

Rheumatology Fellowship Programs FAQ	
General Subspecialty Program Requirements	
Question	Answer
Do the General Subspecialty Program Requirements apply to Rheumatology? [see ACGME Program Requirements for Fellowship Education in the Subspecialties of Internal Medicine] [see RRC-IM General Subspecialty FAQ]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Absolutely. Rheumatology program directors should study carefully the General Subspecialty Program Requirements, and the FAQs related to these program requirements. The requirements cover required structural elements in the program such as required institutional support, facilities and resources, key faculty and program director qualifications and responsibilities, conferences, continuity clinic, scholarship and research, evaluation, etc. Subspecialty fellowship programs are expected to be in full compliance with <u>both</u> the General Subspecialty Program Requirements, and the Subspecialty Specific Program Requirements.
Educational Program	
Question	Answer
Our rheumatology fellowship is 3 years in length. Can we spread out the clinical training over 36 months? Can we use the time fellows spend in continuity clinic to reduce the block time of 12 months clinical? [Program Requirement VIII.A. – VIII.C.] [Program Requirement II.A.4.n).(3)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All required training must be completed within the accredited 24-months of training. An additional year of training (i.e., for research may be required (or offered) by the program, but the required training (at least 12 months clinical, continuity clinic, conferences, and research) must be completed during the accredited two years (24 months) of training: Time spent in continuity clinic (one-half day weekly x 24 months) may not be used to reduce the minimal block time required for clinical training.
Please explain the outpatient requirement. [Program Requirement VIII.D.]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee and the rheumatology community recognize that much of the practice of clinical rheumatology occurs in the ambulatory setting. As such the program requirements require that fellows spend at least two half-days per week throughout the two years of required training in an ambulatory/ outpatient teaching setting. Continuity clinic provides 1/2 day per week, thus programs need an additional 1/2 day per week – averaged over 24 months. A third half-day is suggested, but not required. Programs may organize this additional training in any way that they desire, as long as it can demonstrate 104 ambulatory teaching half-day sessions in 2 years, over and above continuity clinic.
What procedures does the program need to track for Rheumatology fellows? [Program Requirement XI.B.2.] [Program Requirement XI.B.1.c)]	<u>Rheumatology procedures that must be documented in fellows procedure log:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diagnostic aspiration and/or therapeutic injection of bursae, joints, enthuses and tendon sheaths. Analysis by light and compensated polarized light microscopy of synovial fluid.
The program requirements require competency in a number of areas (RA, SLE, etc.). What will the Committee require to demonstrate that competency is achieved? [Program Requirement XI.A.1.a.) See also XI.A.1.b) – p)] [Program Requirement XI.B.1. See also XI.B.1.b) – d)]	These program requirements require competence (+ instruction and experience) in 20 content areas, both disease specific (XI.A.) and technical competency (XI.B.). The program defines the measures of competency.
Facilities and Resources	
Question	Answer
Is it necessary to have a PMR	The RRC-IM considers an active rehabilitation medicine <u>clinical</u>

Rheumatology Fellowship Programs FAQ	
residency in order to start a rheumatology fellowship? [Program Requirement X.D.2.]	program essential for rheumatology training. A PM&R <u>training</u> program is not required.

Appendix I

RRC-IM Calculation of Minimum key Clinical Faculty (KCF) and key Clinical Faculty (KCF) Scholarship Participation/Productivity Rheumatology				
Minimum 3 KCF or 1:1.5 faculty-fellow ratio for programs with 6 or more fellows				
Approved Fellow Complement	Minimum Certified KCF (incl PD)	Majority of Minimum KCF (50%)	<u>PARTICIPATION</u> KCF with at Least 1 Pub Past 3 Years [259]	<u>PRODUCTIVITY</u> Pubs All KCF Past 3 Years (1/yr x 3 yrs) [259]
2	3	2	2	6
3	3	2	2	6
4	3	2	2	6
5	3	2	2	6
6	4	2	2	6
7	5	3	3	9
8	6	3	3	9
9	6	3	3	9
10	7	4	4	12
11	8	4	4	12
12	8	4	4	12
13	9	5	5	15
14	10	5	5	15
15	10	5	5	15
16	11	6	6	18
17	12	6	6	18
18	12	6	6	18
19	13	7	7	21
20	14	7	7	21
21	14	7	7	21
22	15	8	8	24
23	16	8	8	24
24	16	8	8	24
25	17	9	9	27
26	18	9	9	27
27	18	9	9	27
28	19	10	10	30
29	20	10	10	30
30	20	10	10	30

- Publication = Research publication, review article, or editorial in a peer review journal (PRJ), funded peer-review grant, or book chapter.
- Scholarly case reports acceptable (Sept 2007) if indexed in Pub Med, and copy submitted with PIF
- Peer review publication = indexed in Pub Med (or Medline). If not in Pub Med, PD must supply evidence of peer review
- In press or accepted for publication counts. Submitted or in preparation does not count.
- Abstract, illustration, letter to the editor, presentation, or publication in non-PRJ does not count.
- Peer-reviewed funding (NIH, NCI, or other government-funded or national-foundation

funded) counts

- Industry, pharmaceutical, or other non-peer-review grant does not count.
 - Exception: Pharmaceutical studies in which the KCF is the overall PI (lead investigator) for all sites will be accepted as counting as one product of scholarship
 - 1 paper = 1 paper; Do not count multi-author papers more than once.
 - Count the last three calendar years prior to PIF submission. If site visit is in Sep. 2008, count publications from 2005, 2006, and 2007 as well as 2008.
 - Contribute to participation: Only ABIM certified KCF
 - Contribute to productivity:
 - Certified KCF
 - Additional sub-specialty KCF (above minimum required, certified or non-certified)
 - Non-physician faculty and faculty in other specialties IF:
 - Contribute to fellow education
- Devote at least 10 hours/ week to the program