

# **ACGME Recognition for Sponsoring Institutions with Non-Standard Training Programs for J-1 Visa Sponsorship**

## Definitions:

1. Non-Standard Training (NST) Program: Clinical training for foreign national physicians in advanced subspecialty programs for which there is no Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) accreditation or American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) Member Board certification.
2. NST Trainee: A physician in an NST program who holds a J-1 visa sponsored by the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG).
3. Institutional Recognition: An ACGME process for approval of ACGME-accredited Sponsoring Institutions to conduct NST programs. Institutional Recognition is distinct and separate from ACGME accreditation processes.

## Purpose:

Recognition of Sponsoring Institutions with NST programs by the ACGME provides a framework for approval and oversight of training opportunities in the United States for physicians whose J-1 visas are sponsored by the ECFMG through the Exchange Visitor Program of the United States Department of State. The ACGME recognizes ACGME-accredited Sponsoring Institutions that offer NST Programs and that demonstrate substantial compliance with the following Recognition Requirements. The recognized Sponsoring Institution bears the responsibility for each NST program and NST trainee under its auspices, for assessment of the impact of NST programs on related ACGME-accredited program(s), and for compliance with regulatory requirements for J-1 participants.

Proposed new recognition requirements; posted for review and comment July 12, 2021

1           **Recognition Requirements for Sponsoring Institutions with Non-Standard Training**  
2                                   **Programs**  
3                                   **for J-1 Visa Sponsorship**

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5   I.       Sponsoring Institution that Offers Nonstandard Training (NST) Programs

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7   I.A.       Sponsoring Institution

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9   I.A.1.       Each NST program must function under the ultimate authority and  
10                   oversight of one ACGME-accredited Sponsoring Institution with an  
11                   institutional accreditation status of Initial Accreditation, Initial Accreditation  
12                   with Warning, Continued Accreditation, or Continued Accreditation with  
13                   Warning. <sup>(Core)\*</sup>

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15   I.A.2.       The Sponsoring Institution must ensure the availability of adequate  
16                   personnel, clinical activities, and other resources for conducting NST  
17                   programs without adverse impact on the education of residents/fellows in  
18                   the Sponsoring Institution’s ACGME-accredited programs. <sup>(Core)</sup>

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20   I.A.3.       The Sponsoring Institution must sponsor an ACGME-accredited  
21                   residency/fellowship program in the most closely related specialty for  
22                   each NST program. <sup>(Core)</sup>

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24   I.A.4.       The Sponsoring Institution must ensure compliance with regulations that  
25                   govern the participation of sponsors in the Exchange Visitor Program of  
26                   the United States Department of State. <sup>(Core)</sup>

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28   I.B.       Designated Institutional Official (DIO)

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30   I.B.1.       The DIO of the ACGME-accredited Sponsoring Institution, in collaboration  
31                   with the Sponsoring Institution’s Graduate Medical Education Committee  
32                   (GMEC), must have authority and responsibility for the oversight and  
33                   administration of each of the Sponsoring Institution’s NST programs, as  
34                   well as for ensuring compliance with the Recognition Requirements for  
35                   Sponsoring Institutions with NST Programs. <sup>(Core)</sup>

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37   I.B.2.       The DIO must oversee the preparation and submission of all information  
38                   about the Sponsoring Institution’s NST program(s) required and  
39                   requested by the ACGME. <sup>(Core)</sup>

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41   I.C.       NST Program Director

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43   I.C.1.       There must be a single NST program director, from among the faculty  
44                   members of the most closely related ACGME-accredited  
45                   residency/fellowship program, who is responsible for the operation of  
46                   each NST program. <sup>(Core)</sup>

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48   I.C.2.       The NST program director must oversee NST trainee supervision,  
49                   education, and assessment at all participating sites. <sup>(Core)</sup>

