Integrating AOA Programs into ACGME Pre-Accreditation and Beyond

John R. Potts, III, MD, FACS
Senior Vice President, Surgical Accreditation
ACGME

AHME Institute
San Diego, CA
13 May 2015
Disclosures

• In recovery:
  • General surgeon
  • Program director
  • ACGME DIO

• *Long* believed in single accreditation system

• No financial conflicts to disclose
Why Are We Doing This?

Osteopathic physicians:

• Licensed in every state

• Practice side by side with allopathic docs

• Training different; Credentialing is not
Why Are We Doing This?

One accreditation system transparent to:

• Federal government
• Licensing boards
• Credentials committees
• Public
Why Are We Doing This?

• Consistent evaluation and accountability
• Eliminate unnecessary duplication
• Efficiencies and cost-savings in accreditation
• Enhanced opportunities for trainees
Why Are We Doing This?

Promote improved health and healthcare for the public by enhancing the education of the next generation of physicians.
Chronology of Key Events

• MOU signed 2/26/2014
• AOA & AACOM observers at BOD 6/14 & 9/14
• ACGME bylaws changes adopted 12/2014
• AOA & AACOM member orgs of ACGME 1/2015
• AOA & AACOM nominees on BOD 2/2015
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MOU Announced

For more information contact:
ACGME - Nancy Brennan
312.861.5207, nbrennan@acgme.org

AOA – Mike Campea
312.202.6043, mcampea@osteopathic.org

AACOM – Lisa Cole
301.968.4146, lcole@AACOM.org

CHICAGO, February 26, 2014 – The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), the American Osteopathic Association (AOA), and the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) have agreed to a single accreditation system for graduate medical education (GME) programs in the U.S. After months of discussion, the allopathic and osteopathic medical communities have committed to work together to prepare future generations of physicians with the highest quality GME, ultimately helping to ensure the quality and safety of health care delivery.

“The commitment to a single accreditation system comes at a watershed moment for medical education in the U.S.,” said Thomas Nasca, MD, MACP, chief executive officer of the ACGME. “As we move forward into the Next Accreditation System, this uniform path of preparation for practice ensures that the evaluation of and accountability for the competency of all resident physicians – MDs and DOs – will be consistent across all programs.” Nasca added, “A single accreditation system provides the opportunity to introduce and consistently evaluate new physician competencies that are needed to meet patient needs.”
Executive Summary of the Agreement among ACGME, AOA, and AACOM

There are four broad dimensions to the Agreement among ACGME, AOA, and AACOM.

The first dimension of the Agreement focuses on AOA-approved residency programs. There are several provisions to facilitate the accreditation of current AOA-accredited programs into the broadened accreditation system. (1) AOA-approved training programs in existence on July 1, 2015, may elect to apply for ACGME accreditation, and, by applying, gain “pre-accreditation” status from July 1, 2015 up to June 30, 2020 (transition period) (unless and until the program achieves ACGME accreditation, or chooses withdraw its application). (2) Certification by the relevant AOA specialty board of AOA-approved program faculty will be a certification credential acceptable to the relevant Review Committee for faculty in programs applying for ACGME accreditation during this five year period. (3) AOA-approved training programs may retain their AOA approval as long as they continue to meet AOA approval standards during the transition. (4) Osteopathic Postdoctoral Training Institutions (OPTIs) may apply for and be recognized as sponsoring institutions of ACGME-accredited training programs. (5) It will be acceptable for ACGME accredited programs to have co-program directors, one certified by an ABMS specialty board (or having credentials otherwise acceptable to the relevant ACGME specialty Review Committee), and another certified by an AOA specialty board. The ABMS specialty board
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Governance

- Observers at ACGME BoD 6/14 and 9/14
  - AOA: Dr. Robert Juhasz
  - AACOM: Dr. Kenneth Veit
Chronology of Key Events

- MOU signed 2/26/2014
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ACCREDITATION COUNCIL FOR GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

BYLAWS

Effective: January 1, 2015
Chronology of Key Events

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Governance in the MOU

- AOA and AACOM will transition to full representation on the ACGME BoD
  - 2 members from each 2015
  - 1 more member from each 2018
  - 1 more member from each by 2020
ACGME Board of Directors

- AACOM nominees seated on BoD 2015
  - Clinton E. Adams, DO
  - Gary L. Slick, DO
- AOA nominees seated on BoD 2015
  - Karen J. Nichols, DO
  - David A. Forstein, DO
Chronology of Key Events

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New Staff

Lorenzo Pence, DO
Senior Vice-President, Osteopathic Accreditation
lpence@acgme.org
312-755-7484

