ACGME Definitions

- ACGME Rural Track Program (RTP)
- ACGME Rural Track Program Designation
- ACGME Rural Track Related Program

ACGME RTP Designation Process

- RTP Designation Processes Summary
- Existing program expansion - Full Version
- Existing program expansion - Animated Version
- New program - Full Version
- New program - Animated Version

Data and Criteria

- Existing Program Data Inputs/Outputs and Criteria
- New Program Data Inputs/Outputs and Criteria
- "Rural" Criterion
- Duration Threshold
- New Rural Site Criterion (Existing Program RTP)

Contact

- ACGME questions
- Policy questions

Federal Updates

Accreditation Data System (ADS) Reports

Resources

*The ACGME RTP designation is independent of any rural track designation by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and does not guarantee that a program will meet CMS eligibility requirements for GME or other financial support.
ACGME Rural Track Program (RTP)

An ACGME-accredited program in which all or some residents/fellows gain both urban and rural experience with more than half of the education and training for the applicable resident(s)/fellow(s) taking place in a rural area (any area outside of an urban Core-Based Statistical Area (CBSA)).
ACGME Rural Track Program Designation

A classification provided by the ACGME that identifies RTPs either with the approval of a permanent complement increase request and the addition/identification of at least one new rural participating site or at the time of application for accreditation.
ACGME Rural Track
Related Program

A separately accredited program in the same specialty at the same Sponsoring Institution in which residents/fellows have some overlapping education and training experiences with the ACGME RTP residents/fellows and may share resources (for new program RTPs).
RTP Designation Processes

Summary

RTP – track within existing program

• Program director initiates using sidebar option within ADS
• Criteria include:
  - All of the new program criteria; and,
  - New rural site(s) (not required for current program residents/fellows)
  - Faculty members at the new rural site(s) are not supported by a current rural participating site

RTP – new program

• Designated institutional official (DIO) initiates at program application
• Criteria include:
  - Greater than 50 percent GME in rural participating site(s)
  - Rural area = county outside of an urban CBSA
  - Some required non-rural GME

Two approval steps:
1. ACGME MUA/P and GME review of designation information
2. ACGME Review Committee review* of permanent complement increase request and site changes (track within existing program) or program application (new program)

*The designation process is independent of accreditation review.
ACGME Rural Track Program Designation within Existing Program – (2.24.22)

- PD initiates ACGME Rural Track Program designation request

Designation
- Rural Track Program

Key:
- Program Director (PD)
- Designated Institutional Official (DIO)
- ACGME Review Committee (RC)
- ACGME Medically Underserved Areas/Populations and GME staff (MUA/P and GME staff)

Return to TOC
ACGME Rural Track Program Designation within Existing Program – (2.24.22)

1. PD completes RTP rotation information form

Designation
Rural Track Program

Key:
- Program Director (PD)
- Designated Institutional Official (DIO)
- ACGME Review Committee (RC)
- ACGME Medically Underserved Areas/Populations and GME staff (MUA/P and GME staff)
ACGME Rural Track Program Designation within Existing Program – (2.24.22)

PD initiates ACGME Rural Track Program designation request.

1. PD completes RTP rotation information form.
2. PD completes rural site(s) and faculty information.

Key:
- Program Director (PD)
- Designated Institutional Official (DIO)
- ACGME Review Committee (RC)
- ACGME Medically Underserved Areas/Populations and GME staff (MUA/P and GME staff)
ACGME Rural Track Program Designation within Existing Program – (2.24.22)

Key:
- Program Director (PD)
- Designated Institutional Official (DIO)
- ACGME Review Committee (RC)
- ACGME Medically Underserved Areas/Populations and GME staff (MUA/P and GME staff)

1. PD initiates ACGME Rural Track Program designation request
2. PD completes RTP rotation information form
3. PD completes permanent complement increase request

Designation
- Rural Track Program
ACGME Rural Track Program Designation within Existing Program – (2.24.22)

Key:
- Program Director (PD)
- Designated Institutional Official (DIO)
- ACGME Review Committee (RC)
- ACGME Medically Underserved Areas/Populations and GME staff (MUA/P and GME staff)

1. PD initiates ACGME Rural Track Program designation request
2. PD completes RTP rotation information form
3. PD completes rural site(s) and faculty information
4. PD completes permanent complement increase request
5. PD completes specialty-specific form (if applicable)

Designation
- Rural Track Program
ACGME Rural Track Program Designation within Existing Program – (2.24.22)

Key:
- Program Director (PD)
- Designated Institutional Official (DIO)
- ACGME Review Committee (RC)
- ACGME Medically Underserved Areas/Populations and GME staff (MUA/P and GME staff)

1. PD initiates ACGME Rural Track Program designation request
2. PD completes RTP rotation information form
3. PD completes permanent complement increase request
4. PD completes specialty-specific form (if applicable)

PD submits RTP designation and complement change request
ACGME Rural Track Program Designation within Existing Program – (2.24.22)

1. PD initiates ACGME Rural Track Program designation request
2. PD completes RTP rotation information form
3. PD completes permanent complement increase request
4. PD completes specialty-specific form (if applicable)

Key:
- Program Director (PD)
- Designated Institutional Official (DIO)
- ACGME Review Committee (RC)
- ACGME Medically Underserved Areas/Populations and GME staff (MUA/P and GME staff)
ACGME Rural Track Program Designation within Existing Program – (2.24.22)

1. PD initiates ACGME Rural Track Program designation request
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- Program Director (PD)
- Designated Institutional Official (DIO)
- ACGME Review Committee (RC)
- ACGME Medically Underserved Areas/Populations and GME staff (MUA/P and GME staff)

