

**Frequently Asked Questions: Complex Family Planning**  
**Review Committee for Obstetrics and Gynecology**  
**ACGME**  
**(FAQs related to Complex Family Planning Requirements effective July 1, 2025)**

Question	Answer
<b>Introduction</b>	
<p>How much leave time can a fellow have during the educational program?</p> <p><i>[Program Requirement: 4.1.]</i></p>	<p>Fellows must complete the required 24-month educational program, but there are no program requirements related to time off during that period. Programs must have leave policies consistent with the policies of their Sponsoring Institution and the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ABOG).</p> <p>If it is determined a fellow’s educational program needs to be extended, the program should update the fellow’s completion date in the ACGME’s Accreditation Data System (ADS). In addition, a temporary complement increase for the additional education period may need to be requested. See “Requests for Changes in Resident/Fellow Complement” available on the <a href="#">Documents and Resources</a> page of the Obstetrics and Gynecology section of the ACGME website. A temporary increase in fellow complement for up to one month does not require approval of the Review Committee.</p>
<b>Personnel</b>	
<p>Is there a minimum number of hours the program director must devote to the administration of the program per week?</p> <p><i>[Program Requirement: 2.3.a.]</i></p>	<p>The required minimum of 20 percent FTE is based on a 40-hour work week. The program director must be provided with sufficient support to devote at least eight hours a week to administrative activities related to the complex family planning program.</p>
<p>How should faculty members’ certification information be reported in the ADS Faculty Roster?</p> <p><i>[Program Requirement: 2.9.]</i></p>	<p>Programs must enter both obstetrics and gynecology and complex family planning certification information on the Faculty Roster.</p> <p>For obstetrics and gynecology certification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most faculty members have time-limited certifications and programs should indicate continuing certification by “Meets MOC/CC Requirements” for American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) certification or “Meets Osteopathic Continuous Certification (OCC)” for American Osteopathic Association (AOA) certification.</li> <li>• For faculty members who received a time-<i>unlimited</i> certificate (before re-certification was required) and are <i>not</i> engaged in maintenance of certification, choose “Time-unlimited certification/no Re-certification.”</li> </ul>

Question	Answer
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For faculty members who recently completed obstetrics and gynecology education and are not yet certified, programs should enter “ABMS Board Eligible” or “AOA Board Eligible.”</li> <li>• For faculty members who do not have ABMS or AOA certification and are not eligible for ABMS or AOA certification, programs should enter “Other Certifying Body,” “Not Certified,” “Certification Lapsed,” or “RCPS(C).” “Other Certifying Body” and “Not Certified” require an explanation in the “Explain Equivalent Qualifications for RC Consideration” section. See the question below for more information on faculty members who are certified by another certifying body, have lapsed certification, or are not certified.</li> </ul> <p>For complex family planning certification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Until certification is offered in complex family planning, programs should enter “Not Certified.”</li> <li>• Once certification is offered, programs should enter “ABMS Board Eligible” or “Meets MOC/CC Requirements.”</li> </ul>
<p>When does a program need to request the Committee review the qualifications of a faculty member who is not certified in obstetrics and gynecology by ABOG or AOBOG or complex family planning by ABOG?</p> <p><i>[Program Requirement: 2.9.]</i></p>	<p>Programs are expected to submit an approval request for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a faculty member whose certification in obstetrics and gynecology is from a country outside of the United States.</li> <li>• a faculty member who is not an ABOG active candidate or an AOBOG-eligible candidate in obstetrics and gynecology.</li> <li>• a faculty member with lapsed ABOG or AOBOG certification in obstetrics and gynecology.</li> <li>• a faculty member who is not an ABOG active candidate or board certified in complex family planning, <i>once certification is available</i>.</li> </ul> <p>A request is <i>not</i> needed for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a faculty member who is an ABOG active candidate or an AOBOG-eligible candidate in obstetrics and gynecology.</li> <li>• a faculty member who is an ABOG active candidate in complex family planning, <i>once certification is available</i>.</li> <li>• a non-obstetrician/gynecologist faculty member who is board certified in another (sub)specialty.</li> </ul>

