

Frequently Asked Questions: Pediatric Pathology
(FAQs related to Pediatric Pathology Program Requirements effective July 1, 2025)
Review Committee for Pathology
ACGME

| Question | Answer |
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| Personnel | |
| <p>How many faculty members must a fellowship have, and what qualifications must they have?</p> <p><i>[Program Requirements: 2.6.a., and 2.8.]</i></p> | <p>The Review Committee believes that, to be effective, fellowship programs must have at least one physician faculty member dedicated to fellow education. The minimum requirements for physician faculty members are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program director, preferably certified in pediatric pathology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If not certified, at least one full-time faculty member must be certified in pediatric pathology • One core faculty member with ONE of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Board certification in pediatric pathology ○ Completion of an ACGME-accredited pediatric pathology fellowship ○ A minimum of three years of practice experience in pediatric pathology <p>The program director and core faculty member cannot be the same physician.</p> <p>There may be additional faculty members (full- or part-time) as needed to provide appropriate didactic education for fellows in the program. Additional faculty members must have ONE of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board certification in their subspecialty through the American Board of Pathology • Completion of a fellowship in their subspecialty • A minimum of three years of practice experience in their subspecialty <p>Additional faculty members are not required to be physicians.</p> |
| <p>Does the program coordinator need to be employed full-time by the program?</p> <p><i>[Program Requirement: 2.11.a.]</i></p> | <p>No. The program coordinator does not need to be employed full-time by the program.</p> |

| Question | Answer |
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| Educational Program | |
| <p>How does the Committee qualify/define “supervision” with regards to the supervision of residents and/or other learners?</p> <p><i>[Program Requirement: 4.11.c.]</i></p> | <p>“Supervision” refers to the fellow being able to supervise residents, medical students, or other personnel, specifically in performing patient care tasks related to the fellow’s patient care activities. This requirement is not intended to include other personnel supervision, such as general laboratory management.</p> |
| <p>What constitutes fellow scholarly activity?</p> <p><i>[Program Requirement: 4.15.]</i></p> | <p>The ACGME’s Common Program Requirements mandate that fellows participate in scholarly activity to advance their knowledge of the basic principles of research, including application of that research to patient care. The Review Committee recognizes that institutional practice patterns and resources vary, and it therefore has broadly defined what constitutes fellows’ scholarly activity.</p> <p>Fellows may meet the scholarly activity requirement through a variety of education- and research-related activities, either inside or outside of the training institution. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • presentations at journal clubs grand rounds • teaching medical students, residents, or ancillary staff members • poster or oral presentations of abstracts at local, regional, or national meetings • authorship of textbook chapters or review articles • participation in basic science or clinical research • publication in a peer-reviewed journal |
| <p>Why should fellows participate in scholarly activity?</p> <p><i>[Program Requirement: 4.15.]</i></p> | <p>The Review Committee recognizes that the majority of fellowships are one-year programs, and that peer-reviewed publication may not be a practical expectation given the limited duration of training. Nevertheless, the broader definition of scholarly activity above should allow for some entries in the annual update to the ACGME that would supply convincing documentation of an environment of inquiry and scholarly activity within the program.</p> <p>Completeness and accuracy of reporting fellow scholarly activity by the program is essential to the accurate assessment of the program’s compliance. Programs in which ongoing scholarly activity by fellows cannot be recognized from the annual update may be considered for more in-depth review by the Committee in order to further investigate the quality of the learning environment.</p> |