1. PD initiates ACGME Rural Track Program designation request
2. PD completes RTP rotation information form
3. PD completes permanent complement increase request
4. PD completes specialty-specific form (if applicable)

DIO approves RTP designation and complement change request
DIO reviews RTP designation and complement change request
PD submits RTP designation and complement change request

ACGME MUA/P and GME staff screens RTP designation request (1 and 2)
ACGME Rural Track Program Designation within Existing Program – (2.24.22)

**PD initiates ACGME Rural Track Program designation request**

1. PD completes RTP rotation information form

2. PD completes rural site(s) and faculty information

3. PD completes permanent complement increase request

4. PD completes specialty-specific form (if applicable)

**Complete and meets criteria?**

- **DIO approves RTP designation and complement change request**
- **DIO reviews RTP designation and complement change request**
- **PD submits RTP designation and complement change request**

**ACGME MUA/P and GME staff screens RTP designation request (1 and 2)**

**Key:**
- Program Director (PD)
- Designated Institutional Official (DIO)
- ACGME Review Committee (RC)
- ACGME Medically Underserved Areas/Populations and GME staff (MUA/P and GME staff)
ACGME Rural Track Program Designation within Existing Program – (2.24.22)

1. PD completes RTP rotation information form
2. PD completes rural site(s) and faculty information
3. PD completes permanent complement increase request
4. PD completes specialty-specific form (if applicable)

**ACGME Rural Track Program**

**Key:**
- Program Director (PD)
- Designated Institutional Official (DIO)
- ACGME Review Committee (RC)
- ACGME Medically Underserved Areas/Populations and GME staff (MUA/P and GME staff)

**ACGME MUA/P and GME staff screens RTP designation request (1 and 2)**

**DIO approves RTP designation and complement change request**

**DIO reviews RTP designation and complement change request**

**PD submits RTP designation and complement change request**

**Complete and meets criteria?**

- **Yes:** ACGME RTP designation and communicated to PD
- **No:** ACGME RTP designation declined and communicated to PD

**Program Director (PD)**

**Designated Institutional Official (DIO)**

**ACGME Review Committee (RC)**

**ACGME Medically Underserved Areas/Populations and GME staff (MUA/P and GME staff)**

**Return to TOC**
ACGME Rural Track Program Designation within Existing Program – (2.24.22)

1. PD initiates ACGME Rural Track Program designation request
   - PD completes RTP rotation information form
2. DIO approves RTP designation and complement change request
   - PD completes rural site(s) and faculty information
3. PD submits RTP designation and complement change request
   - DIO reviews RTP designation and complement change request
   - PD completes permanent complement increase request
4. PD completes specialty-specific form (if applicable)
   - ACGME MUA/P and GME staff screens RTP designation request (1 and 2)
   - ACGME RTP designation declined and communicated to PD

Key:
- Program Director (PD)
- Designated Institutional Official (DIO)
- ACGME Review Committee (RC)
- ACGME Medically Underserved Areas/Populations and GME staff (MUA/P and GME staff)
ACGME Rural Track Program Designation within Existing Program – (2.24.22)

1. PD completes RTP rotation information form
2. PD completes rural site(s) and faculty information
3. PD completes permanent complement increase request
4. PD completes specialty-specific form (if applicable)

DIO approves RTP designation and complement change request
DIO reviews RTP designation and complement change request
PD submits RTP designation and complement change request

ACGME MUA/P and GME staff screens RTP designation request (1 and 2)

Complete and meets criteria?

No
ACGME RTP designation declined and communicated to PD

PD updates info and submits request for re-review for RTP designation

PD withdraws RTP designation request*

Key:
Program Director (PD)
Designated Institutional Official (DIO)
ACGME Review Committee (RC)
ACGME Medically Underserved Areas/Populations and GME staff (MUA/P and GME staff)
ACGME Rural Track Program Designation within Existing Program – (2.24.22)

1. PD initiates ACGME Rural Track Program designation request

2. PD completes RTP rotation information form

3. PD completes permanent complement increase request

4. PD completes specialty-specific form (if applicable)

   - DIO approves RTP designation and complement change request
   - DIO reviews RTP designation and complement change request
   - PD submits RTP designation and complement change request

   - ACGME MUA/P and GME staff screens RTP designation request (1 and 2)

   - Complete and meets criteria?

     - Yes
     - No

     - PD updates info and submits request for re-review for RTP designation
     - ACGME RTP designation declined and communicated to PD

   - PD withdraws RTP designation request*

   *PD could exit the designation section and follow standard processes to submit a permanent complement increase request

Key:
- Program Director (PD)
- Designated Institutional Official (DIO)
- ACGME Review Committee (RC)
- ACGME Medically Underserved Areas/Populations and GME staff (MUA/P and GME staff)
ACGME Rural Track Program Designation within Existing Program – (2.24.22)

**Key:**
- Program Director (PD)
- Designated Institutional Official (DIO)
- ACGME Review Committee (RC)
- ACGME Medically Underserved Areas/Populations and GME staff (MUA/P and GME staff)

1. PD initiates ACGME Rural Track Program designation request
2. PD completes RTP rotation information form
3. PD completes rural site(s) and faculty information
4. PD completes specialty-specific form (if applicable)

- **ACGME MUA/P and GME staff screens RTP designation request (1 and 2)**
  - DIO approves RTP designation and complement change request
  - PD submits RTP designation and complement change request

- **DIO reviews RTP designation and complement change request**
  - PD updates info and submits request for re-review for RTP designation

- **ACGME RTP designation declined and communicated to PD**

- **Contingent ACGME RTP designation granted, and standard communication issued to PD**
  - PD withdraws RTP designation request*

*PD could exit the designation section and follow standard processes to submit a permanent complement increase request

Return to TOC
ACGME Rural Track Program Designation within Existing Program – (2.24.22)

**PD initiates ACGME Rural Track Program designation request**

1. PD completes RTP rotation information form
2. PD completes rural site(s) and faculty information
3. PD completes permanent complement increase request
4. PD completes specialty-specific form (if applicable)

- DIO approves RTP designation and complement change request
- DIO reviews RTP designation and complement change request
- PD submits RTP designation and complement change request
- ACGME MUA/P and GME staff screens RTP designation request (1 and 2)

Complete and meets criteria?