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51   I.D.       GMEC

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- 53 I.D.1. The GMEC must review and approve the program description of each  
54 NST program within the Sponsoring Institution. <sup>(Core)</sup>
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- 56 I.D.2. The GMEC must review and approve the appointment of each of its NST  
57 program directors. <sup>(Core)</sup>
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- 59 I.D.3. At least annually, the GMEC must complete and document an  
60 assessment of:
- 61
- 62 I.D.3.a) supervision and assessment of NST trainees; and, <sup>(Core)</sup>
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- 64 I.D.3.b) the impact of NST programs on the Sponsoring Institution's  
65 ACGME-accredited programs. <sup>(Core)</sup>
- 66
- 67 I.E. Participating Sites in ACGME Accreditation Data System (ADS)
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- 69 I.E.1. NST trainees' assignments/rotations must be limited to the participating  
70 sites of the most closely related ACGME-accredited program, as  
71 identified by the Sponsoring Institution and listed in ADS. <sup>(Core)</sup>
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- 73 II. NST Programs
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- 75 II.A. Appointment
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- 77 II.A.1. Each NST program must define the prerequisite education and/or training  
78 for entry into the NST program. <sup>(Core)</sup>
- 79
- 80 II.A.2. Each NST program must ensure that NST trainees appointed to the NST  
81 program meet prerequisites for entry into the NST program. <sup>(Core)</sup>
- 82
- 83 II.A.3. The Sponsoring Institution must ensure that NST trainees are provided  
84 with a written agreement outlining the terms and conditions of their  
85 appointments. The agreement must directly contain or provide a  
86 reference to the following items: <sup>(Core)</sup>
- 87
- 88 II.A.3.a) NST trainee responsibilities; <sup>(Core)</sup>
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- 90 II.A.3.b) duration of training; <sup>(Core)</sup>
- 91
- 92 II.A.3.c) financial arrangements related to the NST trainee; <sup>(Core)</sup>
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- 94 II.A.3.d) grievance and due process; <sup>(Core)</sup>
- 95
- 96 II.A.3.e) professional liability coverage, including a summary of pertinent  
97 information regarding coverage; <sup>(Core)</sup>
- 98
- 99 II.A.3.f) the availability of health insurance benefits for NST trainees and  
100 their eligible dependents; and, <sup>(Core)</sup>
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- 102 II.A.3.g) vacation, medical, parental, caregiver, and other leave(s) for NST

103 trainee(s), in compliance with the policies of the Sponsoring  
104 Institution and applicable laws. <sup>(Core)</sup>  
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106 II.A.4. The Sponsoring Institution must monitor each of its NST programs with  
107 regard to implementation of terms and conditions of the agreement. <sup>(Core)</sup>  
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109 II.B. Curriculum  
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111 II.B.1. The NST program must make available to NST trainees and faculty  
112 members a curriculum that includes: <sup>(Core)</sup>  
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114 II.B.1.a) overall educational goals for the NST programs; <sup>(Core)</sup>  
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116 II.B.1.b) delineation of NST trainee responsibilities for patient care,  
117 responsibility for patient management, and supervision during the  
118 NST program; and, <sup>(Core)</sup>  
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120 II.B.1.c) a description of required educational experiences, didactic  
121 sessions, assessment methods, and procedural experience  
122 requirements. <sup>(Core)</sup>  
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124 II.C. Assessment  
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126 II.C.1. Initial Assessment  
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128 II.C.1.a) No later than three months from the NST trainee’s starting date in  
129 the NST program, each NST program director must complete an  
130 initial competence assessment of each NST trainee in the NST  
131 program, including an ACGME Milestones assessment from the  
132 most closely related ACGME-accredited specialty. <sup>(Core)</sup>  
133

134 II.C.1.b) A supervising faculty member must be physically present to  
135 supervise the NST trainee with all patients until the NST program  
136 director has documented the NST trainee’s ACGME Milestones  
137 achievement as a sufficient basis for delegating progressive  
138 authority and responsibility and conditional independence, as  
139 assigned by the NST program director and faculty members. <sup>(Core)</sup>  
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141 II.C.2. Summative Assessment  
142

143 Each NST program director must provide a summative evaluation  
144 for each NST trainee upon the NST trainee’s completion of, or  
145 separation from, the NST program. <sup>(Core)</sup>  
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147 II.C.3. Opportunity to Raise Concerns and Provide Feedback  
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149 The Sponsoring Institution and each of its NST programs must  
150 provide a learning and working environment in which NST trainees  
151 have the opportunity to raise concerns and provide feedback  
152 without fear of intimidation or retaliation and in a confidential  
153 manner as appropriate. <sup>(Core)</sup>

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**\*Core Requirements:** Statements that define structure, resource, or process elements essential to every Sponsoring Institution with an NST program.

**Detail Requirements:** Statements that describe a specific structure, resource, or process, for achieving compliance with a Core Requirement. Programs and sponsoring institutions in substantial compliance with the Outcome Requirements may utilize alternative or innovative approaches to meet Core Requirements.

**Outcome Requirements:** Statements that specify expected measurable or observable attributes (knowledge, abilities, skills, or attitudes) of NST trainees at key stages of their NST program.