

## Frequently Asked Questions: Single Accreditation System Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME)

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Question	Answer
<b>Benefits</b>	
What are the benefits of the single accreditation system?	<p>A single accreditation system will promote improved health and health care for the public by enhancing the education of the next generation of physicians.</p> <p>The single accreditation system is intended to achieve four significant benefits:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Establish and maintain consistent evaluation and accountability for the competency of resident physicians across all accredited graduate medical education (GME) programs.</li> <li>2. Eliminate duplication in GME accreditation.</li> <li>3. Achieve efficiencies and cost savings for institutions currently sponsoring “dually” or “parallel” accredited allopathic and osteopathic programs.</li> <li>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.)</li> </ol>
<b>Program Accreditation</b>	
How do programs approved by the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) become ACGME-accredited?	<p>Under the terms of the agreement among the ACGME, the AOA, and AACOM, there are <a href="#">three pathways to ACGME accreditation</a>:</p> <p>Pathway A. 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, will be granted “pre-accreditation status.” For these programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-program directors may be appointed (one American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS)-certified and one AOA-certified). <a href="#">This table</a> shows which Review Committees will consider an AOA-certified program director.</li> <li>• AOA Board certification is considered acceptable for faculty members to satisfy the requirement for faculty board certification.</li> </ul>

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Question	Answer
	<p>Pathway B. Programs that are AOA-approved as of July 1, 2015 with no matriculated residents as of that date that apply for ACGME accreditation between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2020, will be granted “pre-accreditation status.”</p> <p>Pathway C. AOA-approved programs that do not meet the criteria in A or B above may apply at any time for ACGME accreditation, but will not benefit from the terms of the agreement.</p>
<p>What is the process for an AOA-approved program to become ACGME-accredited?</p>	<p>Prior to an AOA-approved program submitting an application for Initial Accreditation, its Sponsoring Institution must have, or must apply for, ACGME institutional accreditation (see additional detailed information under Institutional Accreditation below).</p> <p>The application period for Sponsoring Institutions began April 1, 2015.</p> <p>Upon receipt of a completed institutional application, the ACGME will assign “pre-accreditation status” to the institution, and once that occurs, the institution’s AOA-approved programs can begin the application process for Initial Accreditation with the ACGME. A list of institutions with pre-accreditation status is available on the ACGME website.</p> <p>As of July 1, 2015 programs can apply for Initial Accreditation through the ACGME’s Accreditation Data System (ADS).</p> <p>The Sponsoring Institution’s designated institutional official (DIO) must endorse the submission of an application in ADS, which releases the application to the pertinent Review Committee.</p>

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Question	Answer
What does “pre-accreditation status” signify?	<p>Pre-accreditation is a specific status for programs and institutions established as part of the agreement among the ACGME, the AOA, and AACOM. A status of pre-accreditation signifies that an AOA-approved program has initiated the process of attaining ACGME accreditation while still under AOA approval.</p> <p>Pre-accreditation is not synonymous with Initial Accreditation. In order to achieve Initial Accreditation (and, ultimately, Continued Accreditation), a program or Sponsoring Institution must be determined by its ACGME Review Committee to be in substantial compliance with the applicable Program Requirements and/or the Institutional Requirements.</p> <p>Individuals who complete a residency program after that program has achieved pre-accreditation status will be subject to the <a href="#">ACGME eligibility requirements</a> for the relevant subspecialty that were in effect as of June 30, 2013 or July 1, 2016, whichever is less restrictive.</p>
How does a program move from pre-accreditation to Initial Accreditation?	<p>Core programs and some subspecialty programs with pre-accreditation status will be scheduled for a site visit. The visit entails review of the application and interviews with program and institutional leadership, faculty members, and residents/fellows. After the visit, an objective, factual report is submitted to the applicable specialty Review Committee.</p> <p>If upon reviewing the report and application, substantial compliance is determined, the Review Committee will confer a status of Initial Accreditation on the program.</p>
When can an AOA-approved subspecialty program apply for accreditation?	<p>An AOA-approved subspecialty (fellowship) program may initiate an application in ADS as soon as the core program has pre-accreditation status; however, the application may only be submitted in ADS after the core program has achieved Initial Accreditation.</p>

