

Residency-Dependent Subspecialty Exceptions Review Committee for Obstetrics and Gynecology

The Review Committee for Obstetrics and Gynecology will consider exceptions on a program-by-program basis to the requirement that obstetrics and gynecology fellowships be residency-dependent.¹ Such exceptions will be considered for programs in female pelvic medicine and reconstructive surgery, gynecologic oncology, maternal-fetal medicine, and reproductive endocrinology and infertility.

The Review Committee has established three criteria for granting exceptions and allowing a fellowship to be residency-independent:

- There must be at least one other ACGME-accredited program at the Sponsoring Institution.
- The learning environment must demonstrate a strong commitment to clinical education and research.
- The program director and faculty members must demonstrate clinical and scholarly expertise as outlined in the ACGME Program Requirements for Graduate Medical Education in the subspecialty.
 - For [female pelvic medicine and reconstructive surgery](#), see PR II.A.3.-II.A.3.e) and II.B.1.-II.B.8.
 - For [gynecologic oncology](#), [maternal-fetal medicine](#), and [reproductive endocrinology and infertility](#), see PR II.A.3.-II.A.3.f).(3) and II.B.1.-II.B.6.

Requesting an Exception

Exceptions can be requested by fellowships currently accredited by the ACGME as residency-dependent, as well as those applying for ACGME accreditation. Note that program applications for residency-independent fellowships cannot be initiated in the ACGME's Accreditation Data System (ADS) without first obtaining Review Committee approval.

To request an exception, please send the following documents to Review Committee Executive Director Kathleen Quinn-Leering, PhD, (kquinn@acgme.org):

- A letter from the program director requesting an exception. The letter should include:
 - The Sponsoring Institution name and six-digit ACGME number
 - If the program is currently accredited by the ACGME as a residency-dependent fellowship: the program name and 10-digit ACGME number
 - The rationale for becoming a residency-independent fellowship
 - A description of how the learning environment demonstrates a strong commitment to clinical education and research
- Curricula vitae of the program director and faculty members
- Letter of approval from the designated institutional official of the Sponsoring Institution

The program will be notified within a month of the Review Committee's decision.

Applicants for a new subspecialty program must understand that the Review Committee's allowance for submission of an application of a program as residency-independent does not equate to approval of the application itself for ACGME accreditation.

E-mail Review Committee Executive Director Kathleen Quinn-Leering, PhD with any questions: kquinn@acgme.org.

¹See [ACGME Policies and Procedures](#) Subject: 15.00 b (2) for definitions of residency-dependent and residency-independent subspecialties.