

## Rotation Scheduling Tips

Timing is important for doing your two rotations. You should start planning your rotations early in your third year (or end of 2<sup>nd</sup> year), especially if the locations or specialties you are thinking about are competitive (think Hawaii, orthopedics, ophthalmology). The Navy currently has a date restriction on scheduling. For the Navy you must perform one rotation prior to October 1 and one rotation after October 1. **This may change year to year, so check your policy handbook.**

1. Students commonly elect to do their two military rotations somewhere within the first three blocks of 4<sup>th</sup> year, either back-to-back or separated by a block.
2. While the clinical rotation at the military hospital is usually 4 weeks, you are on active duty for 6 weeks. The other two weeks are usually assigned as “school duty.” When you setup the rotations, make sure that if you do the rotations back-to-back, that you will be officially off of active duty from one rotation before starting another. You may have to work it so that you have two weeks of “school-duty” prior to the rotation so that you can then move on to the next rotation and start active duty again.
3. If you are unsure of which specialty you want to go into, think about “trying out” one of the specialties at Mizzou for your first block of 4<sup>th</sup> year, and scheduling your military rotation for the same specialty during 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> block (make sure it is before the October deadline) of 4<sup>th</sup> year. That will give you a chance to make a decision while at Mizzou and possibly change your military rotation if there is time.
4. Another strategy, especially if you know where you want to go and what you want to do, is to plan to rotate at your dream program at the latest possible time (remember the October deadline). This way you are the last batch of candidates the program sees, and you will be ‘fresh’ in their minds during the selection process.
5. Call or write to them and remind them of who you are and your interest later.