

Single GME Resident Webinar questions

1. My program recently received ACGME accreditation. What does that mean for me when taking my certifying boards - DO, MD, or Both?

The AOA provides a pathway for osteopathic physicians (AOA or ACGME trained) to sit for AOA board examinations in the areas for which it certifies. For AOA programs that achieve ACGME accreditation during the transition, all current osteopathic residents will receive AOA approval following completion of training, which will satisfy the AOA board training eligibility requirements. During the transition, the ABMS boards will offer certification to osteopathic physicians under specific circumstances ([summarized in this chart](#)). Individuals seeking ABMS certification should monitor relevant ABMS board websites for any changes in policy. Note that the rules for entering advanced ACGME training are established by the ACGME. Those rules may allow a trainee to enter advanced ACGME training, but do not guarantee the trainee would be eligible to sit for the ABMS board examination.

2. I have concerns that the ABIM will not allow AOBIM certified fellows sit for ABIM IM subspecialty boards. Please address.

Both AOA and ABMS boards require that the diplomate be have primary specialty certification in order to be eligible for subspecialty certification, so you would take the AOBIM's subspecialty certification.

3. I am currently in my 4th year of general surgery residency. I would like to do a fellowship in vascular surgery. I am applying to ACGME approved programs. My general surgery residency is pre-accredited and is in the process of applying for full accreditation. I will be taking AOA boards. If I get accepted into an ACGME fellowship will I be allowed to sit for the AOA vascular boards?

Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2020, a resident who completes prerequisite training in an AOA-approved program with pre-accreditation status will be subject to the ACGME fellowship eligibility standards (by subspecialty) that were in effect June 30, 2013 or July 1, 2016, whichever are less restrictive. The [eligibility requirements](#) for every specialty and subspecialty vary among three spans of time between June 30, 2013 and July 1, 2016. Some subspecialties did not in 2013, and will not in 2016, accept as prerequisite training anything other than completion of an ACGME-accredited program. A number of ACGME Review Committees ([see here for a list](#)) allow programs to grant an exception to the eligibility requirements for prior training. If an individual who graduated from a program with pre-accreditation status is appointed to a fellowship program based on the "exceptionally qualified applicant provision" detailed in the [ACGME Common Program Requirements](#), and has successfully completed Levels 1, 2, and 3 of COMLEX USA, then he or she will not be required to take USMLE.

The ACGME has recently made proposed revisions to the ACGME Common Program Requirements regarding fellowship eligibility, which would allow residents who completed AOA-approved training to be eligible for ACGME fellowships. The proposed revisions are located [here](#) and expected to go into effect July 1, 2019.

To meet the training eligibility requirements for AOA board certification, DOs must have completed AOA or ACGME accredited training.

4. As a resident of an ACGME program, will I have any issues applying to an osteopathic fellowship program?

The AOA provides a pathway for ACGME trained osteopathic physicians to enter AOA accredited fellowships. The AOA fellowships will have meet the AOA's policies and be in the process to achieving ACGME accreditation in order to accept new fellows.

5. Will MD candidates be eligible for osteopathic fellowships and residencies and certification? If so, will osteopathic training (OMM) be required?

The ACGME expects MDs will demonstrate some level of preparation for entry into an osteopathic focused position in a program with Osteopathic Recognition. This might be accomplished by structured basic training in Osteopathic Principles and Practice from a COM or other osteopathic organization or completion of elective rotations in OPP.

6. What is the status of needing to apply for AOA recognition of ACGME PGY 1 intern year in order to be licensed in Pennsylvania, Florida, and Oklahoma?

The AOA has a mechanism to get your ACGME PGY 1 training recognized as AOA approved, which is sometimes called Resolution 42. This will remain available for the foreseeable future for DOs completing, or who have already completed, ACGME training seeking licensure in those states. For residents in AOA programs whose programs transition to ACGME while they are still in training, your training will be deemed AOA approved without having to go through this separate application process.

7. Will the class of 2020 have a single Match?

The last AOA match is anticipated to be 2019. In 2020, the primary matching service will be the NRMP Match; however, there are other matching programs including Urology, San Francisco and the military match.

8. When will the next ACGME board meeting be held to vote on the Common Program Requirements which would allow residents who completed AOA-approved residency training to enter ACGME fellowships? Will this apply to all AOA-approved residencies (even if they are not ACGME accredited by 2020)? Will this apply to ALL fellowships?

According to the ACGME website, the proposed changes to Common Program Requirements Dr Buser referenced are targeted for implementation on July 1, 2019. AOA-approved residency training would include programs that do not achieve ACGME accreditation by June 30, 2020. This would apply to all ACGME fellowships.

9. What are we doing to ensure AOA fellowships and/or help to establish new fellowships?

The AOA's Application Assistance Program supports all osteopathic GME programs throughout the single GME accreditation system application process, including helping existing programs apply for ACGME accreditation and developing new programs.

10. Is there a time limit to take AOA boards?

AOA Board eligibility commences upon completion of the specialty or subspecialty training program and terminates on December 31st of the following 6th year. Please contact AOA Certifying Board Services for additional information - <https://certification.osteopathic.org/contact/>