Ms. Tiffany Moss
Executive Director for:
Osteopathic Principles Committee
Review Committee for ONMM
tmoss@acgme.org
312-755-5490
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## Organization of DAS

**Institutional**

*Kevin Weiss, M.D.*

### Institutional Review

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hospital-Based</th>
<th>Medical</th>
<th>Surgical</th>
<th>Osteopathic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Louis Ling, MD</td>
<td>Mary Lieh-Lai, MD</td>
<td>John Potts, MD</td>
<td>Lorenzo Pence, DO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anesthesiology</td>
<td>Allergy and Imm</td>
<td>Colorectal Surg</td>
<td>Osteo Principles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radiology</td>
<td>Dermatology</td>
<td>Neurosurgery</td>
<td>ONMM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Med</td>
<td>Family Medicine</td>
<td>OB-Gyn</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Medical Genetics</td>
<td>Internal Medicine</td>
<td>Ophthalmology</td>
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<td>Nuclear Medicine</td>
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<td>Pathology</td>
<td>Pediatrics</td>
<td>Otolaryngology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prev. Medicine</td>
<td>PM&amp;R</td>
<td>Plastic Surgery</td>
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<tr>
<td>Radiation Onc</td>
<td>Psychiatry</td>
<td>Surgery</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transitional Year</td>
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<td>Thoracic Surgery</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Urology</td>
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Educational Efforts

• Joint Education Committee 6/2014
• FAQs
• Visited 8 OPTIs
• Presentations to:
  • OME Los Angeles January 2015
  • ACGME AEC February 2015
  • AACOM/AODME Ft Lauderdale April 2015
• Multiple specialty college and PD groups
• General & specialty specific webinars
Joint Education Committee

- Established to learn:
  - What osteopathic community needs to know about ACGME accreditation
  - How best to deliver necessary information

- Membership:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACGME</th>
<th>AOA</th>
<th>AACOM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tim Brigham, PhD</td>
<td>Mr. Jim Swartwout</td>
<td>Ms. Alegneta Long</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malcolm Cox, MD</td>
<td>Michael Opipari, DO</td>
<td>Tyler Cymet, DO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Friedmann, MD</td>
<td>Greg Smith, DO</td>
<td>Harry Lausen, DO</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Potts, MD</td>
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# FAQs

## Frequently Asked Questions: Single Accreditation System

**Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME)**

These FAQs address elements of the single accreditation system resulting from an agreement among ACGME, the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) and the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM). Please refer to the ACGME Glossary of Terms for clarification on some of the terms used in this document.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Benefits</strong></td>
<td>A single accreditation system will promote improved health and health care for the public by enhancing the education of the next generation of physicians. The single accreditation system is intended to achieve four significant benefits: 1. Establish and maintain consistent evaluation and accountability for the competency of resident physicians across all accredited graduate medical education (GME) programs. 2. Eliminate duplication in GME accreditation. 3. Achieve efficiencies and cost savings for institutions currently sponsoring “dually” or “parallel” accredited allopathic and osteopathic programs. 4. Ensure all residency and fellowship applicants are eligible to enter all accredited programs in the United States, and can transfer from one accredited program to another without repeating training, and without causing the sponsoring institutions to lose Medicare funding. (See Appendix 1: Eligibility for Residency and Fellowship for additional detailed information.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Program Accreditation</strong></td>
<td>Under the terms of the agreement among the ACGME, the AOA, and AACOM, there are three pathways to ACGME accreditation: 1. Programs that are AOA-approved and have matriculated residents as of July 1, 2015, and that apply for ACGME accreditation between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2020, are eligible for “pre-accreditation status,” may have AOA-certified faculty members, and may have co-program directors (one American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS)-certified and one AOA-certified). 2. Programs that are AOA-approved as of July 1, 2015 with no matriculated residents as of that date, and that apply for ACGME accreditation between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2020, are eligible for “pre-accreditation status.” 3. AOA-approved programs that do not meet the criteria in 1. or 2. above may apply at any time for ACGME accreditation, but will not benefit from the terms of the agreement.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Last updated April 2, 2015
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## SAS Webinars

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specialty</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Institutional Accreditation</td>
<td>March 27, 2015</td>
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<td>Program Accreditation</td>
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<td>Otolaryngology</td>
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<td>Family Medicine</td>
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<td>Plastic Surgery</td>
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<td>Neurology</td>
<td>May 12, 2015</td>
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<td>May 14, 2015</td>
<td>7:00 - 8:00 pm</td>
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<td>Orthopaedics</td>
<td>May 19, 2015</td>
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<td>Emergency Med</td>
<td>May 20, 2015</td>
<td>10:00 - 11:00 am</td>
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<td>Obstetrics &amp; Gynecology</td>
<td>May 20, 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ophthalmalogy</td>
<td>May 27, 2015</td>
<td>5:00 - 6:00 pm</td>
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Program Accreditation
Provisions in MOU

