

Joint Surgery-Complex General Surgical Oncology Program (JS-CGSO) Review Committee for Surgery

The Review Committee for Surgery will consider proposals for the Joint Surgery-Complex General Surgical Oncology (JS-CGSO) program, a pathway leading to certification eligibility in both general surgery and complex general surgical oncology (CGSO). This program includes five years of general surgery, with 12 months of focused CGSO experience, and two years of CGSO education and training to be completed at ACGME-accredited programs in the same Sponsoring Institution. The fundamental concept is that 12 months of the CGSO education and training will take place either entirely during the PGY-5 or split between the PGY-4 and PGY-5 (see details below). During this time, the resident(s) will remain enrolled in the general surgery program, and the education and training will be credited toward the overall general surgery requirements. The accredited length of the CGSO program remains 24 months.

The JS-CGSO program serves to enhance a resident/fellow's CGSO education; however, it does not reduce the educational requirements for general surgery. Sixty months of general surgery residency remains mandatory prior to eligibility for certification by the American Board of Surgery (ABS), and all education and training must comply with the ACGME Program Requirements for Graduate Medical Education in General Surgery. All candidates for the JS-CGSO program must meet the ACGME Program Requirements for both the general surgery residency and the CGSO fellowship, without modifications. Candidates must also ensure that they meet the ABS certification requirements.

JS-CGSO candidates must be identified prior to completion of the PGY-3 in general surgery and must be listed on the general surgery program's resident roster for the 60 months of general surgery residency. All cases performed during the PGY-4 and PGY-5 must be entered into the residents' general surgery Case Logs.

The JS-CGSO program is designed to facilitate the education and training of general surgery residents who demonstrate the focus, commitment, and determination to pursue a CGSO career. Candidates must, in the collective judgement of both the general surgery and CGSO program directors, exhibit the requisite knowledge, technical skills, judgement, and professionalism to merit early selection into CGSO subspecialty education and training.

Core Principles

1. Satisfactory completion of the JS-CGSO program leads to ABS certification eligibility in both general surgery and CGSO.
2. The JS-CGSO program includes four years of general surgery education and training and three years of CGSO education and training (one completed during the general surgery residency) at the same Sponsoring Institution.
3. The accredited length of the CGSO program remains 24 months.

4. Twelve months of CGSO education and training will take place in either PGY-5 or divided between PGY-4 and PGY-5 (during which the resident will still be enrolled in the general surgery program). During this time, all rotations and cases will be credited toward completion of general surgery certification requirements.

Programs will be required to use Flexibility in Surgical Training (FIT) as part of their general surgery education and training to ensure they meet “chief year” requirements for general surgery. Further information on requirements for the chief year can be found in requirements 4.11.m. - 4.11.p.1. of the ACGME Program Requirements for Graduate Medical Education in General Surgery. Information about the process for FIT approval can be found on the [Document and Resources](#) page of the Surgery section of the ACGME website.

5. The JS-CGSO program must not adversely impact or subtract from the general surgery program.
 - a. The volume and scope of cancer-related cases must be sufficient to support the ACGME Program Requirements for Graduate Medical Education in General Surgery, as well as the ABS requirements for certification in general surgery.
 - b. The volume and scope of cancer-related cases must be sufficient to support the ACGME Program Requirements for Graduate Medical Education in Complex General Surgical Oncology, as well as the ABS requirements for certification in CGSO.
 - c. The didactic curriculum, inpatient and outpatient experiences, and interdisciplinary interactions must be sufficient to support the robust requirements for both CGSO and general surgery education and training.
 - d. The JS-CGSO program must have the approval and support of the program directors of both the general surgery and CGSO programs.
6. The ACGME-accredited general surgery program must have a status of Continued Accreditation. The program must verify that the ABS board pass rates (Qualifying and Certifying Examinations) and the operative experience (Graduate Minimums Report) meet or exceed the applicable program requirements.
7. The ACGME-accredited CGSO program must have a status of Continued Accreditation. The program must verify that the ABS board pass rates (Qualifying and Certifying Examinations) and the operative and multidisciplinary oncology experience (Graduate Minimums Report) meet or exceed the applicable program requirements.

Requirements

Both the general surgery and CGSO programs must be sponsored by the same ACGME-accredited Sponsoring Institution.

In the instance that a CGSO program sponsored by an ACGME-accredited Sponsoring Institution that does not also sponsor a general surgery program they may propose an affiliation

to offer a JS-CGSO program in combination with only one general surgery program, with consideration of the following:

- 1) The primary clinical site of the general surgery program must be in close geographic proximity to the primary clinical site of the CGSO program.
- 2) The participating programs must demonstrate ongoing collaboration and mutual commitment. In addition to agreeing to offer the pathway for a minimum of five years, the participating programs should review and evaluate the program and outcomes annually.

