

## Frequently Asked Questions: Accreditation of Combined Programs

Question	Answer
Topic	
How and when can combined programs opt in to the accreditation process?	<p>The ACGME plans to open the opt-in window for programs currently listed as unaccredited combined programs in the Accreditation Data System (ADS), and the application process for new combined programs, following approval of the Requirements for Combined Programs by the ACGME Board of Directors. It is anticipated that this approval will occur at the Board's September meeting. The opt-in window is planned to open on October 1, 2024, and close on January 2, 2025. Instructions on how to opt in will be sent to unaccredited combined programs listed in ADS in advance of October 1. Programs that opt-in will receive a status of initial accreditation effective July 1, 2025.</p>
What are the implications for an unaccredited combined program currently listed in ADS that decides not to opt in to the ACGME accreditation process?	<p>Residents or fellows who enter an unaccredited combined program on or after July 1, 2025 will not be considered to be enrolled in an ACGME-accredited program, even if each of the participating programs is accredited. Residents who complete an unaccredited combined residency program and seek to enter an ACGME-accredited fellowship program will not be considered to have met the eligibility requirements specified in Common Program Requirement (Fellowship) III.A.1. These residents <i>may</i> be eligible for appointment to an ACGME-accredited fellowship program under the eligibility exception requirements in Section III.A.1.c), if exceptions are permitted for the subspecialty.</p> <p>In addition, combined programs not planning to opt in to the accreditation process should consult with the relevant certifying boards regarding the eligibility status for graduates of unaccredited combined programs who begin their training on or after July 1, 2025.</p> <p>Residents who entered an unaccredited combined program listed in ADS before the 2025-26 academic year will be permitted to complete training and, upon program completion, be considered graduates of an ACGME-accredited program.</p> <p>The listing of unaccredited combined programs will be removed from the ACGME Accreditation Data System effective July 1, 2025.</p>

Question	Answer
<p>My program is planning a special combined format for a single resident/fellow that will be offered only one time or infrequently. Should I submit an application for accreditation?</p>	<p>No. The ACGME will accredit only programs that plan to offer an ongoing combined program. Programs interested in designing a combined program format for a single resident/fellow, or a format that will not be offered every year, should contact the applicable certifying board(s) to ensure that the resident/fellow meets the board's eligibility requirements for certification.</p>
<p>Will combined programs be assessed an annual accreditation fee?</p>	<p>Combined programs will be required to pay the ACGME annual accreditation fee. Information regarding the fee structure is available <a href="#">here</a>. The ACGME periodically reviews the accreditation fee structure and plans to conduct such a review over the next several months. If needed, updated information regarding the accreditation fee structure will be shared as it becomes available.</p>
<p>How will the ACGME determine which Review Committee will accredit and be responsible for communicating for a combined program on accreditation related matters?</p>	<p>The ACGME will assign existing combined programs listed in ADS that pursue accreditation to one of the specialty Review Committees offering the combined training format. If one of the specialty/subspecialty programs participating in the combined program only intends to appoint residents/fellows to the combined program and not to participating specialty/subspecialty program, the combined program will be assigned to the Review Committee in the specialty of the program that does not appoint residents/fellows. For example, if a combined medical genetics and genomics/pediatrics program only intends to appoint residents to the combined program and not the medical genetics and genomics program, the Review Committee for Medical Genetics and Genomics will be assigned the combined program.</p> <p>A list of combined formats and the corresponding Review Committee assignments appears at the end of this document.</p>
<p>If the combined program will be assigned to only one Review Committee, how will compliance with the other specialty/subspecialty requirements be assessed?</p>	<p>Even though the combined program will be assigned to one Review Committee, the process is designed to ensure that the other specialty Review Committee(s) will provide the assigned Committee input on the program's compliance with Program Requirements specific to their specialty, and other accreditation-related matters.</p>
<p>If one of the programs participating in a combined program does not intend to appoint residents or fellows, and only exists to ensure that the combined program is</p>	<p>If one of the programs that participates in a combined program does not also appoint residents or fellows to the stand-alone residency or fellowship program, the combined program will be accredited by the Review Committee in the specialty of the program that does not appoint residents. That Review Committee will be responsible for</p>

Question	Answer
eligible for accreditation, will this be permitted?	assessing the program’s compliance with the specialty-/subspecialty-specific Program Requirements in addition to the Program Requirements for Combined Programs. The annual accreditation fee will be assessed to each of the accredited participating programs, as well as to the combined program.
When a combined program uses the same participating sites as the stand-alone programs with which it is affiliated are separate program letters of agreement (PLAs) for the combined program required?	No; the PLAs in place for the participating specialty/subspecialty programs are sufficient and combined program-specific PLAs are not needed if program sites are the same as those used in the participating programs.
Do applications for accreditation of a combined program require a site visit?	<p>Because applications for accreditation of residency programs require a site visit, an application for a combined program that includes one or more residency programs will require a site visit. If the combined program includes a fellowship in a subspecialty for which a site visit is required for new applications, a site visit for the combined program application will be required. If the combined program’s participating programs are fellowships in subspecialties that do not require a site visit, the combined program application will not require a site visit.</p> <p>Information on the ACGME application process is available <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
Can a combined program initiate an application if the Sponsoring Institution doesn't sponsor ACGME-accredited programs in each participating specialty?	Generally, no. A single Sponsoring Institution must already sponsor ACGME-accredited programs in all specialties/subspecialties participating in the combined program before the designated institutional official (DIO) can initiate an application for the combined program. Exceptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis. For instance, a combined program in emergency medicine and pediatrics may include a pediatrics residency program sponsored by a children’s hospital and an emergency medicine residency program sponsored by another Sponsoring Institution.

Additional questions may be submitted to [ast@acgme.org](mailto:ast@acgme.org).

## Review Committee Assignments by Specialty

Combined Program Specialties	Assigned Review Committee
Internal Medicine / Emergency Medicine	Emergency Medicine
Internal Medicine / Psychiatry	Psychiatry
Psychiatry / Family Medicine	Family Medicine
Pediatrics / Emergency Medicine	Emergency Medicine
Pediatrics / Anesthesiology	Anesthesiology
Pediatrics / Psychiatry / Child and Adolescent Psychiatry	Psychiatry
Pediatrics / Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation	Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
Internal Medicine / Anesthesiology	Anesthesiology
Internal Medicine / Preventive Medicine	Preventive Medicine
Family Medicine / Preventive Medicine	Preventive Medicine
Family Medicine / Osteopathic Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine	Family Medicine
Medical Genetics and Genomics / Maternal-Fetal Medicine	Medical Genetics and Genomics
Psychiatry / Neurology	Psychiatry
Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility / Medical Genetics and Genomics	Medical Genetics and Genomics
Pediatrics / Medical Genetics and Genomics	Medical Genetics and Genomics
Internal Medicine / Medical Genetics and Genomics	Medical Genetics and Genomics
Diagnostic Radiology / Nuclear Medicine	Radiology
Internal Medicine / Emergency Medicine / Critical Care Medicine	Emergency Medicine
Internal Medicine / Dermatology	Dermatology
Emergency Medicine / Family Medicine	Emergency Medicine
Emergency Medicine / Anesthesiology	Anesthesiology
Emergency Medicine / Aerospace Medicine	Emergency Medicine