

ACGME Addiction Medicine Fellowship Training Fellow Appointment Eligibility Criteria

The following is an excerpt from the [ACGME program requirements for addiction medicine fellowship training](#). You are always encouraged to contact directly the program(s) you are interested in regarding any exceptions as outlined below as it is up to the program whether they will consider candidates under the “Fellow Eligibility Exception.”

III. Fellow Appointments

III.A. Eligibility Criteria

III.A.1. Eligibility Requirements – Fellowship Programs

All required clinical education for entry into ACGME-accredited fellowship programs must be completed in an ACGME-accredited residency program, an AOA-approved residency program, a program with ACGME International (ACGME-I) Advanced Specialty Accreditation, or a Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC)-accredited or College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC)-accredited residency program located in Canada.

III.A.1.a) Fellowship programs must receive verification of each entering fellow’s level of competence in the required field using ACGME, ACGME-I, or CanMEDS Milestones evaluations from the core residency program.

Background and Intent: A reporting feature is available for fellowship programs within ADS to provide fellowship program directors access to the final Milestones report for an active fellow’s most recently completed residency program. These reports are available to fellowship program directors in mid-July, and use of this system to retrieve the reports is encouraged. There are a few scenarios in which these reports may not be available, such as if a fellow completed residency in a program not accredited by the ACGME, if a fellow completed residency prior to the Milestones implementation, or if a fellow’s previous experience could not be matched when entered into the program. For those without Milestones reports, programs must contact the specialty program director from the fellow’s most recent residency program to obtain the required information. This new reporting feature can be found in ADS by logging in and navigating to the program’s “Reports” tab, and then selecting the “Residency Milestone Retrieval” option.

III.A.1.b) Prior to appointment in the program, fellows must have satisfactorily completed a residency program that satisfies the requirements in III.A.1.

III.A.1.c) Fellow Eligibility Exception.

The Review Committees for Anesthesiology, Emergency Medicine, Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Preventive Medicine, and Psychiatry will allow the following exception to the fellowship eligibility requirements:

III.A.1.c).(1) An ACGME-accredited fellowship program may accept an exceptionally qualified international graduate applicant who does not satisfy the eligibility requirements listed in III.A.1., but who does meet all of the following additional qualifications and conditions:

III.A.1.c).(1).(a) evaluation by the program director and fellowship selection committee of the applicant’s suitability to enter the program,

based on prior training and review of the summative evaluations of training in the core specialty; and,

III.A.1.c).(1).(b) review and approval of the applicant's exceptional qualifications by the GMEC; and,

III.A.1.c).(1).(c) verification of Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) certification.

III.A.1.c).(2) Applicants accepted through this exception must have an evaluation of their performance by the Clinical Competency Committee within 12 weeks of matriculation.

Background and Intent: An exceptionally qualified international graduate applicant has (1) completed a residency program in the core specialty outside the continental United States that was not accredited by the ACGME, AOA, ACGME-I, RCPSC or CFPC, and (2) demonstrated clinical excellence, in comparison to peers, throughout training. Additional evidence of exceptional qualifications is required, which may include one of the following: (a) participation in additional clinical or research training in the specialty or subspecialty; (b) demonstrated scholarship in the specialty or subspecialty; and/or (c) demonstrated leadership during or after residency. Applicants being considered for these positions must be informed of the fact that their training may not lead to certification by ABMS member boards or AOA certifying boards. In recognition of the diversity of medical training around the world, this early evaluation of clinical competence required for these applicants ensures they can provide quality and safe patient care. Any gaps in competence should be addressed as per policies for fellows already established by the program in partnership with the Sponsoring Institution.