ACGME Resident Survey – Program FAQs

- **What is the Resident/Fellow Survey?**
  Each year from January through April, the ACGME requires residents and fellows to complete an online survey. This survey contains questions about the clinical and educational experience within their program, as well as duty hours worked. **Note:** This survey is only to be completed by residents/fellows. Program administration DOES NOT have access to the survey itself, or to any individual responses provided by residents/fellows. Accreditation Data System (ADS) logins will not provide access to the survey.

- **Which programs are scheduled to participate?**
  All ACGME-accredited specialty and subspecialty programs *(regardless of size)* will be surveyed each academic year.

- **When is my program scheduled to complete the survey?**
  The Resident/Fellow Survey takes place each academic year between the months of January and April. Programs are scheduled for windows, approximately five weeks in length, within which their residents/fellows must complete the survey.
  
  The ACGME will notify programs directly when their participation is required. You can also find more information about when your program is scheduled to participate by logging into your ADS account.
  
  - Click on the “Surveys” tab and find the “ Resident Survey” heading. Within this menu you will find scheduling information for the current and previous iterations of the survey. **Final scheduling usually takes place in early January of each academic year.**

- **Is there a required response rate that my program must meet before the deadline?**
  Yes. A 70% response rate is required for all programs with four or more active residents/fellows. Programs with fewer than four residents/fellows should reach a 100% response rate. The Review Committees will closely monitor the response rates of programs and will review programs that fail to meet this requirement.

- **How will my residents/fellows know when they need to participate in this survey?**
  Programs are responsible for notifying their residents/fellows of this survey and its deadlines. The ACGME DOES NOT contact residents and fellows directly about this survey. It is the program’s responsibility to ensure its residents/fellows complete the survey by the assigned deadline. To notify/remind residents/fellows of their involvement and provide login information for the survey, log into ADS, click the “Surveys” tab and find the “Resident Survey” heading. Click “View Current Resident Survey Takers” to access a list of your current survey takers. Follow the instructions on this page to e-mail residents/fellows directly from ADS.

- **Does the ACGME notify or remind residents/fellows of this survey?**
  No. The ACGME DOES NOT notify or reminder residents/fellows of this survey. Programs are responsible for notifying their residents/fellows and ensuring they complete the survey before the assigned deadline.
Who will be scheduled to complete the survey?
All active residents/fellows within a program will be scheduled to complete the survey each year.

Residents/fellows who started the program off-cycle (after August 31 of the current academic year), and have a current status of “Off-Cycle” in the ADS, will NOT be scheduled to participate.

How can I keep track of which residents need to complete the survey?
Access a list of scheduled residents/fellows by logging into your ADS account. Click on the “Surveys” tab and find the “Resident Survey” heading. Within this menu, click the “View Current Resident Survey Takers” button to access a list of scheduled survey takers from your program. Note: The list of residents/fellows scheduled to complete the survey (along with the “View Resident Survey Takers” button itself) will only be available during your scheduled administration window.

Does this survey contain questions specific to my specialty, or just general questions about training in an ACGME-accredited program?
While all residents/fellows are required to complete a set of general survey questions, some specialties require completion of a secondary set of questions specific to the specialty area. The following specialties’ surveys currently contain additional specialty-specific questions:

- Allergy and Immunology
- Anesthesiology
- Colon and Rectal Surgery
- Emergency Medicine
- Family Medicine
- Internal Medicine (and subs)
- Ophthalmology (and subs)
- Orthopaedic Surgery (and subs)
- Neurological Surgery (and subs)
- Otolaryngology (and subs)
- Plastic Surgery (and subs)
- Surgery (and subs)
- Pathology
- Preventive Medicine
- Pediatrics (and subs)
- Radiation Oncology
- Neurology
- Psychiatry
- Thoracic Surgery
- Urology (and subs)
- Transitional Year
- Combined Internal Medicine/Pediatrics

How do residents/fellows complete this survey?
Residents/fellows can access the survey at the following link: ACGME Surveys - Login Page. You can find further information to provide to your residents/fellows regarding completion of this survey on our website. Note: This survey is only to be completed by residents/fellows. Program administration DOES NOT have access to the survey itself, or to any responses provided by residents/fellows. ADS logins will not provide access to the survey.

Can I see the questions that residents/fellows will be asked?
No. Questions asked on the Resident/Fellow Survey are only available to residents/fellows participating in the survey.

When is a survey considered “complete”? 
An individual survey is considered complete when all questions presented to the responding resident/fellow have been answered and the “Submit” button at the end of the survey has been clicked. Incomplete surveys or surveys that have not been submitted will NOT be considered complete and will NOT count toward a program’s overall rate of compliance.
Is this survey directly linked to a site visit for my program?
No. This survey is not directly linked to a site visit; residents/fellows in your program will be required to complete the survey on an annual basis, regardless of whether the program is scheduled for an upcoming site visit.

What if my program does not reach 100% compliance for this survey?
Review Committees will closely monitor programs’ response rates and will review programs that fail to meet the compliance requirements. A 70% response rate is required for all programs with four or more active residents/fellows currently training. Programs with fewer than for residents/fellows should reach a 100% response rate.

Where can I see the results from my program?
If at least 70% of your residents/fellows have completed the survey and your program has at least four residents/fellows responding, summary reports for your program will be available annually through ADS.

For programs with fewer than four residents/fellows that meet the 70% compliance rate, reports will only be available on an aggregated basis after at least three years of survey reporting have taken place. Compliance must be maintained over these years in order to receive this aggregated report. Programs that have received a standard report in the past will only receive this aggregated version when there are at least two years of compliant reporting with fewer than four residents/fellows responding.

Only summary data are displayed; no individual data are available. If less than 70% of your residents/fellows complete the survey, data from your program will not be available that academic year.

To access these reports with the ADS, log in and navigate to the “Surveys” tab. Navigate to the Resident Survey section and click the “View Reports” button. Select the academic year and program for which you wish to view reports. You will be presented with a grid of available survey reports. Click the “View” button next to the report you wish to review.

Who else will see the data from my program?
All data gathered in this survey are confidential, and no names will be associated with any of the data in the database. Access to the data will be password-protected, and no responses will be linked to individual respondents.

Aggregate, program-level data from the survey are provided to program directors and the designated institutional official (DIO) annually for programs with four or more residents/fellows responding when 70% compliance is reached or exceeded. For programs with fewer than four residents/fellows that meet the 70% compliance rate, reports will only be available on an aggregated basis after at least three years of survey reporting have taken place.

My residents have completed the survey and we have received our aggregate report. Why are some of the data highlighted in grey?
Programs with Resident/Fellow Survey reports prior to and including the 2010-2011 academic year may see grey shaded boxes used in the report to highlight non-compliance within resident responses (as compared to the ACGME’s Common Program Requirements).