- Yes
  - Contingent ACGME RTP designation granted, and standard communication issued to PD
  - PD updates info and submits request for re-review for RTP designation
  - PD completes specialty-specific form (if applicable)
- No
  - PD completes permanent complement increase request
  - PD completes rural site(s) and faculty information
  - PD initiates ACGME Rural Track Program designation request
  - PD completes RTP rotation information form
  - PD completes rural site(s) and faculty information
  - PD completes permanent complement increase request
  - PD completes specialty-specific form (if applicable)

**Key:**
- Program Director (PD)
- Designated Institutional Official (DIO)
- ACGME Review Committee (RC)
- ACGME Medically Underserved Areas/Populations and GME staff (MUA/P and GME staff)

*PD could exit the designation section and follow standard processes to submit a permanent complement increase request*
ACGME Rural Track Program Designation within Existing Program – (2.24.22)

PD initiates ACGME Rural Track Program designation request

1. PD completes RTP rotation information form
2. PD completes rural site(s) and faculty information
3. PD completes permanent complement increase request
4. PD completes specialty-specific form (if applicable)

Designation
Rural Track Program

ACGME MUA/P and GME staff screens RTP designation request (1 and 2)

Complete and meets criteria?
Yes
Contingent ACGME RTP designation granted, and standard communication issued to PD

No
PD updates info and submits request for re-review for RTP designation

PD withdraws RTP designation request*

ACGME RTP designation declined and communicated to PD

RC receives and processes complement change request (2, 3, and 4)

Request approved?

Key:
Program Director (PD)
Designated Institutional Official (DIO)
ACGME Review Committee (RC)
ACGME Medically Underserved Areas/Populations and GME staff (MUA/P and GME staff)

*PD could exit the designation section and follow standard processes to submit a permanent complement increase request
ACGME Rural Track Program Designation within Existing Program – (2.24.22)

**Key:**
- Program Director (PD)
- Designated Institutional Official (DIO)
- ACGME Review Committee (RC)
- ACGME Medically Underserved Areas/Populations and GME staff (MUA/P and GME staff)

1. PD initiates ACGME Rural Track Program designation request
2. PD completes RTP rotation information form
3. PD completes rural site(s) and faculty information
4. PD completes permanent complement increase request

**Designation**
- Rural Track Program

---

**ACGME MUA/P and GME staff screens RTP designation request (1 and 2)**

**PD updates info and submits request for re-review for RTP designation**

**ACGME RTP designation and complement change request**

**DIO approves RTP designation and complement change request**

**PD submits RTP designation and complement change request**

**Complete and meets criteria?**

**Yes**

- Contingent ACGME RTP designation granted, and standard communication issued to PD

**No**

- PD withdraws RTP designation request*

**PD completes specialty-specific form (if applicable)**

**Return to TOC**

*PD could exit the designation section and follow standard processes to submit a permanent complement increase request

**ACGME RTP designation declined and communicated to PD**

**RC receives and processes complement change request (2, 3, and 4)**

**Request approved?**

**Yes**

- Complement change granted (with RTP designation)
ACGME Rural Track Program Designation within Existing Program – (2.24.22)

1. PD initiates ACGME Rural Track Program designation request
2. PD completes RTP rotation information form
3. PD completes rural site(s) and faculty information
4. PD completes permanent complement increase request

- DIO approves RTP designation and complement change request
- DIO reviews RTP designation and complement change request
- PD submits RTP designation and complement change request

ACGME MUA/P and GME staff screens RTP designation request (1 and 2)

PD updates info and submits request for re-review for RTP designation

ACGME RTP designation declined and communicated to PD

RC receives and processes complement change request (2, 3, and 4)

Contingent ACGME RTP designation granted, and standard communication issued to PD

Yes

Complete and meets criteria?

PD withdraws RTP designation request

No

PD initiates ACGME Rural Track Program designation request

ACGME Medically Underserved Areas/Populations and GME staff (MUA/P and GME staff)

Program Director (PD)

Designated Institutional Official (DIO)

ACGME Review Committee (RC)

*PD could exit the designation section and follow standard processes to submit a permanent complement increase request
ACGME Rural Track Program Designation within Existing Program – (2.24.22)

1. PD initiates ACGME Rural Track Program designation request
2. PD completes RTP rotation information form
3. PD completes permanent complement increase request
4. PD completes specialty-specific form (if applicable)

**Designation**

- Rural Track Program

**Key:**

- Program Director (PD)
- Designated Institutional Official (DIO)
- ACGME Review Committee (RC)
- ACGME Medically Underserved Areas/Populations and GME staff (MUA/P and GME staff)

PD submits RTP designation and complement change request

DIO reviews RTP designation and complement change request

ACGME MUA/P and GME staff screens RTP designation request (1 and 2)

DIO approves RTP designation and complement change request

PD updates info and submits request for re-review for RTP designation

ACGME RTP designation declined and communicated to PD

PD withdraws RTP designation request*

Contingent ACGME RTP designation granted, and standard communication issued to PD

RC receives and processes complement change request (2, 3, and 4)

**Complement change granted (with RTP designation)**

**Complement change declined (no RTP designation)**

*PD could exit the designation section and follow standard processes to submit a permanent complement increase request

No

Complete and meets criteria?

