

ACGME Specialties Requiring a Preliminary Year
(as of July 1, 2025)
Transitional Year Review Committee

Specialty	Program Requirement(s)	Requirements for PGY-1
Aerospace Medicine	3.3.a.1.- 3.3.a.1.a.	- Residents entering a 24-month program that does not include education in fundamental clinical skills of medicine must have successfully completed at least 12 months of clinical education in a residency program that satisfies 3.3. - PGY-1 resident experience must include at least 10 months of direct patient care in both inpatient and outpatient settings.
Anesthesiology	3.3.a.1; 4.11.b.- 4.11.b.2.; 4.11.c.	- Residents entering a 36-month anesthesiology program that does not include education in fundamental clinical skills of medicine must have successfully completed 12 months of education in fundamental clinical skills of medicine in a program that satisfies the requirements in 3.3. - Twelve months of the resident's educational program must provide broad education in fundamental clinical skills of medicine relevant to the practice of anesthesiology. - Fundamental clinical skills of medicine education completed as part of an anesthesiology residency need not be contiguous, but must be completed before starting the final year of the program. - At least six months of fundamental clinical skills of medicine education must include experience in caring for inpatients in family medicine, internal medicine, neurology, obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics, surgery or any of the surgical specialties, or any combination of these. - During the first 12 months of the program, there must be at least one month, but not more than two month(s) each of critical care and emergency medicine.
Dermatology	3.3.a.1.- 3.3.a.1.a.	- Prior to appointment in the program, residents must have successfully completed a broad-based clinical year (PGY-1) in an emergency medicine, family medicine, general surgery, internal medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics, or transitional year program accredited by the ACGME, or in such a program that satisfies the requirements in 3.3. - During the broad-based clinical year (PGY-1), elective rotations in dermatology must not exceed a total of two months.
Diagnostic Radiology	3.3.a.1.- 3.3.a.1.b.2.	- To be eligible for appointment to the 48-month program, residents must have successfully completed a prerequisite year of direct patient care in a program that satisfies the requirements in 3.3. in anesthesiology, emergency medicine, family medicine, internal medicine, neurology, obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics, surgery or a surgical specialty, a transitional year, or any combination of these. - The prerequisite year must include a minimum of 36 weeks in direct patient care. - During the prerequisite year, elective rotations in diagnostic radiology, interventional radiology, or nuclear medicine must only occur in radiology departments with a diagnostic radiology, interventional radiology, or nuclear medicine residency program that satisfies the requirements in 3.3., and must not exceed a combined total of two months. - The elective rotations in radiology should involve active resident participation and must not be observational only.