• Applicant programs which, on 1 July 2015:
  • Are AOA-approved, and
  • Have matriculated residents
• Get “Pre-Accreditation Status”
• Get relief from two Common Program Reqs:
  • AOA-certified faculty will be acceptable to RC
  • May have AOA-certified co-program director

• Type 1 program

2014 MOU among ACGME, AOA & AACOM
Provisions in MOU

• Applicant programs which, on 1 July 2015:
  • Are AOA-approved
  • But do not have matriculated residents
• Get “Pre-Accreditation Status”
• Do not get relief from Common Program Reqs
• Type 2 program

2014 MOU among ACGME, AOA & AACOM
Accreditation of AOA Programs

AOA-Approved Program

Yes

AOA-Approved as of July 1, 2015

No

Program is under aegis ACGME-accredited sponsoring institution

Yes

Sponsoring institution applies for ACGME accreditation
April 15, 2015 – June 30, 2020;
Receives “Pre-Accreditation Status”

No

Program cannot apply under the terms of the agreement between AOA, AACOM and ACGME;
program begins standard ACGME application process at any time through the DIO of an ACGME-accredited sponsoring institution.

Program submits ACGME application with ACGME-accredited sponsor endorsement
July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2020;
Receives “Pre-Accreditation Status”

Program had matriculated residents/fellows as of July 1, 2015

Yes

Review Committee assesses substantial compliance with current ACGME requirements

No

Review Committee assesses substantial compliance with current requirements, with two exceptions:
1. Program may have AOA-certified co-program director
2. AOA-certified faculty members are acceptable

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# Accreditation of AOA Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program has matriculated residents as of July 1, 2015</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Will have Pre-Accreditation Status</th>
<th>Can have AOA-certified co-PD</th>
<th>AOA-certified faculty systematically “acceptable”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
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<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Usual Program Applications

Sponsoring Institution: ACGME-accredited

Program application for ACGME accreditation

RC Review finds: “Substantial Compliance”? 

Initial Accreditation

Yes

No

Withhold Accreditation

May re-apply or appeal
AOA Program Applications

Sponsoring Institution: ACGME-accredited or “pre-accreditation status”

Program application for ACGME Accreditation

Program AOA-Approved 1 July 2015?

Yes

“Pre-Accreditation status”

No

“Continued Pre-Accreditation”

2 yrs

Withdraw Application

1 July 2020

Type 3 Program
Usual program application process; No benefits of MOU

Type 1 Program
May have AOA co-PD AOA-certified faculty

Type 2 Program
Subject to all current ACGME PRs

Residents in program 1 July 2015?

Yes

“Continued Pre-Accreditation”

No

End of sequence

Sponsoring Insitution

ACGME-accredited

1 July 2020

Initial Accreditation Conferred

RC finds “Substantial Compliance”?

Yes

Accreditation Withheld

No

RC finds “Substantial Compliance”?

Yes

Sponsoring Institution

Status of Sponsoring Institution?

Yes

Continued Pre-Accreditation

Progress through program

Sponsoring Insitution

ACGME-accredited

End of sequence

Sponsoring Insitution

No

“Continued Pre-Accreditation”

Residents in program 1 July 2015?

No

End of sequence

Sponsoring Insitution

Status of Sponsoring Institution?

No

Program: Initial Accreditation Contingent

End of sequence

Sponsoring Insitution

ACGME-accredited

End of sequence

Sponsoring Insitution

Status of Sponsoring Institution?

No

Program: Initial Accreditation

End of sequence

Sponsoring Insitution

ACGME-accredited

End of sequence

Sponsoring Insitution

Status of Sponsoring Institution?

No

Program: Initial Accreditation

End of sequence

Sponsoring Insitution

ACGME-accredited

End of sequence

Sponsoring Insitution

2 yrs

Withdraw Application

1 July 2020

Initial Accreditation Conferred

RC finds “Substantial Compliance”?

Yes

Accreditation Withheld

No

RC finds “Substantial Compliance”?

Yes

Sponsoring Institution

Status of Sponsoring Institution?

Yes

Continued Pre-Accreditation

Progress through program

Sponsoring Insitution

ACGME-accredited

End of sequence

Sponsoring Insitution

No

“Continued Pre-Accreditation”

Residents in program 1 July 2015?

No

End of sequence

Sponsoring Insitution

Status of Sponsoring Institution?

