

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, female pelvic medicine and reconstructive surgery, gynecologic oncology, maternal-fetal medicine, and reproductive endocrinology and infertility.

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 at [Obstetrics and Gynecology Program Requirements and FAQs and Applications](#).

Requesting an Exception

Exceptions can be requested by fellowship programs 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 without first obtaining Review Committee approval.

To request an exception, send the following to OBGYN-RC@acgme.org:

- A letter from the program director requesting an exception, including:
 - the Sponsoring Institution name and six-digit ACGME number
 - if the program is currently accredited by the ACGME as a residency-dependent fellowship: the program 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
- Curricula vitae of the program director and faculty members
- Letter of approval from the designated institutional official of the Sponsoring Institution

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

Applicants for a new subspecialty program must understand that 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 Review Committee staff with any questions: OBGYN-RC@acgme.org.

¹See [ACGME Policies and Procedures](#) Subject: 16.00 2.-4. for definitions of residency-dependent and residency-independent subspecialties.