

Concurrent Application Pilot Overview: Accelerating GME Accreditation for New Sponsoring Institutions and Programs

Value Statement: Why to Participate

This pilot offers a unique opportunity to **shorten the traditional ACGME accreditation timeline** and launch a graduate medical education (GME) program more quickly—especially if an institution’s mission is to serve rural and/or underserved areas. Participating institutions will:

- receive new institutional and program accreditation decisions within nine-12 months;
- launch GME programs faster to meet urgent needs in rural and/or underserved areas;
- gain a clearer, more predictable timeline for recruitment and development;
- help shape future ACGME accreditation policy to better support innovation; and,
- join a limited cohort of up to 12 new Sponsoring Institutions during this pilot.

Background

According to ACGME processes, policies, and procedures, an application for accreditation of a GME program (residency or fellowship) cannot be submitted until the Sponsoring Institution achieves Initial Accreditation. Additionally, core specialty program applications require a site visit, and the resulting report must be available to the specialty Review Committee before its agenda closing date. These sequential requirements can delay program launch by well over a year, slowing the timeline for recruitment and training.

This process has been identified as a **potential barrier for development of new GME programs**, especially those intended to address the needs of **rural and underserved areas**. It also creates administrative and strategic challenges for Sponsoring Institutions unrelated to underserved-focused efforts.

The Concurrent Application Pilot aims to **reduce these delays** by allowing Sponsoring Institutions and programs to submit their applications concurrently and receive decisions within a nine-12-month window.

Pilot Process

In alignment with its framework for rural and underserved GME, the ACGME is establishing a pilot program aimed at expediting the review of new Sponsoring Institution and program applications, particularly for those with a mission to serve rural and/or underserved areas. This process would allow a Sponsoring Institution and program to submit applications at the same time in the Accreditation Data System (ADS) and to receive both institutional and program accreditation decisions within a nine-12-month period.

The pilot will last from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2027, and will accept up to 12 new Sponsoring Institutions.

To be eligible to participate in the pilot, a Sponsoring Institution must be:

- new (no history of Accreditation Withheld or Withdrawal of Accreditation) and have not yet submitted their institutional or program applications in ADS; and,
- able to submit both the institutional and program applications within 90 days of each other (the program application may be submitted first).
 - Eligible specialties: family medicine; general surgery; internal medicine; obstetrics and gynecology; pediatrics; preventive medicine; and psychiatry.
 - During the defined 90-day period, the Sponsoring Institution may only submit applications for programs in the specialties indicated above on the Intent to Apply form.
 - Other program applications can be submitted *following* the 90-day period and *after* the Sponsoring Institution receives a status of Initial Accreditation.

If part of the pilot, a new Sponsoring Institution can submit a program application before submitting its institutional application, and a program may undergo an accreditation site visit before the Institutional Review Committee meets to review the Sponsoring Institution's application.

No new accreditation or administrative statuses will be created in ADS as part of this pilot. If a Sponsoring Institution does not achieve Initial Accreditation or the institutional and program applications are not submitted within 90 days of each other, both the Sponsoring Institution and program(s) will be withdrawn from the Concurrent Application Pilot. Additionally, if at least one of the applications (Sponsoring Institution or program) is not submitted by the end of the pilot period, participants will be withdrawn from the pilot. If this occurs and a program wishes to reapply, the program will need to submit new application materials and undergo another accreditation site visit once its Sponsoring Institution achieves Initial Accreditation. New program application fees will also be assessed at the time of reapplication.

Conclusion of the Pilot

At the end of the pilot period (after June 30, 2027), the ACGME will review the outcomes for institutional and program development to determine where further efficiencies in the timing of Sponsoring Institution and program applications have been identified. It will then determine what, if any, processes from the pilot will be recommended for inclusion in ACGME policy.

A process map is included at the end of this Overview document.

