

**ACGME Program Requirements for Graduate Medical Education
in Vascular Surgery
Summary and Impact of Focused Requirement Revisions**

Requirement # IV.A.6.a).(1) – IV.A.6.a).(3).(d)	
IV.A.6.a).(1)	<u>18 months of</u> core surgical education experience of 24 months , which may include: general surgery, cardiac surgery, thoracic surgery, congenital cardiac surgery, cardiothoracic surgery, critical care, urology, gynecology, neurological surgery, plastic surgery, burn surgery, trauma, surgical critical care, pediatric surgery, abdominal and alimentary tract surgery, basic and advanced laparoscopic skills, head and neck and endocrine surgery, surgical oncology, and transplantation. ^(Core)
IV.A.6.a).(1).(a)	This experience must include: two years of documented educational experiences in core surgical education, including: pre- and post-operative evaluation and care; critical care and trauma management; and basic technical experience in skin and soft tissue, abdomen and alimentary track, airway management, laparoscopic surgery, and thoracic surgery. ^(Core)
IV.A.6.a).(2)	3630 months of documented educational experiences concentrated in vascular surgery; and, ^(Core)
IV.A.6.a).(3)	<u>Up to 12 months of documented educational experiences</u> that may be a combination of:
IV.A.6.a).(3).(a)	<u>a maximum of six months of vascular surgery-related rotations (i.e.g., “vascular medicine” cardiology, interventional radiology)</u> may be included as part of these 36 months. ^(Core)
IV.A.6.a).(3).(b)	<u>no more than a maximum of six months in additional core surgery rotations;</u> ^(Core)
IV.A.6.a).(3).(c)	<u>up to 12 months of vascular surgery rotations; and,</u> ^(Core)
IV.A.6.a).(3).(d)	<u>a maximum of six months of dedicated</u> to research- <u>experience.</u> ^(Detail Core)
1. Describe the Review Committee’s rationale for this revision: The Committee received requests to clarify the core surgical experience and vascular surgery requirements for integrated vascular surgery programs. There was considerable concern that 24 months of required core surgery experience infringed on the time needed to train in	

vascular surgery. The Committee worked with the vascular surgery community, including the program directors group and the American Board of Surgery-Vascular Surgery Board. The consensus was that programs must have a minimum experience of 18 months in core surgery and 30 months in vascular surgery, but that the remaining 12 months should be flexible to allow programs to best utilize the resources available to them in tailoring the training experience to the residents.

2. How will the proposed requirement or revision improve resident/fellow education, patient safety, and/or patient care quality? **This change is proposed in order to allow programs greater flexibility to meet the needs of their educational aims and resident training needs.**
3. How will the proposed requirement or revision impact continuity of patient care? **N/A**
4. Will the proposed requirement or revision 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? **N/A**
5. How will the proposed revision impact other accredited programs? **An integrated vascular surgery program may reduce the number of residents rotating in general surgery, which could require that the general surgery program modify its rotation assignments.**

Requirement #: V.C.2.c).(1)

At least ~~60~~ 65 percent of a program's graduates from the preceding five years taking the American Board of Surgery examination for the first time must have passed each of the qualifying and certifying examinations. ~~qualifying and certifying examinations for vascular surgery for the first time must pass.~~ (Outcome)

1. Describe the Review Committee's rationale for this revision: **The Committee received a request to standardize the first-time board pass rate across surgical specialties. Specifically, the Committee was asked to increase the first-time pass rate for the qualifying examination and the certifying examination to 65%. The Committee reviewed the most recent three years of first-time board pass rate data from the American Board of Surgery. The three-year data for vascular surgery demonstrated that of the 159 programs, three (1.89%) failed to achieve a 60% first-time pass rate on the qualifying examination and eight (5%) on the certifying examination. When a pass rate of 65% was applied to each examination, there was no increase in the incidence of program failure. Therefore, the Committee feels it is appropriate to increase the first-time board pass rate to 65%.**
2. How will the proposed requirement or revision improve resident/fellow education, patient safety, and/or patient care quality? **This change is expected to affect a small minority of programs.**
3. How will the proposed requirement or revision impact continuity of patient care? **N/A**
4. Will the proposed requirement or revision 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? **N/A**

5. How will the proposed revision impact other accredited programs? **N/A**