The general surgery program, CGSO program, and Sponsoring Institution must each have held ACGME accreditation for a minimum of five years and, at the time of initial application, both programs must hold a status of Continued Accreditation. A status of Continued Accreditation must be held by both programs for a resident to be approved for entry into the JS-CGSO program by the ACGME.

Once a JS-CGSO pathway is approved, if either program is conferred the status of Continued Accreditation with Warning, Probationary Accreditation, or Withdrawal of Accreditation, no new candidates may be accepted into the pathway until both programs are conferred the status of Continued Accreditation.

The participating general surgery and CGSO programs wishing to offer the JS-CGSO program must agree to offer the pathway for a minimum of five years and ensure that any resident/fellow enrolled in the pathway may complete education and training within the traditional timeline. Joint programs are not required to matriculate a resident/fellow annually.

CGSO fellowship programs are expected to request additional complement as needed to accommodate any fellow entering the JS-CGSO pathway through the use of a temporary or permanent complement increase. As the pathway is intended to enhance education and training opportunities, the CGSO program must not allocate one of its current permanently approved slots for the joint program. Information on how to apply for a temporary complement increase can be found on the [Document and Resources](#) page of the Surgery section of the ACGME website.

Proposals for a JS-CGSO program must be approved by the Review Committee for Surgery *prior to the recruitment or matriculation of a resident/fellow*. A description of the application process and required information to be included in the program proposal follows.

JS-CGSO Curricular Requirements

General Surgery

Didactic education and clinical training sufficient to meet the [Program Requirements for Graduate Medical Education in General Surgery](#), as outlined in program requirements 4.11.b.-4.11.s.

It is the responsibility of the general surgery program director to ensure that all curricular requirements are met for board certification eligibility of the resident.

Complex General Surgical Oncology

Essential content areas of CGSO as outlined in program requirements 4.11.- 4.11.t. of the [Program Requirements for Graduate Medical Education in Complex General Surgical Oncology](#).

Structural Requirements for a JS-CGSO Program

- Twelve months of CGSO experience must occur during the PGY-4 and PGY-5. CGSO rotations during the PGY-1 – PGY-3 are not credited toward the required experience.
- During the 24 months of the PGY-4 and PGY-5, 12 months must be spent as **chief resident in general surgery**. The chief resident is the most senior resident serving on a service during a rotation, is directly responsible for overseeing all patients on the service, and reports directly to the responsible attending physician. The general surgery chief resident rotations must be in essential content areas of general surgery.
- No more than six months of the 12-month general surgery chief resident experience may be in any single content area (including surgical oncology).
- A total of 12 months of CGSO experience is required during the PGY-4 and PGY-5.
- The PGY-6 and PGY-7 must consist entirely of 24 months of CGSO experience.
- The 12 months of CGSO education and training credited toward the general surgery Program Requirements (PGY-4 or PGY-5 years) must be spent entirely in clinical rotations and may not include research rotations.
- Non-operative rotations specific to CGSO (such as medical oncology or radiation oncology) will not be credited toward the certification requirements in general surgery. These rotations need to be reserved until the PGY-6 – PGY-7 CGSO education and training experience.

The following table clarifies the documents that must be submitted along with proposals for new JS-CGSO programs, as well as the materials required for established JS-CGSO programs to request new candidates.

Requests for a New JS-CGSO Program	Requests for New Candidates in an Approved JS-CGSO Program	Documents
X	X	A letter of support from both the general surgery and CGSO program directors that documents resources to provide all residents and subspecialty fellows with a sufficient breadth and balance of operative experience in the essential content areas
X	X	A letter of support from the Sponsoring Institution's designated institutional official (DIO)
X	X	Verification that both programs' American Board of Surgery pass rates on the Qualifying and Certifying Examinations meet or exceed those specified in the ACGME Program Requirements
X		A description of the process used for candidate selection
X		The block diagram for the first three years of surgery education, justifying a candidate's preparation for the JS-CGSO program
	X	Confirmation that the rotations have not changed since the last proposal for the JS-CGSO program; if changes have occurred, describe the changes and demonstrate compliance with curricular program requirements
X	X	Operative data from both programs (copies of recent graduate Case Logs from both general surgery and CGSO) demonstrating the joint program is not negatively impacting either stand-alone program. For new program applications, institutional operative data will be required. The program must demonstrate an appropriate amount of oncology cases so as to not negatively impact the general surgery program while providing the additional procedural volume necessary to accommodate the required fellowship complement increase. Programs that have been approved and are requesting new matriculants must verify they have reviewed relevant procedural logs and confirm there has been no negative impact to either stand-alone program.

Direct questions to Review Committee staff members (contact information is listed on the [Surgery](#) section of the ACGME website).

Submit completed proposals and requests for new candidates to Associate Executive Director Kelsey Sill, MHA at ksill@acgme.org.