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		The elective rotations in radiology should be supervised by a radiology program faculty member.
Interventional Radiology – Integrated	3.3.a.4.- 3.3.a.4.b.2.	- To be eligible for appointment to the 60-month integrated program, residents must have successfully completed a prerequisite year of direct patient care in a program that satisfies the requirements in 3.3. in anesthesiology, emergency medicine, family medicine, internal medicine, neurology, obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics, surgery or surgical specialties, the transitional year, or any combination of these. - The prerequisite year must include a minimum of 36 weeks in direct patient care. - During the prerequisite year, elective rotations in interventional radiology, diagnostic radiology, or nuclear medicine must occur only in radiology departments with a diagnostic radiology, interventional radiology, or nuclear medicine residency program that satisfies the requirements in 3.3., and must not exceed a combined total of eight weeks. - The elective rotations in radiology should involve active resident participation and must not be observational only. - The elective rotations in radiology should be supervised by a radiology program faculty member.
Nuclear Medicine	3.3.a.1.- 3.3.a.1.a.	- To be eligible for appointment to the program at the NM1 level, residents must have satisfactorily completed one year of graduate medical education in a program that satisfies the requirements in 3.3. - This year must include a minimum of nine months of direct patient care.
Neurology	3.3.a.1.- 3.3.a.1.b.1.	- Residents entering a program that offers the 36-month format must have completed a year of graduate medical education that satisfies 3.3. and includes at least one of the following: - eight months in internal medicine with primary responsibility in patient care; or, - six months in internal medicine with primary responsibility in patient care and a period of at least two months comprising one or more months of emergency medicine, family medicine, internal medicine, or pediatrics. - Residents may spend up to four months in neurology during this year.
Occupational and Environmental Medicine	3.3.a.1.- 3.3.a.1.a.	- Residents entering a 24-month program that does not include education in fundamental clinical skills of medicine must have successfully completed at least 12 months of clinical education in a residency program that satisfies 3.3. - PGY-1 resident experience must include at least 10 months of direct patient care in both inpatient and outpatient settings.
Ophthalmology	3.3.a.1.- 3.3.a.1.a.; 4.11.a.-4.11.c.	- Residents entering a joint preliminary year/ophthalmology format program should have completed 12 months of preliminary clinical education in an ACGME-accredited program sponsored by the same institution that sponsors the ophthalmology residency program. - The preliminary year must be in a program that includes direct patient care experience, for example, emergency medicine, family medicine, internal medicine, neurology, obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics, or surgery, or a transitional year program, and must include the experiences detailed in 4.11.-4.11.b.1. - In both the integrated and joint preliminary year/ophthalmology formats, the PGY-1 must include nine months of medical and/or surgical experience in patient care other than ophthalmology. - This experience must take place in diverse settings. - Residents must participate in the diagnosis and treatment of patients with varied diseases and conditions.

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		- In both the integrated and joint preliminary year/ophthalmology formats, the PGY-1 must include three months of experience in ophthalmology. - Ophthalmology rotations must take place in the same Sponsoring Institution as the ophthalmology program or at a site acceptable to the Review Committee. - For the joint preliminary year/ophthalmology format, the educational program for the preliminary year must be developed by the program director of the preliminary year program with the input and approval of the respective ophthalmology program director.
Osteopathic Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine	3.3.a.2.	To be eligible for entry into the program at the ONMM2 level, residents must have successfully completed, prior to appointment, a broad-based clinical year (PGY-1).
Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation	3.3.a.1.; 4.11.d.- 4.11.d.1.a.; 4.11.d.1.b.1.- 4.11.d.1.b.4.	- Prior to commencing the 36 months of physical medicine and rehabilitation education, a resident must have successfully completed 12 months of education in fundamental clinical skills in a residency program that satisfies the requirements in 3.3. - The first 12 months of the 48 months must be devoted to the development of fundamental clinical skills and must be completed prior to beginning PGY-2 physical medicine and rehabilitation rotations. - These 12 months of education in fundamental clinical skills must be completed in either: - a transitional year program that satisfies the requirements in 3.3. - At least six months must include emergency medicine, family medicine, internal medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics, surgery, or any combination of these patient care experiences. - The remaining months of these 12 months of education may include any combination of accredited specialty or subspecialty education. - Rotations in any of the specialties or subspecialties selected must be for a period of at least four weeks. - No more than eight weeks may be in non-direct patient care experiences, such as pathology, radiology and research, and no more than four weeks may be in physical medicine and rehabilitation.
Public Health and General Preventive Medicine	3.3.a.1.- 3.3.a.1.a.	- Residents entering a 24-month program that does not include education in fundamental clinical skills of medicine must have successfully completed at least 12 months of clinical education in a residency program that satisfies 3.3. - PGY-1 resident experience must include at least 10 months of direct patient care in both inpatient and outpatient settings.
Radiation Oncology	3.3.a.1.- 3.3.a.1.b.	- Prior to entering the program, residents must have completed 12 months of post-graduate clinical education as indicated in 3.3. above, which must include: - a minimum of nine months of direct patient care in family medicine, internal medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics, or surgery or surgical specialties, or in a transitional year program; and, - a maximum of three months in radiation oncology.