



Pathways to ACGME Accreditation for AOA-Approved Programs

The creation of a Single Accreditation System for graduate medical education (GME) programs and sponsoring institutions is an historic event. It is the result of more than a decade of discussions and two years of formal negotiations between the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) and the American Osteopathic Association (AOA). The outcome is an agreement that effective January 1, 2015, the ACGME will add the AOA and the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) as ACGME member organizations, joining the five current member organizations: 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. Nominees from the AOA and AACOM will join the ACGME Board of Directors in numbers ultimately equal to those of each of the five current member organizations.

The need to provide a process for AOA-approved programs and their sponsoring institutions to successfully transition to ACGME accreditation required agreement over the nature of the transition process. It also required that the AOA continue to approve osteopathic programs while its accredited programs transition to ACGME accreditation. Finally, during the transition period, it is consistent with the agreement among the ACGME, the AOA, and AACOM that new programs be encouraged to apply for ACGME accreditation, and to provide accommodation for programs that were in the pipeline for AOA approval prior to the start of the transition period on July 1, 2015.

To facilitate all of these circumstances, and in keeping with the agreement among the ACGME, the AOA, and AACOM, there are three pathways for AOA-approved programs and new programs to become accredited by the ACGME during the transition period from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2020. These pathways are defined below and displayed in the [attached diagram](#).

The first pathway (Pathway A) is for **AOA-approved programs with matriculated residents as of July 1, 2015**. These programs are eligible for ACGME “pre-accreditation status” upon the ACGME’s receipt of completed application, and their graduates are deemed eligible for advanced training in ACGME-accredited programs under the eligibility standards in their specific chosen specialty/subspecialty that were in place on June 30, 2013. For the faculty members and program directors in these programs, there are specific modifications to the Common Program Requirements that allow for AOA-certified faculty members and an AOA-certified co-program director.

The second pathway (Pathway B) is for those programs that are **AOA-approved, but that do not have matriculated residents as of July 1, 2015**. These programs are eligible for ACGME “pre-accreditation status” upon the ACGME’s receipt of completed application, and their graduates are deemed eligible for advanced training in ACGME-accredited programs under the eligibility standards in their specific chosen specialty/subspecialty that were in place on June 30, 2013. Their faculty members and program directors are **not** covered under the specific

modifications to the ACGME Common Program Requirements created under the agreement among the ACGME, the AOA, and AACOM.

The third pathway (Pathway C) is for **programs that receive initial AOA approval after July 1, 2015**. These programs will apply for ACGME accreditation as would any other new program. These programs are **not** eligible for “pre-accreditation status” upon the ACGME’s receipt of a completed application, their graduates are **not** eligible for advanced training in ACGME-accredited programs under the eligibility standards in their specialty/subspecialty that were in place on June 30, 2013, and their faculty members and program directors are **not** covered under the specific modifications to the ACGME Common Program Requirements created under the agreement among the ACGME, the AOA, and AACOM.