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Question	Answer
<p>What criteria will be used by the Review Committees in evaluating applications for Initial Accreditation?</p>	<p>Applications for Initial Accreditation will be reviewed against the ACGME accreditation requirements for the applicable specialty.</p> <p>The agreement among the ACGME, AOA, and AACOM provides two exceptions to the ACGME Common Program Requirements for AOA-approved programs with matriculated residents as of July 1, 2015 that apply for Initial Accreditation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. These programs may have co-program directors (one ABMS-certified and one AOA-certified).</li> <li>2. AOA Board certification is considered acceptable for faculty members to satisfy the requirement for faculty board certification.</li> </ol> <p>As a condition of the agreement among the ACGME, AOA, and AACOM, no other ACGME program or institutional requirements will be modified except through the normal process for revising ACGME requirements.</p>
<p>What happens once an AOA-approved program has achieved Initial Accreditation?</p>	<p>An AOA-approved program that achieves Initial Accreditation will receive a Letter of Notification (LoN) from the Review Committee with the accreditation decision and any citations or areas for improvement.</p> <p>Two years from the effective date of Initial Accreditation, the program will undergo a full site visit and review by the Review Committee. Programs deemed to be in substantial compliance with the Common and Specialty Program Requirements will achieve a status of Continued Accreditation.</p>

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Question	Answer
<p>What should a program do if it does not achieve Initial Accreditation on first review?</p>	<p>A program that does not achieve Initial Accreditation upon first review will receive a LoN from the Review Committee with the accreditation decision accompanied by citations that identify areas of non-compliance with the Requirements.</p> <p>The program may reapply while maintaining continued pre-accreditation status. To do so, the program will submit an updated application that includes information on how citations from the prior review have been, or are being, corrected. Using this documentation and another site visit, if deemed necessary, the Review Committee will make another decision regarding Initial Accreditation.</p> <p>AOA-approved programs pursuing ACGME accreditation must achieve Initial Accreditation before June 30, 2020, the end-date specified in the agreement among the ACGME, the AOA, and AACOM.</p>
<p>Do programs that currently have dual accreditation by the ACGME and the AOA need to do anything?</p>	<p>Programs with dual accreditation do not need to do anything to maintain their ACGME accreditation other than continue to participate in the ACGME accreditation process.</p> <p>For some programs with dual accreditation, there is not a complete overlap between the resident complement in the two programs (i.e., some residents in the ACGME-accredited program are not included in the AOA-approved program, or vice versa).</p> <p>Starting July 1, 2015, these programs need to ensure that all of their residents (including those previously counted only in the AOA-approved program) are entered in ADS. Some programs will need to request a complement increase from their Review Committee to accommodate these residents.</p>

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Question	Answer
<p>In an institution that sponsors “parallel” accredited programs (i.e., both an ACGME-accredited and AOA-approved program in the same specialty), will the AOA-approved program have to apply for ACGME accreditation?</p>	<p>If the AOA-approved program is to remain separate, it would have to apply for ACGME accreditation under the terms of the agreement among the ACGME, the AOA, and AACOM.</p> <p>Alternatively, the two programs could merge into a single program. Before such a merger could occur, the ACGME-accredited program may need to seek an increase in resident complement from its Review Committee.</p> <p>The newly-merged program would have the option to seek Osteopathic Recognition for its osteopathic principles dimension through the ACGME’s Osteopathic Principles Committee, as would any ACGME-accredited program.</p>
<p>If an AOA-approved program combines with an existing ACGME-accredited program, will the accepting program grant credit for the training completed in the AOA-approved program?</p>	<p>The ACGME recognizes that there are AOA-approved programs and ACGME-accredited programs in some institutions that share resources and rotations. One option available to those AOA-approved programs during the transition to a single GME accreditation system is to transfer their resident positions to the ACGME-accredited program. For most programs, this will require Review Committee approval of the increase in resident positions (resident complement). In the circumstance of merging programs, the program director of the accepting ACGME-accredited program will determine what credit may be given for prior training to the residents transitioning from the AOA-approved program, as well as how much further training is necessary to complete the program. It is the responsibility of the program director to ensure that each resident is made aware of the requirements for eligibility for certification by the applicable ABMS-member board and AOA certifying board.</p>
<p>How long will it take before an accreditation decision is reached for a program with pre-accreditation status?</p>	<p>Pre-accreditation status is conferred instantly upon the ACGME’s receipt of an application. The review of the application will take anywhere from 4-12 months. The time to review and reach a final decision ranges based on when the scheduled Review Committee meeting occurs.</p> <p>Programs that apply early for ACGME accreditation may have more flexibility regarding eligibility standards for residents/fellows, and more time to correct any issues that may arise during the review process.</p>

