



GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION POLICIES Closures & Reductions

ACGME Policies

IV.O. Closures and Reductions: The Sponsoring Institution must maintain a policy that addresses the GMEC oversight of reductions in size or closure of each of its ACGME-accredited programs, or closure of the Sponsoring Institution that includes the following:

IV.O.1. The Sponsoring Institution must inform the GMEC, DIO, and affected residents/fellows as soon as possible when it intends to reduce the size of or close one or more ACGME-accredited programs, or when the Sponsoring Institution intends to close; and,

IV.O.2. The Sponsoring Institution must allow residents/fellows already in an affected ACGME-accredited program(s) to complete their education at the Sponsoring Institution, or assist them in enrolling in (an)other ACGME-accredited program(s) in which they can continue their education.

Background

Even though residents/fellows are compensated for their clinical work, trainees have committed years to a specific program at a specific location, and the Sponsoring Institution/Program has the same obligation. Reducing the number of trainees, changing training sites, or closing an entire program, regardless of the severity of the need, is very disruptive to all involved. Such decisions will not be made lightly, and always put the needs of the residents/fellows at the forefront.

Procedure

Any reduction in size or closure of any ACGME-accredited residency/fellowship, or closure of the COM as a Sponsoring Institution must be conducted under the oversight of the GMEC. Any such action(s) must also make a priority the ability of its trainees to complete their training without interruption.

If such changes are to occur, the Sponsoring Institution will notify the GMEC, DIO, COM Associate Dean of UME, and all affected residents/fellows as soon as possible concerning the decision.

The COM will allow all residents/fellows already in an affected ACGME-accredited training program(s) to complete their education in that program or assist them in enrolling in another ACGME-accredited training program(s) in which they can continue/complete their education.



Under any circumstances, the ACGME will be notified as soon as possible of the SI's intention to reduce the size of or permanently close any ACGME-accredited training program. This also applies in the COM intends to close as an SI.

If the circumstances for the reduction or closure of an ACGME-accredited program is the result of non-emergent circumstances, such reduction or closure will be managed by attrition, allowing all current trainees to complete the program. If any trainee wishes to complete their training elsewhere, the COM will assist them in such efforts and release them from any contractual obligations to the SI or any affiliated hospitals.

If the circumstances for the reduction or closure of an ACGME-accredited program is the result of emergent circumstances (i.e., natural disaster or act of war), the COM will assist all trainees in obtaining new training slots in ACGME-accredited training programs. This assistance will include the temporary/permanent transfer of any applicable CMS cap to the accepting facilities.

Affiliation agreements with hospital partners will stipulate that any reduction in funding to the SI must allow for current trainees to complete their ACGME-accredited training program.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2021

APPROVAL DATE: August 31, 2021

REVIEW DATE: September 1, 2024