

Residency-Dependent Subspecialty Exceptions Review Committee for Obstetrics and Gynecology

The Review Committee for Obstetrics and Gynecology will consider exceptions on a program-by-program basis to the requirement that obstetrics and gynecology fellowships be residency-dependent.¹ Such exceptions will be considered for programs in complex family planning, gynecologic oncology, maternal-fetal medicine, reproductive endocrinology and infertility, and urogynecology and reconstructive pelvic surgery.

The Review Committee has established three criteria for granting exceptions and allowing a fellowship to be residency-independent:

- There must be at least one other ACGME-accredited program at the Sponsoring Institution.
- The learning environment must demonstrate a strong commitment to clinical education and research.
- The program director and faculty members must demonstrate clinical and scholarly expertise as outlined in sections II.A., II.B., and IV.D. of the ACGME Program Requirements for Graduate Medical Education in the subspecialty, available on the [Program Requirements and FAQs and Applications tab of the Obstetrics and Gynecology section of the ACGME website](#).

Requesting an Exception

Exceptions can be requested by fellowships currently accredited by the ACGME as residency-dependent, as well as those applying for ACGME accreditation. Note that program applications for residency-independent fellowships cannot be initiated in the ACGME's Accreditation Data System (ADS) without first obtaining Review Committee approval.

To request an exception, send the following documents to Review Committee Executive Director Laura Huth, MBA (lhuth@acgme.org):

- A letter from the program director requesting an exception that includes:
 - the Sponsoring Institution's name and six-digit ACGME number
 - if the program is currently accredited by the ACGME as a residency-dependent fellowship, the program's name and 10-digit ACGME number
 - the rationale for becoming a residency-independent fellowship
 - a description of how the learning environment demonstrates a strong commitment to clinical education and research
- The curricula vitae of the program director and faculty members; and
- A letter of approval from the designated institutional official of the Sponsoring Institution.

The program will be notified of the Review Committee's decision within a month of submission and subsequent review.

Note regarding applications for a new subspecialty program: The Review Committee's allowance for submission of an application of a program as residency-independent does not equate to approval of the application itself for ACGME accreditation.

Email questions to Review Committee Executive Director Laura Huth, MBA: lhuth@acgme.org.

¹See [ACGME Policies and Procedures](#) Subject: 16.00 4.-5. for definitions of residency-dependent and residency-independent subspecialties.