No

Program: Initial Accreditation

End of sequence

Sponsoring Insitution

ACGME-accredited

End of sequence

Sponsoring Insitution

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End of sequence

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End of sequence

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ACGME-accredited

End of sequence

Sponsoring Insitution

Status of Sponsoring Institution?

No

Program: Initial Accreditation

End of sequence

Sponsoring Insitution

ACGME-accredited

End of sequence

Sponsoring Insitution

Status of Sponsoring Institution?
Time to RC Review

- “Pre-Accreditation Status” instantaneous
- RC review of application will take *months*
  - Application received
  - Site visit scheduled
  - Application & SVR to RC members
  - Next scheduled RC meeting
  - Notification by Executive Director
After Initial Accreditation

Initial Accreditation

- 2 year SV
- RC Review

- Continued Accreditation
- Cont. Accred. w/o Outcomes*
- Init. Accred. w/ Warning**
- Withdrawal of Accreditation

- Continued Accreditation
- Withdrawal of Accreditation

* Can last length of program + 1 yr
** Site visit in one year
“Pre-Accreditation Status”

• Created *for* and to be applied *only* during the transition to ACGME accreditation of currently AOA approved programs

• Granted upon receipt of completed application

• Does *not* require RC review

• Status will be publicly acknowledged

• *Not* synonymous with Initial Accreditation
“Pre-Accreditation Status”

• Importance to AOA programs:
  • Programs in “pre-accreditation status” pay application fee only once – regardless of number of re-applications
  • Individuals who complete programs that have previously achieved “pre-accreditation status” will be subject to 2013 or 2016 eligibility standards, whichever is less restrictive*.

*Not all graduates of programs with “pre-accreditation status” will be eligible for all ACGME programs
ACGME Fees

• Program application fee:
  $6,200
  Payable at time of application

• Annual accreditation fees:
  $4,300 for programs with \(\leq 5\) trainees
  $5,200 for programs with \(>5\) trainees
  Payable 1 January

• No fee for institutional accreditation

• No fee for Osteopathic Recognition

http://www.acgme.org/acgmeweb/tabid/231/GraduateMedicalEducation/Policies/Fees.aspx
“Pre-Accreditation Status”

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Eligibility Requirements

Single Accreditation System for AOA-Approved Programs

On February 26, 2014, the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), American Osteopathic Association (AOA), and American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) announced their agreement to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that outlines a single graduate medical education accreditation system for residency and fellowship programs in the United States. Click here for the executive summary of the MOU.

The single accreditation system allows graduates of allopathic and osteopathic medical schools to complete their residency and/or fellowship education in ACGME-accredited programs and demonstrate achievement of common milestones and competencies.

Over the next five years, beginning July 1, 2015, AOA-approved programs and sponsoring institutions will have the opportunity to apply for ACGME accreditation. The ACGME and AOA have created and will continue to create elements of operations and infrastructure to ensure a smooth transition to the single system. Click here for the timeline (Updated December 3, 2014).

The ACGME will continue to update information on the single accreditation system as new developments unfold, and as questions arise during the systems implementation. Please return to this page periodically for updates and answers to your questions. Thank you for your interest as we work together to implement this important step forward in American graduate medical education.

Related Links

- Program Eligibility Requirements
- ACGME Glossary of Terms
- Requirements for Review and Comment

Events
Eligibility Requirements

Specialty and Subspecialty Program Eligibility Requirements

Below are the eligibility requirements for each specialty/subspecialty that are (1) in effect on June 30, 2013, and (2) in effect as of July 1, 2015. If applicable, any interim requirements in effect between those dates are also provided:

- Allergy and Immunology
- Anesthesiology
  - Adult Cardiothoracic Anesthesiology
  - Anesthesiology Critical Care Medicine
- Clinical informatics
- Hospice and Palliative Medicine
- Obstetric Anesthesiology
- Pain Medicine
- Pediatric Anesthesiology
- Colon and Rectal Surgery
- Dermatology
- Dermatopathology
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<td>III.A. Eligibility Criteria</td>
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<td>III.A. Eligibility Criteria - Fellowship Programs</td>
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<td>Each fellow must successfully complete an ACGME-accredited specialty program and/or meet other eligibility criteria as specified by the Review Committee. The program must document that each fellow has met the eligibility criteria.</td>
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<td>All required clinical education for entry into ACGME-accredited fellowship programs must be completed in an ACGME-accredited residency program, or in an RCPSC-accredited or CFPC-accredited residency program located in Canada.</td>
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<td>III.A.1. Applicants must have completed an ACGME or American Osteopathic Association (AOA)-accredited residency program in anesthesiology, emergency medicine, family medicine, internal medicine, neurology, obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics, physical medicine and rehabilitation, psychiatry, radiation oncology, or surgery.</td>
<td>III.A.1. The program must document that each fellow has met the eligibility criteria.</td>
<td>III.A.2. Prior to appointment in the program, fellows must have completed an ACGME- or American Osteopathic Association (AOA)-accredited program in child neurology, family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, physical medicine and rehabilitation, or neurology, or at least three clinical years in an ACGME- or AOA-accredited graduate educational program in one of the following specialties: anesthesiology, emergency medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, psychiatry, radiation oncology, radiology, or surgery.</td>
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<td>III.A.1. Fellowship programs must receive verification of each entering fellow’s level of competency in the required field using ACGME or CanMEDS Milestones assessments from the core residency program.</td>
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Eligibility Requirements

