



Early Specialization Program (ESP) Review Committee for Surgery

The Review Committee for Surgery will consider applications for the Early Specialization Program (ESP), a pathway leading to certification in both general surgery and vascular surgery. The program consists of a curriculum of four years of general surgery and two years of vascular surgery at the same institution. The ESP does not shorten the requirements for surgery residency. Five years of surgery residency are still required. However, 12 months of PGY-5 experience in a content area of surgery (i.e., vascular surgery) will count toward both general surgery and vascular surgery American Board of Surgery (ABS) certification.

Institutions that sponsor both an ACGME-accredited general surgery program and an ACGME-accredited vascular surgery program are eligible to apply for participation in the ESP. Both the surgery and the vascular surgery programs must hold “Continued Accreditation” status at all times during their participation in the ESP.

Listed below are the documents required both for requests for new ESP programs **and** for established ESP programs requesting new candidates.

Requests for new ESP programs	Requests for new ESP candidates, only	
X	X	A letter of support from the program directors of both the surgery program and the vascular surgery program documenting sufficient resources to provide all residents and subspecialty fellows with a sufficient breadth and balance of operative experience in the principal (essential) content areas
X	X	A letter of support from the sponsoring institution’s designated institutional official (DIO)
X	X	Verification that both programs’ ABS pass rates on the Qualifying and Certifying Examinations meet or exceed those specified in the specialty Program Requirements
X		A description of the process utilized for candidate selection
X		The block diagram for the first four years of surgery education justifying a candidate’s preparation for the ESP [Generally, no more than four months of the first 36 months of surgery residency may be spent exclusively on the applicable subspecialty service (i.e., the vascular surgery service).]

	X	Confirmation that the rotations have not changed since the last application for the ESP; if changes have occurred, describe the changes and demonstrate compliance with curricular program requirements
X		Operative data demonstrating that the program is providing sufficient operative experience during the PG-1-4 years in the principal (essential) content areas for all current residents in the general surgery program during the academic year in which the initial application is made

Send the application for the ESP to:

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