

**ACGME Program Requirements for Graduate Medical Education  
in Occupational and Environmental Medicine  
Summary and Impact of New Specialty Requirements**

- 1. Describe the scope of practice of the new specialty, as well as the process involved in development of the requirements (e.g., date of recognition of the specialty by the ACGME Board, involvement of specialty boards/organizations, etc.).**

The specialty focuses on the relationships among the health of workers; the arrangements of work; the physical, chemical, and social environments in the workplace; and the health outcomes of environmental exposures. This new specialty is a result of separately accrediting three specialties that previously fell under preventive medicine: public health and general preventive medicine; aerospace medicine; and occupational medicine. The ACGME Board of Directors approved the request to separately accredit these three specialties in February 2022. The Program Requirements were developed by using the existing Program Requirements for Graduate Medical Education in Preventive Medicine and removing all references to the other two specialties (public health and general preventive medicine and aerospace medicine), so that only requirements relevant to occupational and environmental medicine remained. Other than revisions to program leadership dedicated time and clarification of eligibility for a resident entering at the PM-2 level, the content of the Requirements is unchanged from their previous version, with some minor wording revisions to align with the new structure.

- 2. How will the proposed requirements improve resident/fellow education?**

For most requirements, no impact on resident/fellow education is anticipated, as these requirements previously existed and are merely being separated into three distinct specialties without significant revision. The one exception is the requirement for program leadership dedicated time. As reflected in the Background and Intent for Common Program Requirement II.A.2., the ultimate outcome of graduate medical education is excellence in resident/fellow education and patient care. The Common and specialty-specific Program Requirements related to administrative time and support are intended to ensure the program director and, as applicable, the program leadership team, are able to devote a sufficient portion of their professional effort to oversight and management of the program to ensure an effective and high-quality educational program.

- 3. How will the proposed requirements improve patient care and patient safety/quality?**

No impact on patient care and patient safety/quality is anticipated, as these requirements previously existed and are merely being separated into three distinct specialties without significant revision.

- 4. How will the proposed requirements impact continuity of patient care?**

No impact on continuity of patient care is anticipated, as these requirements previously existed and are merely being separated into three distinct specialties without significant revision.

**5. Will the proposed requirements necessitate additional institutional resources (e.g., facilities, organization of other services, addition of faculty members, financial support; volume and variety of patients), if so, how?**

For most requirements, no additional resources will be required, as these requirements previously existed and are merely being separated into three distinct specialties without significant revision. The one exception is the requirement for program leadership dedicated time. The requirements define the required minimum dedicated time for administration of the program based on program size. For some programs, the new requirements represent a decrease in the minimum administrative time and support required for program leadership, while for others they represent an increase.

Programs for which the required minimum has decreased are encouraged to consider whether additional time and support should be provided based on factors such as program complexity and level of experience among the members of the program leadership team. It is anticipated that some programs may choose to decrease administrative time and support to the level specified in the new requirements if that is sufficient to meet the administrative requirements of the program. Other programs may determine that the time and support currently provided is optimal and elect not to make a change.

Programs for which the requirements for administrative time and support have increased will need, in partnership with their Sponsoring Institution, to provide additional support for administrative time as specified in the requirements. Both provision of support for the time required for the leadership effort and flexibility regarding how this support is provided are important. Programs, in partnership with their Sponsoring Institution, may provide support for this time in a variety of ways. Examples include, but are not limited to, salary support, supplemental compensation, educational value units, or relief of time from other professional duties. Program directors and, as applicable, members of the program leadership team, who are new to the role may need to devote additional time to program oversight and management initially as they learn and become proficient in administering the program. It is suggested that during this initial period, the support described above be increased as needed.

**6. How will the proposed requirements impact other accredited programs?**

No impact on other accredited programs is anticipated, as these requirements previously existed and are merely being separated into three distinct specialties without significant revision.