an elective, which can be chosen from a list of elective rotations and a vacation month.*

Block	1	2	3	4	5	6
Site	Site 1	Site 1	Site 2	Site 2	Site 3	
Rotation Name	CCU	Med. Outpt.	Wards	ER	Wards	Elective/Vacation
% Outpatient	0	100	0	100	0	
% Research	0	0	0	0	0	

Notes

Possible electives:

Cardiology Inpatient Site 1
Cardiology Outpatient Site 2

Pulmonary Disease Inpatient Site 2
Pulmonary Disease Outpatient Site 3

Gastroenterology Inpatient Site 3
Gastroenterology Outpatient Site 1

Block Diagram 4 ⁽¹⁾ *In this example for a subspecialty program, the year's rotations are divided into four equal blocks. Structured research time comprises 40% of the resident's time on the specialty outpatient month. There is one three-month block devoted entirely to research.*

Block	1	2	3	4
Site	Site 1	Site 2	Site 2	
Rotation Name	Specialty Outpatient	Specialty Outpatient	Wards	Research
% Outpatient	100	100	0	
% Research	0	40	0	100

(1) In any block diagram, there must be a formal allocation for vacation time. If not shown in the diagram, a "Notes" section must indicate how vacation time is taken.