Yes

ACGME Rural Track Program Designation within Existing Program – (2.24.22)

ACGME RTP designation declined and communicated to PD

PD initiates ACGME Rural Track Program designation request

DIO reviews RTP designation and complement change request

PD submits RTP designation and complement change request

PD completes specialty-specific form (if applicable)

PD completes permanent complement increase request

PD completes specialty-specific form (if applicable)

PD initiates ACGME Rural Track Program designation request

DIO reviews RTP designation and complement change request

PD submits RTP designation and complement change request

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PD completes specialty-specific form (if applicable)

PD initiates ACGME Rural Track Program designation request

DIO reviews RTP designation and complement change request

PD submits RTP designation and complement change request

PD completes specialty-specific form (if applicable)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RTP Designation Data Inputs (existing program)</th>
<th>RTP Designation Criteria (existing program)</th>
<th>RTP Designation Data Outputs (existing program)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Rural Track Program Rotation Information Form (available on ACGME website)</td>
<td>- More than 50 percent of aggregated rotation months occur at rural participating site(s).</td>
<td>- Designation process updates: designation declined/approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Add/identify the new rural participating site(s) (and new faculty member(s), if applicable)</td>
<td>- Rural site(s) are new (do not currently have required rotations for program residents/fellows).</td>
<td>- Letter of Notification: ACGME RTP designation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Permanent complement increase request</td>
<td>- Rural site(s) faculty members are not supported by a current rural participating site.</td>
<td>- Publicly available report of ACGME RTP designations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Specialty-Specific Rural Track Program Questionnaire (if applicable)</td>
<td>- Rural participating site(s) are located in a rural county (outside any urban Core-Based Statistical Area).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- The program includes required rotations at a non-rural participating site.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Return to TOC
ACGME Rural Track Program Designation at Program Application – (4.21.21)

DIO initiates program application*

*Process subject to change with promulgation of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021
ACGME Rural Track Program Designation at Program Application – (4.21.21)

*DIO initiates program application*

Seeking RTP designation?

Key:
- Designated Institutional Official (DIO)
- Program Director (PD)
- ACGME Review Committee (RC)
- ACGME Executive Director (ED)
- ACGME Medically Underserved Areas/Populations and GME staff (MUA/P and GME staff)

*Process subject to change with promulgation of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021*
ACGME Rural Track Program Designation at Program Application – (4.21.21)

DIO initiates program application* → Seeking RTP designation? → No → PD completes application following standard process*

*Process subject to change with promulgation of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021

Key:
- Designated Institutional Official (DIO)
- Program Director (PD)
- ACGME Review Committee (RC)
- ACGME Executive Director (ED)
- ACGME Medically Underserved Areas/Populations and GME staff (MUA/P and GME staff)
ACGME Rural Track Program Designation at Program Application – (4.21.21)

DIO initiates program application

Seeking RTP designation?

Yes

DIO identifies related program (if applicable)*

No

PD completes application following standard process*

Key:
- Designated Institutional Official (DIO)
- Program Director (PD)
- ACGME Review Committee (RC)
- ACGME Executive Director (ED)
- ACGME Medically Underserved Areas/Populations and GME staff (MUA/P and GME staff)

*Process subject to change with promulgation of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021
Seeking RTP designation?

Yes

DIO identifies related program (if applicable)*

No

PD completes application following standard process*

PD completes RTP sections of application*

*Process subject to change with promulgation of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021
PD submits RTP designation request

DIO initiates program application

Seeking RTP designation?

Yes

DIO identifies related program (if applicable)

PD completes RTP sections of application

No

PD completes application following standard process

PD submits RTP designation request

*Process subject to change with promulgation of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021

Key:
- Designated Institutional Official (DIO)
- Program Director (PD)
- ACGME Review Committee (RC)
- ACGME Executive Director (ED)
- ACGME Medically Underserved Areas/Populations and GME staff (MUA/P and GME staff)
ACGME Rural Track Program Designation at Program Application – (4.21.21)

DIO approves RTP designation request

PD submits RTP designation request

PD completes RTP sections of application*

PD completes application following standard process*

DIO initiates program application*

Seeking RTP designation?

Yes

DIO identifies related program (if applicable)*

No

PD submits RTP designation request

DIO approves RTP designation request

Key:

- Designated Institutional Official (DIO)
- Program Director (PD)
- ACGME Review Committee (RC)
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- ACGME Medically Underserved Areas/Populations and GME staff (MUA/P and GME staff)

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ACGME Rural Track Program Designation at Program Application – (4.21.21)

DIO initiates program application

Seeking RTP designation?

No

PD completes application following standard process

Yes

DIO identifies related program (if applicable)

PD completes RTP sections of application

ACGME MUA/P and GME staff screens RTP designation request

DIO approves RTP designation request

PD submits RTP designation request

Key:
- Designated Institutional Official (DIO)
- Program Director (PD)
- ACGME Review Committee (RC)
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- ACGME Medically Underserved Areas/Populations and GME staff (MUA/P and GME staff)

*Process subject to change with promulgation of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021
ACGME Rural Track Program Designation at Program Application – (4.21.21)

DIO initiates program application*

Seeking RTP designation?

