

Early Specialization Program (ESP) Review Committee for Surgery

The Review Committee will consider applications for the Early Specialization Program (ESP), a six-year education and training pathway leading to eligibility for certification in both general surgery and vascular surgery at the same institution. Entry into the ESP does not shorten the time of the general surgery residency or decrease program requirements, however, participants in the ESP pathway may count 12 months of PGY-5 experience in a content area of surgery (i.e., vascular surgery) toward both general surgery and vascular surgery American Board of Surgery (ABS) certification eligibility.

Institutions that sponsor both an ACGME-accredited surgery program and an ACGME-accredited vascular surgery program are eligible to apply for participation in the ESP. Both the surgery and the vascular surgery programs must hold a status of “Continued Accreditation” at all times during their participation in the ESP.

Approval Process

Approval for the ESP pathway is a two-step process, requiring programs to first be approved and then requiring approval for each resident entering the pathway. Requests are reviewed on an ad hoc basis. Decisions will be communicated with the program via a Letter of Notification.

A request for approval for a new ESP or a request for new candidates to participate in an established ESP must be accompanied by a letter of request that is cosigned by the designated institutional official (DIO) and the program directors of both the surgery and vascular surgery programs. In addition to the letter of request, new ESP pathways and new pathway participant requests require additional documentation as outlined below:

Request for New Early Specialization Program (ESP) Program	Requests for New Early Specialization Program (ESP) Candidates	
X	X	A letter of support from the program directors of both the surgery program and the vascular surgery program documenting sufficient resources to provide all residents and subspecialty fellows with the required breadth and balance of operative experience in the principal (essential) content areas
X	X	A letter of support from the Sponsoring Institution's DIO
X	X	Verification that both programs' ABS pass rates on the Qualifying and Certifying Examinations meet or exceed those specified in the specialty Program Requirements
X		A description of the process used for candidate selection
X		The block diagram for the first four years of surgical education justifying a candidate's preparation for the ESP (Generally, no more than four months of the first 36 months of surgery residency may be spent exclusively on the applicable subspecialty service [i.e., the vascular surgery service])
	X	Confirmation that the rotations have not changed since the last application for the ESP; if changes have occurred, describe the changes and demonstrate compliance with curricular requirements
X		Operative data demonstrating that the program is providing sufficient operative experience during the PG-1-4 years in the principal (essential) content areas for all current residents in the surgery program during the academic year in which the initial application is made

Email all required documents to:

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 Review Committee for Surgery
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