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Question	Answer
<b>Program Director</b>	
<p>What are the board certification requirements for an individual to serve as program director?</p>	<p>Board certification is one of several credentials and qualifications considered by Review Committees to assess the qualifications of a potential program director. The ACGME Common Program Requirements [II.A.3.b)] establish the certification standard for an individual to qualify as program director in an ACGME-accredited program. That standard states:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Qualifications of the program director must include current certification in the specialty by the American Board of [applicable ABMS member board], or specialty qualifications that are acceptable to the Review Committee.</p> <p><a href="#">This table</a> shows which Review Committees will consider an AOA-certified program director.</p> <p>A program can submit the credentials of a program director candidate who does not have ABMS certification to the Review Committee to determine if the individual's qualifications are acceptable. In the event that a Review Committee does not accept the credentials of an AOA-certified individual as program director of an AOA-approved program applying for ACGME accreditation, that individual could continue to have major responsibility in the program.</p> <p>For programs in Pathway A, the agreement among the ACGME, the AOA, and AACOM states that it will be acceptable to have co-program directors, one certified by an ABMS specialty board and another certified by an AOA specialty board. In such cases, the ABMS specialty board-certified program director must possess qualifications and perform job duties in full compliance with the ACGME's Common and specialty Program Requirements.</p>
<p>How will full-time equivalent (FTE) or total hours per week be assessed for co-program directors?</p>	<p>For co-program directors, the FTE or hours per week will be assessed based on the joint efforts of both program directors, which will be combined to get their total hours.</p>

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Question	Answer
How important is it for programs to record the scholarly activity of their program directors? What types of scholarly activity does the ACGME consider?	It is vitally important that the programs fully and accurately record the scholarly activity of the program director, faculty members, and residents/fellows. Scholarly activity includes: peer-reviewed publications; non-peer reviewed publications (such as book chapters); presentations at international, national, or regional meetings; other presentations, including local teaching; research grants; leadership roles in national medical organizations; and responsibility for organizing seminars, conference series, and courses. It is important for the Review Committees to understand the degree of scholarly activity in the program.
<b>Faculty</b>	
Are DOs who are AOA-certified but not ABMS-certified eligible to serve as a faculty members?	<p>For programs in Pathway A, AOA certification is an acceptable faculty qualification under the terms of the agreement among the ACGME, the AOA, and AACOM.</p> <p>Note: This does not extend to faculty members of programs currently accredited by the ACGME, as the applicable Common Program Requirement II.B.2. states:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Physician faculty [members] must have current certification in the specialty by the American Board of [insert the appropriate ABMS member board], or possess qualifications judged acceptable to the Review Committee.</p> <p>For some core and subspecialty programs, the Review Committee accepts only board certification by an ABMS member board. A program can submit the credentials of a faculty member who does not have ABMS certification to the Review Committee to determine if an individual's qualifications are acceptable.</p>

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Question	Answer
<b>Institutional Accreditation</b>	
When can institutions with AOA-approved programs apply for ACGME accreditation as Sponsoring Institutions?	<p>As of April 1, 2015 institutions not already accredited by the ACGME as Sponsoring Institutions may apply for ACGME institutional accreditation. The current <a href="#">Sponsoring Institution application form</a> (in downloadable format) is available for review on the Institutional Review Committee web page. The list of items required for completion of the application will also apply to AOA institutions.</p> <p>Pre-accreditation status for a Sponsoring Institution is not synonymous with Initial or Continued Accreditation. For a Sponsoring Institution to achieve Initial Accreditation (and, ultimately, Continued Accreditation), it must be determined by the Institutional Review Committee to be in substantial compliance with the Institutional Requirements.</p> <p>Institutions that attain Initial Accreditation will undergo a site visit after two years, and those deemed to be in substantial compliance with the Institutional Requirements will achieve a status of Continued Accreditation.</p>
What should an institution do if it does not achieve Initial Accreditation on first review?	<p>An institution that does not achieve Initial Accreditation on its first review will receive a communication from the ACGME's Institutional Review Committee indicating the accreditation decision and the citations (areas of non-compliance) that constitute the basis for the decision.</p> <p>The institution may reapply while maintaining continued pre-accreditation status. To do so, it will need to submit an updated application that includes information on how the citations from the prior review have been, or are being, corrected. Institutions that do not achieve Initial Accreditation may continue in continued pre-accreditation status, but must achieve Initial Accreditation before June 30, 2020, the end-date specified in the agreement among the ACGME, the AOA, and AACOM.</p> <p>AOA-approved programs in an institution with pre-accreditation status can only advance to Initial Accreditation once their Sponsoring Institution has achieved Initial Accreditation.</p>