Yes

DIO identifies related program (if applicable)*

PD completes RTP sections of application*

No

ACGME MUA/P and GME staff screens RTP designation request

DIO approves RTP designation request

PD submits RTP designation request

PD completes application following standard process*

Meets designation criteria?

*Process subject to change with promulgation of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021

Key:
- Designated Institutional Official (DIO)
- Program Director (PD)
- ACGME Review Committee (RC)
- ACGME Executive Director (ED)
- ACGME Medically Underserved Areas/Populations and GME staff (MUA/P and GME staff)
ACGME Rural Track Program Designation at Program Application – (4.21.21)

DIO initiates program application*

Seeking RTP designation?

- Yes
  - DIO identifies related program (if applicable)*
  - PD completes RTP designation request

- No
  - PD completes application following standard process*

ACGME MUA/P and GME staff screens RTP designation request

Meets designation criteria?

- Yes
  - DIO approves RTP designation request
  - PD submits RTP designation request

- No
  - RTP designation declined and communicated to PD

PD completes application following standard process*

Key:
- Designated Institutional Official (DIO)
- Program Director (PD)
- ACGME Review Committee (RC)
- ACGME Executive Director (ED)
- ACGME Medically Underserved Areas/Populations and GME staff (MUA/P and GME staff)

*Process subject to change with promulgation of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021
ACGME Rural Track Program Designation at Program Application – (4.21.21)

1. **DIO initiates program application**
2. **Seeking RTP designation?**
   - **Yes**: DIO identifies related program (if applicable)*
   - **No**: PD completes application following standard process*
3. **DIO approves RTP designation request**
4. **PD submits RTP designation request**

- **ACGME MUA/P and GME staff screens RTP designation request**
- **Meets designation criteria?**
  - **Yes**: PD completes RTP sections of application*
  - **No**: RTP designation declined and communicated to PD

- **PD updates info and submits request for re-review for RTP designation***

---

**Key:**
- Designated Institutional Official (DIO)
- Program Director (PD)
- ACGME Review Committee (RC)
- ACGME Executive Director (ED)
- ACGME Medically Underserved Areas/Populations and GME staff (MUA/P and GME staff)

*Process subject to change with promulgation of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021
ACGME Rural Track Program Designation at Program Application – (4.21.21)

DIO initiates program application*

Seeking RTP designation?

Yes

DIO identifies related program (if applicable)*

PD completes RTP sections of application*

No

PD completes application following standard process*

PD submits RTP designation request

ACGME MUA/P and GME staff screens RTP designation request

Meets designation criteria?

Yes

PD submits RTP designation request

ACGME MUA/P and GME staff screens RTP designation request

No

RTP designation declined and communicated to PD

PD updates info and submits request for re-review for RTP designation*

PD chooses not to proceed with program application*

Key:
- Designated Institutional Official (DIO)
- Program Director (PD)
- ACGME Review Committee (RC)
- ACGME Executive Director (ED)
- ACGME Medically Underserved Areas/Populations and GME staff (MUA/P and GME staff)

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ACGME Rural Track Program Designation at Program Application – (4.21.21)

DIO initiates program application*

Seeking RTP designation?

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PD completes application following standard process*

Yes

DIO identifies related program (if applicable)*

PD completes RTP sections of application*

ACGME MUA/P and GME staff screens RTP designation request

DIO approves RTP designation request

PD submits RTP designation request

Meets designation criteria?

No

RTP designation declined and communicated to PD

PD updates info and submits request for re-review for RTP designation*

PD chooses not to proceed with program application*

PD proceeds with program application (without RTP designation)*

ACGME MUA/P and GME staff screen RTP designation request

DIO approves RTP designation request

PD submits RTP designation request

*DIO identifies related program (if applicable)*

*PD completes RTP sections of application*

*PD updates info and submits request for re-review for RTP designation*

*PD chooses not to proceed with program application*

*PD proceeds with program application (without RTP designation)*

*Process subject to change with promulgation of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021

Key:
Designated Institutional Official (DIO)
Program Director (PD)
ACGME Review Committee (RC)
ACGME Executive Director (ED)
ACGME Medically Underserved Areas/Populations and GME staff (MUA/P and GME staff)
ACGME Rural Track Program Designation at Program Application – (4.21.21)

**Key:**
- Designated Institutional Official (DIO)
- Program Director (PD)
- ACGME Review Committee (RC)
- ACGME Executive Director (ED)
- ACGME Medically Underserved Areas/Populations and GME staff (MUA/P and GME staff)

---

**Diagram:**

1. DIO initiates program application*
2. DIO identifies related program (if applicable)*
3. DIO approves RTP designation request
4. PD submits RTP designation request
5. Meets designation criteria?
   - Yes: RTP designation granted, and standard communication issued to PD
   - No: RTP designation declined and communicated to PD
6. RTP designation communicated to PD
7. PD updates info and submits request for re-review for RTP designation*
8. PD chooses not to proceed with program application*
9. PD proceeds with program application (without RTP designation)*
10. PD completes application following standard process*

*Process subject to change with promulgation of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021
ACGME Rural Track Program Designation at Program Application – (4.21.21)

DIO initiates program application*

Seeking RTP designation?

PD completes application following standard process*

Yes

DIO approves RTP designation request

PD submits RTP designation request

PD completes RTP sections of application*

DIO identifies related program (if applicable)*

RTP designation granted, and standard communication issued to PD

ED notified of RTP designation

PD chooses not to proceed with program application*

PD proceeds with program application (without RTP designation)*

PD updates info and submits request for re-review for RTP designation*

RTP designation declined and communicated to PD

Meets designation criteria?

