

ACGME Resident/Fellow Survey – Program FAQs

What is the Resident/Fellow Survey?

Each year between January and April, the ACGME requires residents and fellows in accredited programs to complete an online survey. This survey contains questions about their clinical and educational experiences within their program.

Which programs are scheduled to participate?

All ACGME-accredited programs with active residents or fellows, regardless of program size, will be surveyed each academic year.

When are programs scheduled to participate?

The Resident/Fellow Survey is conducted each academic year between January and April. Programs are scheduled for a period of approximately five weeks during which residents/fellows must complete the survey. The ACGME will notify programs of their participation at the beginning of this five-week period.

More information about scheduled participation windows for this survey can be found by logging into the Accreditation Data System ([ADS](#)). Click on the “Surveys” tab and review the scheduling dates for this survey. *Scheduling for the current academic year usually takes place in late December or early January.*

Who is scheduled to complete the survey?

All active residents/fellows in 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*) with a current status of “Off-Cycle” in ADS will **NOT** be scheduled to participate. Confirm that resident/fellow information is up to date in [ADS](#).

***Note:** This survey is only to be completed by residents/fellows. Program administrators do not have access to the survey, or to any individual responses provided by survey takers. ADS logins do not provide access to the survey.*

How will residents/fellows know when to participate?

It is the responsibility of the program to ensure scheduled residents/fellows complete the survey by the assigned deadline. The ACGME **DOES NOT** notify or remind residents/fellows about this survey.

To notify/remind residents/fellows and provide access to the survey, log into [ADS](#), click the “Surveys” tab, and click “View/Remind Takers” under the Resident/Fellow Survey heading. Follow the instructions provided to email residents/fellows directly.

How do residents/fellows complete the survey?

Residents/fellows can access the survey via a secure link contained in the email sent by their program through [ADS](#). Additional information for residents/fellows participating in the survey can be found on the [ACGME website](#).

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How do I know who is scheduled to complete the survey?

Access a list of scheduled residents/fellows in the program’s [ADS](#) account. Click on the “Surveys” tab and click “View/Remind Takers” under the Resident/Fellow Survey heading. This list will **ONLY** be available during a program’s scheduled survey window for notification/reminder purposes.

Is there a required response rate programs must meet?

Yes. A 70 percent response rate is required for all programs with four or more residents/fellows scheduled to participate. Programs with fewer than four residents/fellows scheduled should reach a 100 percent response rate. A survey must be complete and submitted to count towards the program's response rate.

Review Committees will closely monitor the response rates of programs and review those that fail to meet this requirement.

Can program administrators see the survey questions?

No. Questions are only available to residents/fellows participating in the survey while they are taking it.

What types of questions does this survey contain?

The ACGME Resident/Fellow Survey contains general questions related to the Common Program Requirements, and questions regarding well-being. It may also contain questions specific to the specialty/subspecialty or Osteopathic Recognition.

Which residents/fellows may see specialty-specific questions?

Residents/fellows in the following specialties may be required to respond to additional specialty or subspecialty-specific questions:

- Allergy and immunology
- Anesthesiology
- Colon and rectal surgery
- Dermatology
- Emergency medicine
- Family medicine
- Internal medicine (and subs)
- Neurological surgery (and subs)
- Neurology
- Orthopaedic surgery (and subs)
- Otolaryngology (and subs)
- Pathology
- Pediatrics (and subs)
- Plastic surgery (and subs)
- Preventive medicine
- Psychiatry
- Radiation oncology
- Surgery (and subs)
- Thoracic surgery
- Transitional year
- Urology (and subs)
- Combined internal medicine-pediatrics

When is a survey considered “complete”?

An individual survey is considered complete when all questions presented to the survey taker have been answered and the “Submit” button at the end of the survey has been clicked. Incomplete surveys or surveys that have been saved but not submitted will not be considered complete and will NOT count toward a program's overall response rate.

Is this survey directly linked to an accreditation site visit?

No. Residents/fellows are required to complete the survey on an annual basis, regardless of whether the program is scheduled for an accreditation site visit.

What if a program does not reach a 100 percent response rate for the survey?

A 70 percent response rate is required for all programs with four or more active residents/fellows. Programs with fewer than four residents/fellows scheduled to participate should reach a 100 percent response rate. Review Committees will closely monitor programs' response rates and may review programs that fail to meet the 70 percent requirement.

Where can programs review their survey results?

If at least 70 percent of the program's scheduled residents/fellows complete the survey and there were at least four residents/fellows scheduled, summary reports for the program will be available annually in [ADS](#). Only aggregate summary data are displayed on reports; no individual response data is presented. If a program fails to meet the 70 percent response rate, reports will not be available for the program that academic year.

To download/review survey reports, log into ADS and select the "Survey" option on "Reports" tab. After choosing an academic year and program, click "View Reports" to access available survey reports for that year.

Can I get reports if my program has less than four people scheduled to participate?

For programs with fewer than four residents/fellows scheduled to participate in the survey that still meet the required response rate, multi-year reports (containing up to four previous years of survey data) will be available on an aggregated basis after at least three years of survey data collection have taken place. A program must continue to meet this response rate during this time in order to receive this report.

Programs that have received a standard report in the past will only receive this multi-year version when there are at least two years of survey data with fewer than four residents/fellows scheduled to participate.

Who else can see the data from an individual program?

All data gathered in this survey are confidential. No names will be associated with any of the data collected and no data are linked to individual respondents. Access to reports is password-protected, and no individual responses are provided therein.

Summary data from this survey may be used to inform ACGME policy decisions at the national level. The ACGME may publish summary data and other information about programs, institutions, residents, fellows, or graduate medical education (GME), which is not identifiable by person or organization, in a manner appropriate to further the quality of GME and consistent with federal and state laws and ACGME policies.

Why are some of the data in the aggregated report highlighted in grey?

Programs with Resident/Fellow Survey reports prior to and including the 2010-2011 academic year may see grey shaded boxes in the report to highlight non-compliance within responses (as compared to the ACGME Common Program Requirements from that academic year).