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Question	Answer
What will be the role of the Osteopathic Post-doctoral Training Institutions (OPTIs) under the single accreditation system?	A variety of types of institutions serve as ACGME-accredited Sponsoring Institutions. OPTIs are eligible to serve as Sponsoring Institutions under the same requirements as other ACGME-accredited Sponsoring Institutions. If a program that is associated with an OPTI chooses a different Sponsoring Institution, it could continue a relationship with that OPTI. The ACGME Program Requirements in no way preclude ACGME-accredited programs or their Sponsoring Institutions from participating in an OPTI.
Are there any distance restrictions for institutions to gain ACGME accreditation as institutional sponsors?	No, there are no distance restrictions to become a Sponsoring Institution. For instance, an Osteopathic Postdoctoral Training Institute (OPTI) with multiple programs in multiple states could qualify as a Sponsoring Institution—as long as the institution can demonstrate assumption of ultimate financial and academic responsibility for the programs that it sponsors and be in substantial compliance with other relevant ACGME Institutional Requirements.
Does the Sponsoring Institution need to write checks to faculty members, staff members, and others, in order qualify as a sponsor?	No, Sponsoring Institutions do not need to write the checks, but must demonstrate financial oversight. The Sponsoring Institution could have multiple payers. A key role of the Sponsoring Institutions is to make sure that staff members and residents/fellows have resources they need.
How can a program change its Sponsoring Institution while it has “pre-accreditation status”? <i>This is for AOA-approved programs concerned that their institution may not receive Institutional Accreditation.</i>	A program with pre-accreditation status has submitted an application which is predicated on its relationship to a particular Sponsoring Institution that has also applied for ACGME accreditation. The designated institutional official (DIO) of that institution has explicitly agreed that the institution is willing and able to provide the necessary institutional support for the program. If the program then chooses to move to another Sponsoring Institution, it must have similar support from the DIO of that other institution. The program must withdraw its original application, and the DIO of the second institution must then initiate the process for the program to submit a new application, based on its relationship to that second institution. Under other circumstances, such a change would require the program to submit a second new program application fee. In the spirit of the MOU, the ACGME has determined that if it is clear that the same program has submitted a second application due to a change in Sponsoring Institution (i.e., by AOA program number), payment of a second application fee will not be required.

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Question	Answer
If programs in different specialties that are sponsored by the same institution apply for accreditation, will a site visit be conducted for all programs at the same time?	While each program is scheduled individually, whenever possible, the ACGME will coordinate site visits for two or more programs at a given Sponsoring Institution. Feasibility will depend on the timing of the receipt of program applications. If multiple applications are received in close temporal proximity, the site visits will be coordinated. If not, the ACGME may still try to coordinate the visits, but cannot guarantee this as other site visits may have been added to the assigned field representative's schedule for any given week. All site visits for programs with pre-accreditation status will be scheduled as quickly as possible to ensure timely review.
What are the fees associated with program application?	<p>The program application fee is \$6,200 for Initial Accreditation, payable at the time of application. The annual accreditation fee is \$4,300 for programs with five or fewer residents/fellows, and \$5,200 for programs with more than five residents/fellows. For more on ACGME's fees, <a href="#">click here</a>.</p> <p>There are no fees for institutional accreditation or Osteopathic Recognition.</p> <p>AOA-approved programs with pre-accreditation status are exempt from paying additional application fees should they fail to achieve Initial Accreditation and seek to apply again during the transition period of July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2020.</p>
Is pre-accreditation status sufficient to receive CMS reimbursements?	Programs with pre-accreditation status are not accredited by the ACGME. Programs will need to maintain their AOA approval until they receive Initial Accreditation from the ACGME in order to receive their CMS payments. Pre-accreditation status is not recognized by CMS.
Currently, AOA-approved internship programs must have at least one program sponsor. Is this the same for ACGME accreditation?	The ACGME Program Requirements for the Transitional Year have been modified to require that a transitional year program must exist in an environment that includes at least one other relevant ACGME-accredited graduate medical education program or sponsor.
<b>Osteopathic Recognition</b>	