No

ACGME MUA/P and GME staff screens RTP designation request

ACGME Rural Track Program Designation at Program Application

Key:

Designated Institutional Official (DIO)
Program Director (PD)
ACGME Review Committee (RC)
ACGME Executive Director (ED)
ACGME Medically Underserved Areas/Populations and GME staff (MUA/P and GME staff)

*Process subject to change with promulgation of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021
ACGME Rural Track Program Designation at Program Application – (4.21.21)

DIO initiates program application*

Seeking RTP designation?

Yes → DIO approves RTP designation request → PD submits RTP designation request → PD completes RTP sections of application*

No → DIO identifies related program (if applicable)* → PD completes application following standard process*

Meets designation criteria?

Yes → RTP designation granted, and standard communication issued to PD

No → RTP designation declined and communicated to PD

RTP designation declined and communicated to PD

PD updates info and submits request for re-review for RTP designation*

PD chooses not to proceed with program application*

PD proceeds with program application (without RTP designation)*

ED notified of RTP designation

ACGME MUA/P and GME staff screens RTP designation request

*Process subject to change with promulgation of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021

Key:
- Designated Institutional Official (DIO)
- Program Director (PD)
- ACGME Review Committee (RC)
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- ACGME Medically Underserved Areas/Populations and GME staff (MUA/P and GME staff)
ACGME Rural Track Program Designation at Program Application – (4.21.21)

DIO initiates program application*

Seeking RTP designation?

No

PD completes application following standard process*

DIO approves program application*

Yes

DIO approves RTP designation request

PD submits RTP designation request

PD completes RTP sections of application*

DIO identifies related program (if applicable)*

ACGME MUA/P and GME staff screens RTP designation request

Meets designation criteria?

Yes

RTP designation granted, and standard communication issued to PD

ED notified of RTP designation

No

RTP designation declined and communicated to PD

PD updates info and submits request for re-review for RTP designation*

PD chooses not to proceed with program application*
ACGME Rural Track Program Designation at Program Application – (4.21.21)

1. **DIO initiates program application**

   - ** Seeking RTP designation?**
     - Yes
       - **DIO identifies related program (if applicable)**
       - **PD completes RTP sections of application**
       - **PD submits RTP designation request**
       - **DIO approves RTP designation request**
       - **PD completes application following standard process**
     - No
       - **PD proceeds with program application (without RTP designation)**

2. **PD completes application following standard process**

   - **PD submits RTP designation request**
   - **PD completes RTP sections of application**
   - **DIO identifies related program (if applicable)**
   - **DIO approves RTP designation request**

3. **PD completes application following standard process**

   - **PD completes RTP sections of application**
   - **DIO identifies related program (if applicable)**
   - **DIO approves RTP designation request**

4. **PD proceeds with program application (without RTP designation)**

   - **PD updates info and submits request for re-review for RTP designation**
   - **PD chooses not to proceed with program application**
   - **PD proceeds with program application**

5. **DIO approves RTP designation request**

   - **PD completes RTP sections of application**
   - **DIO identifies related program (if applicable)**
   - **DIO approves RTP designation request**

6. **PD completes application following standard process**

   - **PD completes RTP sections of application**
   - **DIO identifies related program (if applicable)**
   - **DIO approves RTP designation request**

7. **RTP designation granted, and standard communication issued to PD**

   - **ED notified of RTP designation**
   - **PD proceeds with program application (without RTP designation)**
   - **PD completes application following standard process**
   - **PD completes RTP sections of application**

8. **RTP designation declined and communicated to PD**

   - **PD updates info and submits request for re-review for RTP designation**
   - **PD chooses not to proceed with program application**
   - **PD proceeds with program application (without RTP designation)**

9. **PD approves program application with RTP designation**

   - **PD completes application following standard process**
   - **PD completes RTP sections of application**

10. **PD completes program application following standard process**

    - **PD completes RTP sections of application**
    - **DIO identifies related program (if applicable)**
    - **DIO approves RTP designation request**

11. **ED notified of RTP designation**

    - **PD completes application following standard process**
    - **PD completes RTP sections of application**

12. **DIO initiates program application**

    - **DIO approves program application with RTP designation**
    - **PD completes application following standard process**
    - **PD completes RTP sections of application**

13. **RC receives and processes application**

    - **RC receives and processes application**
    - **Site visit completed**

14. **ACGME MUA/P and GME staff screens RTP designation request**

    - **ACGME MUA/P and GME staff screens RTP designation request**
    - **ACGME MUA/P and GME staff screens RTP designation request**

Key:
- Designated Institutional Official (DIO)
- Program Director (PD)
- ACGME Review Committee (RC)
- ACGME Executive Director (ED)
- ACGME Medically Underserved Areas/Populations and GME staff (MUA/P and GME staff)

*Process subject to change with promulgation of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021*
ACGME Rural Track Program Designation at Program Application – (4.21.21)

DIO initiates program application*  

Seeking RTP designation?  

Yes  

DIO approves RTP designation request  

ACGME MUA/P and GME staff screens RTP designation request  

Meets designation criteria?  

Yes  

RTP designation granted, and standard communication issued to PD  

DIO identifies related program (if applicable)*  

PD completes RTP sections of application*  

PD submits RTP designation request  

No  

RTP designation declined and communicated to PD  

PD updates info and submits request for re-review for RTP designation*  

DIO approves RTP designation request  

PD completes application following standard process*  

PD proceeds with program application (without RTP designation)*  

PD chooses not to proceed with program application*  

RC receives and processes application*  

Site visit completed*  

DIO approves program application*  

Program in substantial compliance?*  

Yes  

No  

Meets designation criteria?  

