

## ACGME Program Self-Study and 10-Year Accreditation Site Visit Updates

### Department of Accreditation, Recognition, and Field Activities

The ACGME has updated the status of the program Self-Study, and program 10-Year Accreditation Site Visit. Field Activities will update these Frequently Asked Questions as questions are received.

#### Background

- Previously, all programs with Continued Accreditation received a Self-Study date and 10-Year Accreditation Site Visit date. The review of the program Self-Study was incorporated into the 10-Year Accreditation Site Visit process.
- Due to postponements of Self-Study dates, as well as deferrals of 10-Year Accreditation Site Visits resulting from the ACGME's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, this is no longer the case. The program Self-Study will not be reviewed during a site visit and the Self-Study will not correlate with the date of the next site visit.
- This deferral period will allow the ACGME to develop a sustainable model for improvement and assurance for its nearly 13,000 accredited programs and allow programs to recover from the impact of COVID-19.

**Question:** Will a program's Self-Study be reviewed at the time of the site visit?

**Answer:** No, the Self-Study will no longer be reviewed during a site visit, but it may be discussed.

**Question:** Why are programs' Self-Study and 10-Year Accreditation Site Visit approximate dates no longer listed in the Accreditation Data System (ADS)?

**Answer:** All Self-Study and 10-Year Accreditation Site Visit dates in ADS are being removed as the ACGME finalizes its new approach for July 2022 and beyond.

**Question:** Is performing a Self-Study required?

**Answer:** Programs are not required to complete a formal Self-Study until further notice (at least through July 2022), and no programs will be scheduled for a Self-Study until further notice. The suspension does not prohibit programs' local Self-Study activities. The ACGME encourages programs to incorporate the Self-Study into their Annual Program Evaluation process and to track ongoing progress and program improvements as outlined in the Common Program Requirements.

**Question:** Does a program that recently transitioned to Continued Accreditation need to conduct a Self-Study?

**Answer:** Programs that recently transitioned to a status of Continued Accreditation may not yet have the improvement trajectory to warrant a full Self-Study. These programs may instead perform an Annual Program Evaluation with a focus on program aims and an environmental assessment (see the [Self-Study web page](#) for guidance). Before deciding whether to conduct a Self-Study or Annual Program Evaluation, program leaders should check with the Sponsoring

Institution's designated institutional official (DIO), as some DIOs prefer that all programs conduct a Self-Study.

**Question:** What will happen if a program already completed its Self-Study?

**Answer:** For programs that have already completed and submitted their Self-Study, the ACGME is developing a process for reviewing and providing feedback.

**Question:** When will site visits take place for programs past due for their 10-year Accreditation site visit?

**Answer:** The scheduling of 10-Year Accreditation Site Visits is suspended, however, Review Committees can request site visits for programs with a status of Continued Accreditation, Continued Accreditation with Warning, and Continued Accreditation without Outcomes at their discretion. In support of its Mission, the ACGME remains committed to achieving a balance between assurance (regulatory) and improvement (continuous improvement) of educational programs and graduates' outcomes. As a part of that goal, the ACGME will continue its ADS Annual Update and annual program reviews.

**Question:** Will Sponsoring Institutions need to complete their Self-Study?

**Answer:** Institutional Self-Studies will proceed according to the Institutional Review Committee's current process. At this time, the program Self-Study is not connected to the Institutional Self-Study. Review information regarding the Institutional Self-Study at <https://www.acgme.org/Designated-Institutional-Officials/Institutional-Review-Committee/Institutional-Self-Study/>.

**Question:** How does a Sponsoring Institution know when to initiate its Self-Study?

**Answer:** Several months prior to the Self-Study date shown in ADS, Sponsoring Institutions receive an email from the ACGME to initiate the Self-Study. This emailed letter includes a link to resources for conducting the Institutional Self-Study. Sponsoring Institutions should start their Self-Study at that time but can begin sooner. Program and Program Evaluation Committee leaders are encouraged to review the Self-Study resources page on the ACGME website for additional information.

**Question:** Why is the 10-Year Recognition Site Visit date still listed in ADS for a program with Osteopathic Recognition?

**Answer:** 10-Year Recognition Site Visit dates for programs with Continued Recognition remain unchanged.