

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Accreditation: A voluntary process of evaluation and review based on published standards and following a prescribed process, performed by a non-governmental agency of peers.

Certification: A process to provide assurance to the public that a certified medical specialist has successfully completed an approved educational programme and an evaluation, including an examination process designed to assess the knowledge, experience and skills requisite to the provision of high quality care in a particular specialty.

Clinical: Refers to the practice of medicine in which physicians assess patients (in person or virtually) or populations in order to diagnose, treat, and prevent disease using their expert judgment. It also refers to physicians who contribute to the care of patients by providing clinical decision support and information systems, laboratory, imaging, or related studies.

Competencies: Specific knowledge, skills, behaviors and attitudes and the appropriate educational experiences required of residents to complete GME programmes. These include patient care, medical knowledge, practice-based learning and improvement, interpersonal and communication skills, professionalism, and systems-based practice.

Continuity clinic: Setting for a longitudinal experience in which residents develop a continuous, long-term therapeutic relationship with a panel of patients.

Core Faculty: All physician faculty who have a significant role in the education of resident/fellows and who have documented qualifications to instruct and supervise. Core faculty devote at least 15 hours per week to resident education and administration. All core faculty should evaluate the competency domains; work closely with and support the programme director; assist in developing and implementing evaluation systems; and teach and advise residents.

Designated Institutional Official (DIO): The individual in a sponsoring institution who has the authority and responsibility for all of the ACGME-accredited GME programmes.

Elective: An educational experience approved for inclusion in the programme curriculum and selected by the resident in consultation with the programme director.

Faculty: Any individuals who have received a formal assignment to teach resident/fellow physicians. At some sites appointment to the medical staff of the hospital constitutes appointment to the faculty.

Graduate Medical Education (GME): The period of didactic and clinical education in a medical specialty which follows the completion of a recognized undergraduate medical education and which prepares physicians for the independent practice of medicine in that specialty, also referred to as residency education. The term "graduate medical education" also applies to the period of didactic and clinical education in a medical subspecialty which follows the completion of education in a recognized medical specialty and which prepares physicians for the independent practice of medicine in that subspecialty.

In-Training Examination (ITE): Formative examinations developed to evaluate resident/fellow progress in meeting the educational objectives of a residency/fellowship programme. These examinations may be offered by certification boards or specialty societies.

Programme Director (PD): The one physician designated with authority and accountability for the operation of the residency/fellowship programme.

Progress Report: A Review Committee may request a progress report that specifies information to be provided, including a due date for the report. The progress report must be reviewed by the sponsoring institution's Graduate Medical Education Committee, and must be signed by the designated institutional official prior to submission to the Review Committee.

Resident: Any physician in an accredited graduate medical education programme, including interns, residents, and fellows.

Residency: A programme accredited to provide a structured educational experience designed to conform to the Programme Requirements of a particular specialty.

Review Committee, Residency Review Committee: The function of a Review Committee is to set accreditation standards and to provide a peer evaluation of residency programmes and fellowships (or, in the case of the Institutional Review Committee, to set accreditation standards and to provide a peer evaluation of sponsoring institutions).

Rotation: An educational experience of planned activities in selected settings, over a specific time period, developed to meet goals and objectives of the programme.

Site: An organization providing educational experiences or educational assignments/rotations for residents/fellows.

Major Participating Site: A Review Committee-approved site to which all residents in at least one programme rotate for a required educational experience, and for which a master affiliation agreement must be in place. To be designated as a major participating site in a two-year programme, all residents must spend at least four months in a single required rotation or a combination of required rotations across both years of the programme. In programmes of three years or longer, all residents must spend at least six months in a single required rotation or a combination of required rotations across all years of the programme. The term "major participating site" does not apply to sites providing required rotations in one year programmes. (see "Master Affiliation Agreement")

Participating Site: An organization providing educational experiences or educational assignments/rotations for residents/fellows. Examples of sites include: a university, a medical school, a teaching hospital which includes its ambulatory clinics and related facilities, a private medical practice or group practice, a nursing home, a school of public health, a health department, a federally qualified health center, a public health agency, an organized health care delivery system, a health maintenance organization (HMO), a medical examiner's office, a consortium or an educational foundation.

Specialty Programme: A structured educational experience in a field of medical practice following completion of medical school and, in some cases, prerequisite basic clinical education designed to conform to the Programme Requirements of a particular specialty; also known as 'core' programmes.

Sponsoring Institution (SI): The organization (or entity) that assumes the ultimate financial and academic responsibility for a programme of GME. The sponsoring institution has the primary purpose of providing educational programmes and/or health care services (e.g., a university, a medical school, a hospital, a school of public health, a health department, a public health agency, an organized health care delivery system, a medical examiner's office, a consortium, an educational foundation).

Clarification: When the sponsoring institution is a non-rotation site the major associated hospital is the participating rotation site. Additionally, for multiple ambulatory medical sites under separate ownership from the sponsoring institution one central or corporate site (and address) must represent the satellite clinics (that are located within 10 miles of the main site).

Transitional-Year (TY) Programme: A one-year educational experience in GME, which is structured to provide a programme of multiple clinical disciplines; its design to facilitate the choice of and/or preparation for a specialty. The transitional year is not a complete graduate education programme in preparation for the practice of medicine.