ACGME Review Committee (RC)  

ACGME Executive Director (ED)  

ACGME Medically Underserved Areas/Populations and GME staff (MUA/P and GME staff)

*Process subject to change with promulgation of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021
ACGME Rural Track Program Designation at Program Application – (4.21.21)

**Key:**
- Designated Institutional Official (DIO)
- Program Director (PD)
- ACGME Review Committee (RC)
- ACGME Executive Director (ED)
- ACGME Medically Underserved Areas/Populations and GME staff (MUA/P and GME staff)

**Flowchart Description:**

1. **DIO initiates program application**
   - Seeking RTP designation?
     - Yes: **DIO approves RTP designation request**
     - No: **PD completes application following standard process**
2. **ACGME MUA/P and GME staff screens RTP designation request**
3. **DIO identifies related program (if applicable)**
4. **PD completes RTP sections of application**
5. **PD submits RTP designation request**
6. **DIO approves RTP designation request**
7. **RTP designation granted, and standard communication issued to PD**
8. **ED notified of RTP designation**
9. **PD completes RTP sections of application* (without RTP designation)**
10. **PD chooses not to proceed with program application**
11. **PD proceeds with program application following standard process**
12. **Site visit completed***
13. **RC receives and processes application*”
14. **Program in substantial compliance?**
   - Yes: **Initial Accreditation granted**
   - No: **RTP designation declined and communicated to PD**
15. **DIO initiates program application**
16. **PD completes application following standard process**
17. **PD updates info and submits request for re-review for RTP designation**
18. **DIO identifies related program (if applicable)**
19. **PD completes RTP sections of application**
20. **PD submits RTP designation request**
21. **DIO approves RTP designation request**
22. **RTP designation granted, and standard communication issued to PD**
23. **ED notified of RTP designation**
24. **PD completes RTP sections of application**
25. **PD chooses not to proceed with program application**
26. **PD proceeds with program application (without RTP designation)”**

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ACGME Rural Track Program Designation at Program Application – (4.21.21)

**Key:**
- Designated Institutional Official (DIO)
- Program Director (PD)
- ACGME Review Committee (RC)
- ACGME Executive Director (ED)
- ACGME Medically Underserved Areas/Populations and GME staff (MUA/P and GME staff)

**Diagram Flow:**

1. **DIO initiates program application***
   - **Seeking RTP designation?**
     - **Yes:**
       - DIO approves RTP designation request
       - PD completes RTP sections of application
     - **No:**
       - DIO identifies related program (if applicable)*
       - PD completes application following standard process*

2. **PD completes application following standard process***
   - DIO approves program application*
   - Site visit completed*
   - Initial Accreditation granted*
   - Accreditation Withheld*

3. **RC receives and processes application***
   - Program in substantial compliance?*
     - **Yes:**
       - ACGME MUA/P and GME staff screens RTP designation request
     - **No:**
       - DIO initiates program application*

4. **ACGME MUA/P and GME staff screens RTP designation request***
   - Meets designation criteria?
     - **Yes:**
       - RTP designation granted, and standard communication issued to PD
     - **No:**
       - RTP designation declined and communicated to PD

5. **RTP designation declined and communicated to PD***
   - PD updates info and submits request for re-review for RTP designation*
   - PD chooses not to proceed with program application*
   - PD proceeds with program application (without RTP designation)*

---

*Process subject to change with promulgation of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021
**ACGME Rural Track Program Designation at Program Application – (4.21.21)**

**DIO initiates program application**

- **Seeking RTP designation?**
  - **Yes**
    - **DIO approves RTP designation request**
      - **ACGME MUA/P and GME staff screens RTP designation request**
      - **Meets designation criteria?**
        - **Yes**
          - **RTP designation granted, and standard communication issued to PD**
        - **No**
          - **RTP designation declined and communicated to PD**
      - **PD completes RTP sections of application**
    - **No**
      - **PD submits RTP designation request**
      - **DIO identifies related program (if applicable)**
      - **PD completes application following standard process**

- **PD approves program application**
  - **RC receives and processes application**
    - **Program in substantial compliance?**
      - **Yes**
        - **Initial Accreditation granted**
      - **No**
        - **Accreditation Withheld**

- **ED notified of RTP designation**
  - **PD proceeds with program application (without RTP designation)**
  - **PD chooses not to proceed with program application**
  - **PD updates info and submits request for re-review for RTP designation**
  - **DIO initiates program application**
  - **PD completes application following standard process**

**Key:**
- Designated Institutional Official (DIO)
- Program Director (PD)
- ACGME Review Committee (RC)
- ACGME Executive Director (ED)
- ACGME Medically Underserved Areas/Populations and GME staff (MUA/P and GME staff)

*Process subject to change with promulgation of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021*
RTP Designation Criteria (new program)

- More than 50 percent of aggregated rotation months occur at rural participating site(s)
- Rural participating site(s) are in a rural county (outside of any CBSA) based on the CBSA crosswalk file on most recent IPPS Final Rule home page
- Includes required rotations at a non-rural participating site

RTP Designation Data Inputs (new program)

- Seeking ACGME RTP designation
- Program director information
- ACGME Rural Track Related Program (if applicable)
- Participating sites data: site address (including county), Medicare Provider ID for Prospective Payment System (PPS) hospital providing financial support for GME at each site, months at each site, block diagram, RTP Rotation Information Form (available on ACGME website)