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Question	Answer
How do we interpret and understand the Requirements for Osteopathic Recognition?	Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) have been developed and are available on the <a href="#">Osteopathic Recognition</a> section of the ACGME website to explain and provide details on the Osteopathic Recognition Requirements. The FAQs are a highly recommended resource for understanding the requirements. Questions regarding the Requirements for Osteopathic Recognition or their associated FAQs may be directed to <a href="#">Executive Director Tiffany Moss</a> .
When can a program apply for Osteopathic Recognition?	A program may submit an application for Osteopathic Recognition if it has ACGME accreditation (Initial Accreditation, Continued Accreditation, etc.) or ACGME pre-accreditation status. If a program applies for Osteopathic Recognition while in pre-accreditation status, the application will be held for review by the Osteopathic Principles Committee until the program has achieved Initial Accreditation. As soon as the program achieves initial accreditation, the Osteopathic Recognition application will be put on the next open agenda of the Osteopathic Principles Committee for review.
Will a program undergo a site visit after applying for Osteopathic Recognition?	No, a site visit is not required for the purposes of Osteopathic Recognition at the time of application. The Osteopathic Principles Committee will conduct a paper review of the program at the time of application.
Are there any fees associated with Osteopathic Recognition?	No, there are no fees associated with Osteopathic Recognition. There is no fee to apply for Osteopathic Recognition, or to maintain it, and no fees will be charged at the time of any future site visits related to a program's Osteopathic Recognition.
Do Osteopathic Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine programs need to apply for Osteopathic Recognition?	Osteopathic neuromusculoskeletal medicine programs (like any ACGME-accredited program) may apply for Osteopathic Recognition, but there is no requirement that they do so.
Do all residents/fellows in dually-accredited programs need to be assessed on the Milestones for Osteopathic Recognition?	No, programs with Osteopathic Recognition will only need to assess residents designated as osteopathic-focused on the Milestones for Osteopathic Recognition.

### **ACGME Governance**

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Question	Answer
Does the ACGME organizational structure include osteopathic representation?	Yes, the AOA and AACOM have joined the Association of American Medical Colleges, the American Board of Medical Specialties, the American Hospital Association, the American Medical Association, and the Council of Medical Specialty Societies as member organizations of the ACGME. They will each nominate four individuals to serve on the ACGME Board of Directors, with this complement phased in over the period of the agreement.
What changes has the ACGME made to its staffing to accommodate and support osteopathic programs entering the single accreditation system?	The ACGME has hired Lorenzo Pence, DO as Senior Vice President, Osteopathic Accreditation, and Tiffany Moss, MBA as Executive Director, Osteopathic Accreditation. Both of these individuals work with the Osteopathic Principles Committee and the Review Committee for Osteopathic Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine.
How will AOA- and AACOM-nominated ACGME Board directors and Review Committees members be selected?	The AOA and AACOM will nominate individuals to serve on the ACGME Board of Directors, and the AOA will nominate individuals to serve on the ACGME Review and Recognition Committees. The ACGME Board of Directors will select from those nominees in the same fashion as it does for members nominated by other member or nominating organizations, in accordance with the policies specified in the <a href="#">ACGME Manual of Policies and Procedures</a> .
<b>Informing the Community about the Single Accreditation System</b>	
How will medical students, residents, fellows, program directors, directors of medical education (DMEs), and DIOs be informed about the single accreditation system?	The Single GME Accreditation System section of the ACGME website and these FAQs are part of a comprehensive strategy to communicate details of the transition to a single accreditation system to the entire graduate medical education community. The operational and other specifics of the arrangements to implement the agreement among the ACGME, AOA, and AACOM will be shared through the ACGME website, webinars, other electronic presentations, and live presentations at various local, regional, and national meetings. The <a href="#">ACGME Annual Educational Conference</a> includes an osteopathic pre-conference dedicated to the transition to a single accreditation system and ACGME Osteopathic Recognition.
Will there be a single match?	Multiple agencies conduct residency and fellowship matches. None of these matches is administered by the ACGME, nor are the agencies administering the matches affiliated with the ACGME.  The process of matching individuals to residency and fellowship programs is not part of the agreement among the ACGME, the AOA, and AACOM.