Common Program Requirements are in **BOLD**

**Hospice and Palliative Medicine**

III.A.1. Applicants must have completed an ACGME or American Osteopathic Association (AOA)-accredited residency program in anesthesia, emergency medicine, family medicine, internal medicine, neurology, obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics, physical medicine and rehabilitation, psychiatry, radiation oncology, or surgery.
“Pre-Accreditation Status”

• Importance to ACGME:
  • Programs will be in data system
    • ADS annual update
    • Case logs
    • Resident survey
    • Faculty survey
    • Milestones
  • First complete look at all GME in U.S.
Dually-Accredited Programs

• Term is not in ACGME Glossary

• Refers to programs that are accredited by both the ACGME and the AOA

• Dually-accredited programs do not need to do anything by way of application in the SAS.

• They may need to ask RC for complement increase if residents in the AOA program are not currently counted in ACGME complement.

• They may seek Osteopathic Recognition
Parallel-Accredited Programs

• Term is not in ACGME Glossary

• Refers to two programs in the same specialty / subspecialty and in the same institution with one accredited by ACGME and one accredited by AOA but with no overlap between the two.

• May remain separately accredited through application of AOA-approved program but...

• Expect in most instances programs will merge

• They may seek Osteopathic Recognition
Subspecialty Programs

- Subspecialty programs are considered dependent
- *Must* be associated with core program in same SI
- Sub *can* apply after core has Pre-Accreditation
- Sub *cannot* be accredited until core is accredited
AOA Fellowship Applications

Sponsoring Institution and core program: ACGME-accredited or "pre-accreditation"

Program application for ACGME Accreditation

Program AOA-Approved 1 July 2015?

Yes

"Pre-Accreditation status"

"Continued Pre-Accreditation"

Withdraw Application

1 July 2020

No

Usual program application process; No benefits of MOU

RC finds "Substantial Compliance"?

Yes

Initial Accreditation Conferred

No

Accreditation Withheld

No

Fellows in program 1 July 2015?

Yes

May have AOA co-PD
AOA-certified faculty

Core Program ACGME-Accredited?

Yes

No

Subject to all current ACGME PRs

RC finds "Substantial Compliance"?

Yes

Initial Accreditation Conferred

No

Withdraw Application
Internship (TY) Programs

• Must be sponsored by institution which is ACGME-accredited or in pre-accreditation status

• Must also be sponsored by at least two core specialty programs* which are ACGME-accredited or have pre-accreditation status

• At least one of those programs must be sponsored by the same SI as the TY program

• The other may be in a participating site

* One of those must be EM, FM, GS, IM, OBG or Peds
AOA Internship → TY Applications

Sponsoring Institution and programs: ACGME-accredited or “pre-accreditation”

Program application for ACGME Accreditation

Program AOA-Approved 1 July 2015?

No

Usual program application process; No benefits of MOU

RC finds “Substantial Compliance”? sv

Yes

Initial Accreditation Conferred

No

Accreditation Withheld

Yes

Withdraw Application

1 July 2020

“Pre-Accreditation status”

Residents in program 1 July 2015?

No

May have AOA co-PD AOA-certified faculty

RC finds “Substantial Compliance”? sv

No

Subject to all current ACGME PRs

Yes

Sponsor Programs ACGME-Accredited?

No

“Continued Pre-Accreditation”

Initial Accreditation Conferred

Yes

Initial Accreditation Conferred

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Reminder!

Things \textit{not} in the purview of ACGME!

- Resident matching service
- Board certification of graduates
- Licensure examinations
- State licensure
Some Resources

• Webinars Page

• Single GME Accreditation System

• Program eligibility requirements
  http://www.acgme.org/acgmeweb/tabid/461/GraduateMedicalEducation/SingleAccreditationSystemforAOA-ApprovedPrograms/EligibilityRequirements.aspx