Question	Answer
<p>How should a program request Review Committee consideration of the qualifications of a physician faculty member who does not have certification in obstetrics and gynecology by ABOG or AOBOG?</p> <p><i>[Program Requirement: 2.9.]</i></p>	<p>The program must submit a letter of support to the Review Committee signed by the program director and the designated institutional official (DIO). A CV for the faculty member must be attached. Email the letter to the Review Committee's Accreditation Administrator, contact information for whom can be found in the Obstetrics and Gynecology section of the ACGME website.</p> <p>If the Review Committee approves the individual, the program should note this in the ADS Faculty Roster's Specialty Certification section under "Explain Equivalent Qualifications for RC Consideration."</p>
<p>How many core faculty members are required?</p> <p><i>[Program Requirements: 2.10.- 2.10.c.]</i></p>	<p>In addition to the program director, each program must have at least one core physician faculty member. This individual may also serve as the required core faculty member who is qualified and available to be a research mentor. In this case, in addition to the program director, there must at least one core faculty member in the program. Alternatively, the program may identify a different core faculty member, who may or may not be a physician, who is qualified and available to serve as a research mentor. In this case, in addition to the program director, there must be at least two core faculty members in the program.</p>
<b>Fellow Appointments</b>	
<p>How does a program initiate a complement increase request?</p> <p><i>[Program Requirement: 3.3.]</i></p>	<p>See "Requests for Changes in Resident/Fellow Complement" available on the <a href="#">Documents and Resources</a> page of the Obstetrics and Gynecology section of the ACGME website.</p>
<p>What is the reasoning for requiring at least one fellow in the program?</p> <p><i>[Program Requirement: 3.3.a.]</i></p>	<p>The Committee believes having at least one fellow in the program at all times ensures a program's educational structure is maintained. This structure provides the foundation for engaged faculty, committed resources, and a well-organized curriculum.</p>
<b>Educational Program</b>	
<p>Can a fellow's experience in a low-resource family planning setting count towards the required six months of research or scholarly activities?</p> <p><i>[Program Requirement: 4.11.b.]</i></p>	<p>Yes. A fellow's time in a low-resource family planning setting can count towards the required 12 months of core clinical complex family planning or the required six months of research or scholarly activities. The program director will determine how to count this time based on the educational experience.</p>

<p>If the program requires fellows to complete a Master of Science or Public Health or equivalent degree, does the course work need to be completed during a single year or can the course work be distributed throughout the 24 months of the fellowship program?</p> <p><i>[Program Requirement: 4.11.e.1.]</i></p>	<p>Either model is acceptable.</p>
<p>What is the reasoning behind permitting fellows with religious or moral objections to opt out of performing pregnancy termination? Can fellows opt out of other aspects of patient care related to pregnancy termination?</p> <p><i>[Program Requirement: 4.11.f.]</i></p>	<p>This requirement helps ensure education and training in complex family planning is available to all who desire to acquire the range of expertise this fellowship affords. While fellows may opt out of performing pregnancy termination, they must have experience providing care for patients prior to and after pregnancy termination.</p>
<p><b>Other</b></p>	
<p>Where can one find information about a Common Program Requirement?</p>	<p>See <a href="#">Common Program Requirements Frequently Asked Questions</a>.</p>
<p>Where can one find information about accreditation site visits?</p>	<p>See <a href="#">Site Visit Frequently Asked Questions</a>. Note that the scheduling of an application site visit is decided on a case-by-case basis. Applications submitted by complex family planning programs already established prior to ACGME accreditation of the subspecialty will have a site visit scheduled if it is determined that additional program information is needed prior to the Committee's review of the program. Otherwise, established programs will be reviewed based on the application alone. Programs that are not already established require a site visit.</p>