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Question	Answer
If residents/fellows are interested in a program with pre-accreditation status, do they enter the NRMP match or the NMS match?	Until a program receives ACGME Initial Accreditation, it will not be listed with the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP). Programs with pre-accreditation status are still approved by the AOA, and prospective residents still have to go through the National Matching Service (NMS) match.

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### Appendix 1: Eligibility for Residency and Fellowship

Question	Answer
<b>Eligibility for Residency</b>	
How will the agreement among the ACGME, the AOA, and AACOM affect DOs in or entering AOA-approved programs between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2020?	<p>Effective July 1, 2016, eligibility for all advanced residency positions require completion of prerequisite training in a program accredited by the ACGME, the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC), or the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC). During the transition to a single GME accreditation system, some disciplines will accept AOA-approved prerequisite training for entry into advanced residency positions in ACGME-accredited programs. Others require that prerequisite training occur only in ACGME-accredited programs for such eligibility.</p> <p>Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2020, a resident who completes prerequisite training in an AOA-approved program with pre-accreditation status from the ACGME will be subject to the eligibility standards (per specialty) that were in effect June 30, 2013 or July 1, 2016, whichever is less restrictive.</p>
Does an AOA internship satisfy the ACGME clinical year requirements for specialties that require them?	<p>Several ACGME Review Committees have determined that, during the transition to a single GME accreditation system, programs in specialties that require a preliminary clinical year will be permitted flexibility in accepting residents who have completed this training in an AOA-approved program. During this transition, ACGME-accredited programs in these specialties can consider applicants from AOA-approved internship programs that have not yet achieved ACGME pre-accreditation or Initial Accreditation, without jeopardizing their accreditation status if they accept such applicants. The Review Committees permitting this flexibility have communicated this information through FAQs and/or other communications with program directors in the specialty. A summary of that information can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p>

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Question	Answer
Will U.S. and international medical school graduates be allowed to enter ACGME-accredited programs with Osteopathic Recognition?	<p>Any graduate of a college of medicine accredited by the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA), medical school within the United States or Canada accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME), or medical school outside of the United States or Canada that meets the established eligibility criteria will be eligible to enter an ACGME-accredited program, including any program with Osteopathic Recognition.</p> <p>Prerequisite eligibility requirements for applicants that did not graduate from a COCA-accredited college of medicine may apply for entry into an osteopathic-focused position in a program with Osteopathic Recognition.</p>
Are individuals currently in AOA-approved programs eligible to transfer to ACGME-accredited programs to complete residency? If so, will they be given credit toward board certification for time completed in their AOA-approved programs?	<p>The issue of resident transfers between programs is not addressed in the agreement among the ACGME, the AOA, and AACOM, and the currently-in-effect ACGME Program Requirements for each specialty remain applicable.</p> <p>For an individual planning such a transfer, the ACGME Review Committee staff should be contacted to determine if the individual's prior training meets ACGME eligibility requirements, and the relevant ABMS board should be contacted to ask whether the portion of their training completed in an AOA-approved program will be applicable toward board certification.</p>
Must DO candidates pass United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) examinations in order to be eligible to apply to ACGME-accredited residency programs?	No. To be eligible for appointment to ACGME-accredited residency programs, candidates must have graduated from a medical school accredited by the LCME or the AOA, or hold a currently-valid certificate from the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG), or hold a full and unrestricted license.
<b>Eligibility for Fellowship</b>	
Will individuals who are currently enrolled in AOA-approved residency programs be eligible for entry into ACGME-accredited fellowships?	<p>Effective July 1, 2016, eligibility requirements for all fellowship positions require completion of prerequisite training in a program accredited by the ACGME, the RCPSC, or the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC).</p> <p>Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2020, a resident who completes prerequisite training in an AOA-approved program with pre-accreditation status will be subject to the ACGME fellowship eligibility standards (per subspecialty) that were in effect June 30, 2013 or July 1, 2016,</p>