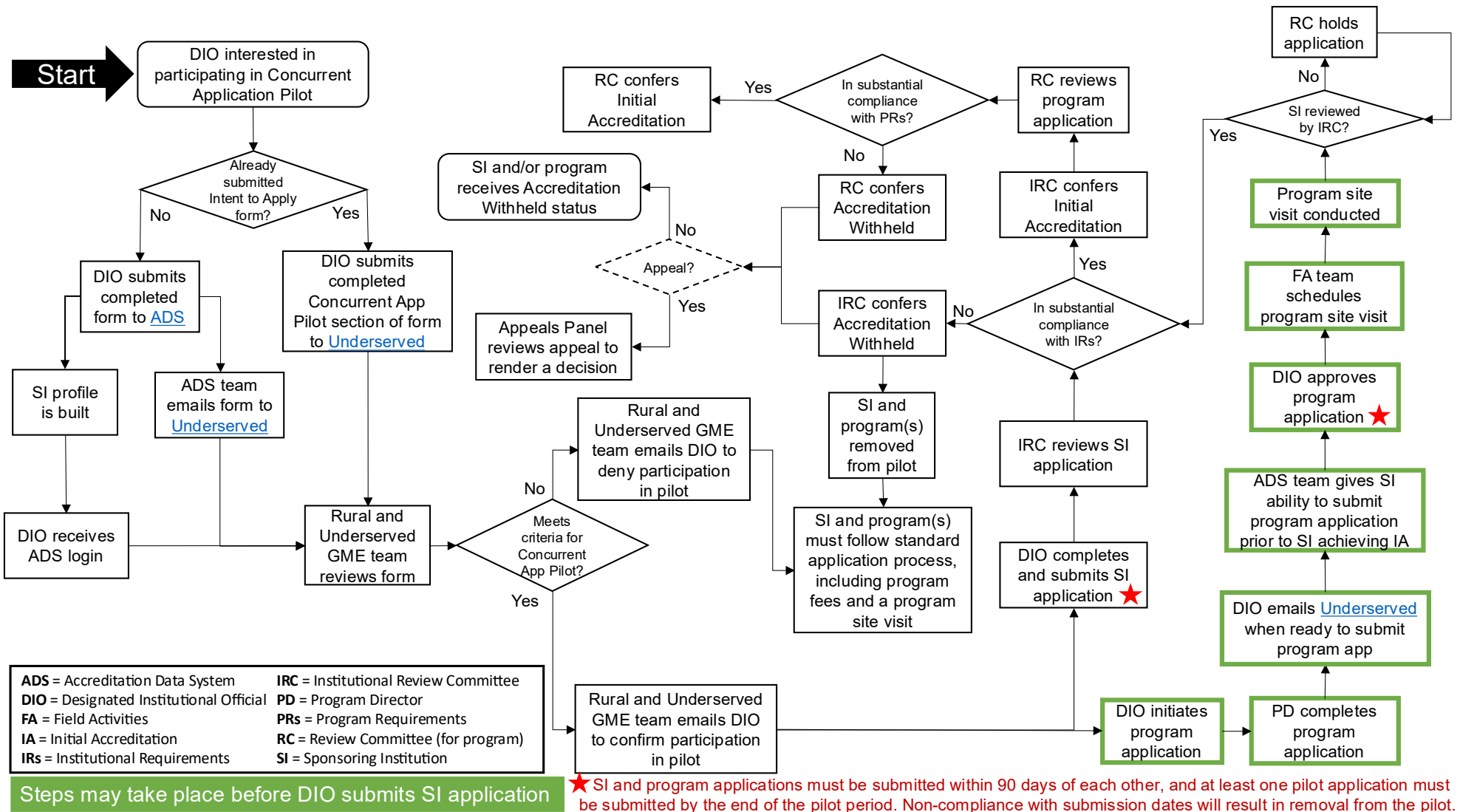
How to Participate

To apply to participate in this pilot, the designated institutional official (DIO) must complete the Concurrent Application Pilot section of the Intent to Apply for Institutional Accreditation form, which can be accessed on the [Institutional Application and Requirements page](#) of the ACGME website. If an Intent to Apply form has not yet been submitted to the ACGME, the DIO must then submit the entire completed form to ADS@acgme.org. If an Intent to Apply form has already been submitted, the DIO must submit only the Concurrent Application Pilot section of the form to underserved@acgme.org. At least one application (Sponsoring Institution or program) must be submitted by June 30, 2027 to be considered as part of the Concurrent Application Pilot.

Participation requests will be considered in the order in which they are received and will be reviewed using the above-indicated criteria. The DIO can expect to receive a response within one week of submission.

Email questions about this pilot to underserved@acgme.org.

Concurrent Application Pilot Process Map



ADS = Accreditation Data System **IRC** = Institutional Review Committee
DIO = Designated Institutional Official **PD** = Program Director
FA = Field Activities **PIRs** = Program Requirements
IA = Initial Accreditation **RC** = Review Committee (for program)
IRs = Institutional Requirements **SI** = Sponsoring Institution

Steps may take place before DIO submits SI application ★ SI and program applications must be submitted within 90 days of each other, and at least one pilot application must be submitted by the end of the pilot period. Non-compliance with submission dates will result in removal from the pilot.