RTP Designation Data Outputs (new program)

- Designation process updates: designation declined/approved
- Letter of Notification: ACGME RTP designation
- Publicly available report of ACGME RTP designations
“Rural” Criterion for ACGME RTP Designation

- Refer to the CBSA Crosswalk File on the most recent IPPS Final Rule home page
- County considered “rural” if Column E on the Crosswalk sheet is blank (not within an urban CBSA)

**FY 2024 Final Rule and Correction Notice Data Files**
1. FY 2024 Final Rule Impact File (ZIP)
2. AOR/BOR File (ZIP)
3. Case Mix Index File (ZIP)
4. FY 2024 Final Rule: HCRIS Data File (ZIP)
5. Cost Center HCRIS Lines Supplemental Data File (ZIP)
6. Standardizing File (ZIP)
7. County to CBSA Crosswalk File and Urban CBSAs and Constituent Counties for Acute Care Hospitals File (ZIP)
8. FY 2024 Final Rule and Correction Notice Wage Index Public Use Files (ZIP)
9. FY 2024 IPPS Final Rule and Correction Notice: Medicare DSH Supplemental Data File (ZIP)
10. Hospital Readmissions Reduction Program Supplemental Data File: (ZIP)
11. FY 2025 New Technology Thresholds Final Rule (ZIP)
12. Supplementary Provider-level file with Beneficiary Characteristics (ZIP)
13. Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) Public IDs and Scores (ZIP)
14. FY 2024 Correction Notice Imputed State Floors (ZIP)
ACGME RTP Rotation Information Form* and rotation months per year listed in ADS must show:

- **more than** 50 percent in rural sites
- some required GME in non-rural sites

*An ACGME RTP Rotation Information Form must be uploaded (separate from and in addition to the program’s block diagram) for designation consideration. The template can be found on the ACGME Rural Track Program designation web page.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Rural</th>
<th>Total Non-Rural</th>
<th>ACGME RTP Designation Criteria?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>49%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>100%</td>
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<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
New Rural Site Criterion (RTP within existing program)

A participating site is considered new for ACGME RTP designation within an existing program if it is not currently used as a required participating site for the program’s residents/fellows and its faculty members are supported by a rural PPS hospital that is not a current participating site. Programs seeking designation will be asked, in the ACGME RTP Rotation Information Form, to confirm this information. A review of the program’s participating sites and block diagram will help confirm if the participating site(s) are currently required. Note that CMS may have different considerations for financial eligibility.
Contact

ACGME MUA/P Staff
• Questions about the ACGME RTP designation and the ACGME’s efforts to address GME in MUA/P

Specialty Review Committee Staff
• Questions pertaining to compliance with specialty-/subspecialty-specific Program Requirements

Institutional Review Committee (IRC) Staff
• Questions pertaining to compliance with Institutional Requirements

ADS Team
• Technical questions with an application or Annual Update

Check MUA/P web page
Check ACGME specialty web pages
Check ACGME IRC web page
ads@acgme.org
312.755.7474

©2024 ACGME
• If you have questions about the CMS rural track policy, contact your GME finance staff and/or the PPS hospital’s Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC).

• The most current rural track policy can be found on the electronic code of federal regulations in 413.79(k).

• A rural track regulation references document is available on the ACGME Rural Track Program designation web page.
Federal Updates

- Section 127 of Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021
- Changes to rural track policy in [FY 2022 IPPS Final Rule](#)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Before October 1, 2022</th>
<th>Cost reporting periods on or after October 1, 2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Separate program</td>
<td>Program expansion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban funding only</td>
<td>Rural and urban funding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three-year rolling</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>average</td>
<td>All specialties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family medicine-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>centric</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Programs that have received designation request approval and achieved Initial Accreditation are under the “Rural Track Approved-Application” status. Programs that have received designation request approval and Review Committee approval of the permanent complement increase are under the “Rural Track Approved-Complement Increase” status.
Public Report of ACGME-Accredited Programs with RTP Designation

Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) - Public

Rural Track Program Designation

This report shows programs that have received ACGME designation as a Rural Track Program. This designation is intended to be consistent with the CMS definition of a “rural track” in the Code of Federal Regulations (413.79(k)). The ACGME Rural Track Program designation is independent of any rural track designation by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and does not guarantee that a program will meet CMS eligibility requirements for GME or other financial support. If you have questions about the CMS rural track policy, contact your GME finance staff and/or the Prospective Payment System (PPS) hospital’s Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC).
ACGME Rural Track Program Designation

Overview

ACGME Rural Track Program Designation

Building capacity for GME can be challenging in rural communities, many of which are in medically underserved areas. GME partnerships between participating sites in urban, rural, and other settings play an important role in enhancing physician supply in workforce shortage areas.

In alignment with Section II of the MUA/P framework, the ACGME has developed processes addressing ACGME-accredited programs that seek to create "rural tracks" as defined in rules and regulations of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in 42 CFR 813.79(k). An ACGME Rural Track Program (RTP) is an ACGME-accredited program in which all or some residents/fellows gain both urban and rural experience with more than half of the education and training for the applicable resident(s)/fellow(s) taking place in a rural area (any area outside of an urban Core-Based Statistical Area (CBSA)).

Recognizing that improved identification of such programs may help to facilitate the development of GME in rural and underserved areas, the ACGME has developed a common, criterion-based process for designating ACGME-accredited RTPs across specialties.

The following processes are available to obtain ACGME RTP designation:
- Permanent complement increase and identification of new rural site(s) for an existing program
- Application for a new program