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Question	Answer
	<p>whichever is less restrictive.</p> <p>A number of Review Committees (<a href="#">see here for a list</a>) allow programs to grant an exception to the eligibility requirements for prior training. If an individual graduated from a program with pre-accreditation status, is appointed to a fellowship program based on the “exceptionally qualified applicant provision” detailed in the ACGME Common Program Requirements, and has successfully completed Levels 1, 2, and 3 of COMLEX USA, then that individual will not be required to take USMLE.</p> <p><b>NOTE: Some subspecialties did not in 2013, and will not in 2016, accept as prerequisite training anything other than completion of an ACGME-accredited program.</b></p> <p>*The <a href="#">eligibility requirements</a> for every ACGME-accredited subspecialty that were in effect as of June 30, 2013, that were/are in effect between June 30, 2013 and July 1, 2016, and that will be in effect as of July 1, 2016, are posted on the Single GME Accreditation System section of the ACGME website.</p>
<p>Are graduates of AOA-approved programs that achieve Initial Accreditation prior to their graduation eligible for ACGME-accredited fellowships?</p>	<p>Residents who graduate from an AOA-approved program that achieves ACGME Initial Accreditation prior to their graduation are eligible for ACGME-accredited fellowship programs, even if not all of the prerequisite clinical education required for entry into the fellowship was completed under ACGME accreditation.</p> <p>Eligibility for and completion of ACGME-accredited programs does not guarantee eligibility for board certification. Board certification eligibility is determined by the individual certifying boards. Questions regarding eligibility for ABMS member board certification should be directed to the appropriate ABMS member board; questions about AOA certification should be directed to the appropriate AOA specialty certifying board.</p>

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Question	Answer
<p>Are graduates of programs with Initial Accreditation Contingent eligible for ACGME-accredited fellowships?</p>	<p>A resident who graduates from a program while it is in Initial Accreditation Contingent status will be subject to the same fellowship eligibility standards as residents who graduate from a program with pre-accreditation status.</p> <p>Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2020, a resident who completes prerequisite training in an AOA-approved program with pre-accreditation status will be subject to the ACGME fellowship eligibility standards (per subspecialty) that were in effect June 30, 2013 or July 1, 2016, whichever is less restrictive.</p> <p>A number of Review Committees (<a href="#">see here for a list</a>) allow programs to grant an exception to the eligibility requirements for prior training during the period of transition to a single GME accreditation system. If an individual graduated from a program with pre-accreditation status, is appointed to a fellowship program based on the “exceptionally qualified applicant provision” detailed in the ACGME Common Program Requirements, and has successfully completed Levels I, 2, and 3 of COMLEX USA, then that individual will not be required to take USMLE.</p> <p><b>NOTE: Some subspecialties did not in 2013, and will not in 2016, accept as prerequisite training anything other than completion of an ACGME-accredited program.</b></p> <p>*The <a href="#">eligibility requirements</a> for every ACGME-accredited subspecialty that were in effect as of June 30, 2013, that were in effect between June 30, 2013 and July 1, 2016, and that are in effect as of July 1, 2016, are posted on the Single GME Accreditation System section of the ACGME website.</p>
<p>Are graduates of programs with dual accreditation eligible for ACGME-accredited fellowships?</p>	<p>A program with dual accreditation is accredited by the ACGME, and each of its graduates who are listed in ADS (see the section on programs with dual accreditation above) are eligible for ACGME-accredited fellowship positions.</p>

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Question	Answer
<p>Will residents who complete an AOA-approved residency program prior to July 1, 2015, or prior to that program receiving ACGME pre-accreditation status, be eligible for entry into ACGME-accredited fellowship programs?</p>	<p>Pre-accreditation status of an AOA-approved program cannot be made retroactive for residents who complete the program before it receives pre-accreditation status.</p> <p>Residents who complete an AOA-approved program upon completion of Academic Year 2014-2015 will have done so before their program could achieve pre-accreditation status. Their eligibility status for ACGME-accredited fellowships will be determined by the subspecialty requirements in effect for the beginning of the fellowship program.</p> <p><a href="#">Some Review Committees</a> permit an exception to the 2016 eligibility requirements for prior training. Program directors should contact their specialty Review Committee staff to determine if an applicant is eligible or if the program can petition for an exception.</p>
<p>How can program directors of ACGME-accredited fellowships determine whether the residency in which an applicant is enrolled makes him/her eligible for entry?</p>	<p>The ACGME website lists every ACGME-accredited program and, during the transition to the single accreditation system, will also list AOA-approved programs with pre-accreditation status.</p>

