

University of Washington
Department of Surgery

Residency Training Programs in General and Preliminary Surgery, Plastic Surgery,
Thoracic Surgery and Vascular Surgery

Resident Eligibility and Selection Policy

Purpose: The University of Washington Department of Surgery Eligibility and Selection Policy is designed to ensure fair and consistent consideration and decision-making for all applicants. Recruitment and appointment of residents is performed by the respective program director, faculty and department chair under the oversight of the Graduate Medical Education Committee (GMEC) and the Office of Graduate Medical Education.

Policy: This policy is available to all interested applicants via the program website.

Eligibility: In compliance with the criteria for resident/fellow eligibility as defined in the Institutional Requirements [IR IV.A.], the Common Program Requirements [CPR III.A], and the applicable RC requirements, all applicants must meet one of the following qualifications to be eligible for appointment:

1. graduation from a medical school in the United States or Canada, accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME); or,
2. graduation from a college of osteopathic medicine in the United States accredited by the American Osteopathic Association (AOA); or,
3. graduation from a medical school outside of the United States or Canada, and meeting one of the following additional qualifications:
 - a. holds a currently valid certificate from the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates prior to appointment, or,
 - b. holds a full and unrestricted license to practice medicine in a US licensing jurisdiction in his or her current ACGME specialty/subspecialty program or,
 - c. has graduated from a medical school outside the United States and has completed a Fifth Pathway program provided by an LCME-accredited medical school.

Program directors will also ensure that candidates are eligible for a Washington (or other applicable) state provider license (see [Licensing Policy](#)), are authorized to work in the United States at the time of appointment¹, and meet the applicable essential abilities requirements of the program.

ACGME Eligibility Criteria Effective July 2016

Effective July 1, 2016, new eligibility requirements for prerequisite training for entry or transfer into our ACGME-accredited residency programs take effect.

¹ Non-US citizens must possess appropriate work authorization prior to their appointment to a UW GME program. Additional requirements or restrictions may apply for positions depending on source of funding, such as grants awarded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

These are detailed in the [Common Program Requirements Effective July 1, 2016](#) and the [One-Year Common Program Requirements Effective July 1, 2016](#) on the ACGME website.

- **Residency Programs:** All prerequisite post-graduate clinical education required for initial entry or transfer into ACGME-accredited residency programs must be completed in ACGME-accredited residency programs, or in Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC)-accredited or College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC)-accredited residency programs located in Canada. Residency programs must receive verification of each applicant's level of competency in the required clinical field using ACGME or CanMEDS Milestones assessments from the prior training program [*CPR III.A.1.a*].

Specific exceptions to the above eligibility criteria do not apply, therefore exceptions cannot be granted [*CPR III.A.1.b – d*].

Application: All applicants are required to use the [Electronic Residency Application Service \(ERAS®\)](#) to receive and accept applications.

Interview: Applicants invited to interview for a resident position will be informed in writing or by electronic means, of the terms, conditions, and benefits of their appointment to the program, as well as all institutional and program policies regarding eligibility and selection for appointment, either in effect at the time of the interview or that will be in effect at the time of his or her eventual appointment. This includes financial support; vacations; parental, sick, and other leaves of absence; and professional liability, hospitalization, health, disability and other insurance accessible to residents and their eligible dependents. All terms, conditions, and benefits of the potential appointment are described in the Residency and Fellowship Position Appointment (RFPA), which are available by January 15th of each year and effective for the following academic year. These resources are posted on the [Prospective Residents and Fellows](#) page on the GME website.

Selection: Programs select trainees among eligible applicants on the basis of criteria such as preparedness, ability, aptitude, academic credentials, communication skills, and personal qualities such as motivation and integrity, as well as professionalism. Our programs do not discriminate with regard to sex, race, age, religion, color, national origin, disability, or any other applicable legally protected status.

Before accepting a resident who has completed residency and/or fellowship training at UW or an outside training program, or who is transferring from another program, the program will obtain verification of previous educational experiences and a summative competency-based performance evaluation of the transferring resident, as outlined in the UW GME [Transfer Policy](#).

Matching: Our programs participate in the National Residency Matching Program (NRMP) Match.

NRMP Match: Program directors and administrators review the terms and conditions of the applicable [Match Participation Agreement](#) each year and comply with applicable Match policies, including the All-In Policy for the Main Residency Match, and the Match Commitment, which addresses violations of NRMP Policy.

As noted in the Match Participation Agreement, program directors are prohibited from offering positions to ineligible applicants, and will use the Applicant Match History in the Registration, Ranking, and ResultsSM (R3SM) System to determine an applicant's eligibility for appointment.

Program directors, per the Match Participation Agreement, understand that it is a breach of the applicable Match Participation Agreement for: (a) our programs to request applicants to reveal ranking preferences; (b) an applicant to suggest or inform a program that placement on a rank order list or acceptance of an offer during the Supplemental Offer and Acceptance ProgramSM (SOAPSM) is contingent upon submission of a verbal or written statement indicating the program's preferences; (c) a program to suggest or inform an applicant that placement on a rank order list or a SOAPSM preference list is contingent upon submission of a verbal or written statement indicating the applicant's preference; (d) a program to require applicants to reveal the names or identities of programs to which they have or may apply; or (e) a program and an applicant in the Matching Program to make any verbal or written contract for appointment to a concurrent year residency or fellowship position prior to the release of the List of Unfilled Programs.

**Match
Participation
Waiver:**

In the event that a program participating in the NRMP Specialties Match Service wishes to accept a candidate outside of the Match, the program will request a waiver from full participation in the Match. Waiver requests are made to the UW GMEC.