Fellow Eligibility Exception
IUSM-GME-PO-0040

Scope
This policy applies to all Indiana University School of Medicine (IUSM) ACGME-accredited fellowship programs.

Reason for Policy
The purpose of this policy is to outline the process whereby an ACGME-accredited fellowship can offer a position to resident who has not completed a residency program accredited by either the ACGME, RCPSC, or the CFPC.

Policy Statement
Residents requesting entry into ACGME-accredited fellowship programs must have completed an ACGME-accredited residency program, or in an RCPSC-accredited or CFPC-accredited residency program located in Canada. 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.

All ACGME-accredited fellowship programs may accept an exceptionally qualified
A resident as defined per ACGME criteria (Reference 1). This resident must have (1) completed a non ACGME-accredited residency program in the core specialty, and (2) demonstrated clinical excellence, in comparison to peers, throughout training. Additional evidence of exceptional qualifications is required, which may include one of the following: (a) participation in additional clinical or research training in the specialty or subspecialty; (b) demonstrated scholarship in the specialty or subspecialty; (c) demonstrated leadership during or after residency training; (d) completion of an ACGME International-accredited residency program.

Procedures

A. Process for Exceptions for Eligibility to ACGME Fellowships
   Programs wishing to recruit an exceptionally qualified applicant must verify that the resident meets the following criteria to ensure academic, clinical, and communication abilities:
   a. Assessment by the program director and fellowship selection committee of the applicant’s suitability to enter the program, based on prior training and review of the summative evaluations of training in the core specialty;
   b. Satisfactory completion of the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) Steps 1, 2, and, if the applicant is eligible, 3;
   c. For an international graduate, verification of Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) certification.
   d. For an international graduate, the applicant must be interviewed by either the program director and/or selection committee. Interview must be conducted in person, via telephone, or video conference.
   e. In order to ensure familiarity with the US healthcare system, the applicant must have some clinical experience in the US or equivalent.

   Programs must provide this data to their ACGME Review Committee, and the Review Committee must grant an exception before any offer can be made to the candidate. Further, review and approval of the applicant’s exceptional qualifications by the GMEC Special Review Subcommittee is necessary before making an offer to the candidate.

B. Applicants accepted by this exception must complete fellowship Milestones evaluation (for the purposes of establishment of baseline performance by the Clinical Competency Committee), conducted by the receiving fellowship program within six weeks of matriculation.

   This evaluation may be waived for an applicant who has completed an ACGME International-accredited residency based on the applicant’s Milestones evaluation conducted at the conclusion of the residency program.

   If the trainee does not meet the expected level of Milestones competency following entry into the fellowship program, the trainee must undergo a period of remediation, overseen by the Clinical Competency Committee and monitored by
the GMEC or a subcommittee of the GMEC. This period of remediation must not count toward time in fellowship training.

Definitions

ACGME is the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education.

RCPSC is the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

CFPC is the College of Family Physicians Canada.

Implementation

The Designated Institutional Official (DIO) for Graduate Medical Education is responsible for implementation of this policy.

Oversight

Policy authority for this document resides with the Graduate Medical Education Committee. The DIO, along with the Graduate Medical Education Committee and the Special Review Subcommittee are responsible for oversight. This policy will be reviewed every three years or more often if deemed necessary.

Related Information

The ACGME Common Program Requirements can be found at: http://www.acgme.org/Portals/0/PFAssets/ProgramRequirements/CPRs_07012016.pdf

History

2. Policy reviewed, updated, and approved by GMEC on 21 Feb 2018.