

ACGME Resident/Fellow Survey – Program FAQs

- **What is the Resident/Fellow Survey?**

Each year from January through April, the ACGME requires residents and fellows to complete an online survey. This survey contains questions about the clinical and educational experiences within their program. **Note:** *This survey is only to be completed by residents/fellows. Program administration DOES NOT have access to the survey itself, or to any individual responses provided by residents/fellows. ADS logins do not provide access to the survey.*

- **Which programs are scheduled to participate?**

All ACGME-accredited specialty and subspecialty programs with active residents or fellows, regardless of program size, will be surveyed each academic year.

- **When are programs scheduled to participate in the survey?**

The Resident/Fellow Survey is conducted each academic year between January and April. Programs are scheduled in five-week windows within which their residents/fellows must complete the survey.

The ACGME notifies programs directly when their participation is required. More information about when an individual program is scheduled to participating can be found by logging into the program's [ADS](#) account. Click on the "Surveys" tab and find the "Resident Survey" heading. Within this menu, is the scheduling information for the current and previous iterations of the survey. *Final scheduling usually takes place in early January of each academic year.*

- **Is there a required response rate programs must meet before the deadline?**

Yes. A 70 percent response rate is required for all programs with four or more active residents/fellows. Programs with fewer than four residents/fellows should reach a 100 percent response rate. The Review Committee will closely monitor the response rates of programs and review programs that fail to meet this requirement.

- **How will the residents/fellows know when they need to participate in this survey?**

Programs are responsible for notifying their residents/fellows of the survey and its deadlines. The ACGME **DOES NOT** contact residents and fellows directly about the survey.

- **Who is scheduled to complete the survey?**

All **active** residents/fellows within a program will be scheduled to complete the survey each year. However, residents/fellows who started the program off-cycle (after August 31 of the current academic year) and have a current status of "Off-Cycle" in ADS will **NOT** be scheduled to participate.

- **Is there a way to track which residents need to complete the survey?**

Access a list of scheduled residents/fellows by logging into the program's [ADS](#) account. Click on the "Surveys" tab and find the "Resident Survey" heading. Within this menu, click the "View Current Resident Survey Takers" button to review the list. **Note:** *The list of residents/fellows scheduled to complete the survey (along with the "View Resident Survey Takers" button itself) will only be available during a program's scheduled administration window.*

- **Does this survey contain specialty-specific questions, or just general questions about education and training in an ACGME-accredited program?**

While all residents/fellows are required to complete a set of general survey questions, some specialties require completion of a secondary set of questions specific to the specialty. The following specialties' surveys currently contain additional specialty-specific questions:

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| ○ Allergy and immunology | ○ Neurological surgery (and subs) | ○ Dermatology |
| ○ Anesthesiology | ○ Otolaryngology (and subs) | ○ Neurology |
| ○ Colon and rectal surgery | ○ Plastic surgery (and subs) | ○ Psychiatry |
| ○ Emergency medicine | ○ Surgery (and subs) | ○ Thoracic surgery |
| ○ Internal medicine (and subs) | ○ Pathology | ○ Urology (and subs) |
| ○ Orthopaedic surgery (and subs) | ○ Preventive medicine | ○ Transitional year |
| | ○ Pediatrics (and subs) | ○ Combined internal medicine-pediatrics |
| | ○ Radiation oncology | |

- **How do residents/fellows complete the survey?**

Residents/fellows can access the survey through a secure link contained in an e-mail that must be sent by their program through ADS. Additional information to provide to residents/fellows regarding completion of the survey on the ACGME website. **Note:** *this survey is only to be completed by residents/fellows. Program administration DOES NOT have access to the survey itself, or to any individual responses provided by residents/fellows. ADS logins do not provide access to the survey.*

- **Can programs see the survey questions?**

No. Questions asked on the Resident/Fellow Survey are only available to residents and fellows participating in the survey.

- **When is a survey considered “complete”?**

An individual survey is considered complete when all the questions presented to the survey taker have been answered and the “Submit” button at the end of the survey has been clicked. Incomplete surveys or surveys that have been saved but not submitted will NOT be considered complete and will NOT count toward a program’s overall compliance rate.

- **Is this survey directly linked to a program site visit?**

No, this survey is not directly linked to a site visit. Residents/fellows are required to complete the survey on an annual basis, regardless of whether the program is scheduled for a site visit.

- **What if a program does not reach 100% compliance for the survey?**

The Review Committees will closely monitor programs’ response rates and review programs that fail to meet the compliance requirements. A 70% compliance rate is required for all programs with four or more active residents/fellows. Programs with fewer than four residents/fellows should reach a 100% response rate.

- **Where can programs review their survey results?**

If at least 70 percent of a program’s residents/fellows have completed the survey and the program had at least four residents/fellows scheduled to take it, summary reports for the program will be available annually within ADS.

Aggregate, program-level data from the survey are provided to program directors and the designated institutional official (DIO) annually. For programs with fewer than four residents/fellows that meet 100 percent compliance, multi-year reports (containing up to four previous years of survey data) will only be available on an aggregated basis after at least three years of survey reporting have taken place. Compliance must be maintained over these years in order to receive this multi-year report. Programs that have received a standard report in the past will only receive this multi-year version when there

are at least two years of compliant reporting with fewer than four residents/fellows scheduled to take the survey.

Only summary data are displayed; no individual data is available. If less than 70 percent of a program's residents/fellows complete the survey, data from that program will not be available for that academic year.

To access these reports, log into ADS and navigate to the "Surveys" tab. Within the Resident Survey section, click the "View Reports" button. Select the academic year and program to review a grid of available survey reports. Click the "View" button next to the report to review.

- **Who else will see the data from an individual program?**

All data gathered in this survey are confidential, and no names are associated with any of the data in the database. Access to the data is password-protected and no responses are linked to individual respondents. (See *also- Where can programs review their survey results?*)

- **Why are some of the data in the aggregated report highlighted in grey?**

Programs with Resident/Fellow Survey reports prior to and including the 2010-2011 academic year may see grey shaded boxes in the report to highlight non-compliance within responses (as compared to the ACGME Common Program Requirements).