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Question	Answer
<p>Must candidates pass USMLE examinations in order to be eligible to apply to ACGME-accredited subspecialty (fellowship) programs?</p>	<p>An individual who has completed an ACGME-accredited residency program in any given specialty is eligible for appointment to any ACGME-accredited subspecialty (fellowship) program that allows prerequisite training in that specialty, regardless of which licensing examination(s) that individual has pursued.</p> <p>An individual who has completed a residency program after that program has achieved pre-accreditation status is eligible for appointment to an ACGME-accredited subspecialty program according to the eligibility requirements for that subspecialty that were in effect June 30, 2013 or will be in effect July 1, 2016, whichever is <i>less restrictive*</i> regardless of which licensing examination(s) that individual has pursued. An individual who graduated from a program with pre-accreditation status and is appointed under the “exceptionally qualified applicant” provision detailed in the ACGME Common Program Requirements, and has successfully completed Levels 1, 2, and 3 of COMLEX USA is not required to take the USMLE exams.</p> <p>An individual who has completed pre-requisite training in a program that was not ACGME-accredited and did not have pre-accreditation status at the time that the individual completed training is subject to the eligibility criteria in effect as of the date that individual would matriculate into subspecialty (fellowship) training. Effective July 1, 2016, some subspecialties will accept as eligible “exceptionally qualified applicants” (as defined in the ACGME Common Program Requirements effective that date). One of the criteria that must be met for the “exceptionally qualified applicant” is satisfactory completion of the USMLE Steps 1, 2, and, if the candidate is eligible, 3.</p> <p><b>NOTE: Some subspecialties did not in 2013, and will not in 2016, accept as prerequisite training anything other than completion of an ACGME-accredited program.</b></p> <p>*The <a href="#">eligibility requirements</a> for every ACGME-accredited subspecialty that were in effect as of June 30, 2013, that were/are in effect between June 30, 2013 and July 1, 2016, and that will be in effect as of July 1, 2016, are posted on the Single GME Accreditation System section of the ACGME website.</p>

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Question	Answer
<b>Resident/Fellow Board Certification</b>	
Will the AOA or the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) issue board certification?	<p>Board certification will continue to be offered by the ABMS and the AOA specialty certifying boards. Certification and eligibility determinations will remain the domain of the respective certifying boards.</p> <p>The agreement among the ACGME, the AOA, and AACOM is limited to issues regarding accreditation and eligibility of ACGME-accredited programs and institutions.</p> <p>Questions regarding eligibility for ABMS member board certification should be directed to the appropriate ABMS member board; questions about AOA certification should be directed to the appropriate AOA specialty certifying board.</p>
Will the ACGME recognize AOA boards in determining a program's board pass rate?	The ACGME's Board of Directors recognizes that osteopathic graduates may take osteopathic certifying board examinations, and has instructed all Review Committees to propose language regarding board certification requirements to include AOA certifying board pass rates to accommodate this expectation. The ACGME currently monitors pass rates on ABMS board examinations and will do the same for AOA board pass rates.
The specialty-specific Program Requirements stipulate a minimum percentage of program graduates that must take the certifying examination offered by the applicable American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) member board. Must osteopathic graduates take the ABMS board examination rather than the examination offered by the applicable American Osteopathic Association (AOA) certifying board?	No. Programs in which some or all graduates take the applicable AOA certifying exam may not achieve the required minimum "take rate" for the applicable ABMS board examination as specified in the specialty-specific Program Requirements. When this occurs the program will not receive a citation and the program's accreditation status will not be adversely impacted on the basis of non-compliance with this requirement. The ACGME believes that the goal of ACGME-accredited residency education is to produce physicians who seek and receive certifying board certification, recognizing that some graduates will be eligible for both exams and will have the freedom to choose which exam to take. This expectation will be addressed in the Common Program Requirements at the time of their next major revision.