

**ACGME Program Requirements for Graduate Medical Education
in Forensic Pathology
Summary and Impact of Major Requirement Revisions**

Requirement #: I.D.1.e)

Requirement Revision (significant change only):

I.D.1.e) Laboratories must perform or provide access to all tests required for the education of fellows. (Core)

1. Describe the Review Committee's rationale for this revision:

Because not all programs perform diagnostic testing in house, the Review Committee noted fellows should have access to results from reference labs that are essential to the practice of their subspecialty focus area. The proposed revision was made to simplify this requirement and align the program requirements with other pathology subspecialties.

2. How will the proposed requirement or revision improve resident/fellow education, patient safety, and/or patient care quality?

Fellow education will be improved, as the requirement ensures programs have access to and expose fellows to all testing relevant to the subspecialty, including both testing performed in house and testing sent to reference laboratories.

3. How will the proposed requirement or revision impact continuity of patient care?

No impact is anticipated.

4. Will the proposed requirement or revision necessitate additional institutional resources (e.g., facilities, organization of other services, addition of faculty members, financial support; volume and variety of patients), if so, how?

No impact is anticipated.

5. How will the proposed revision impact other accredited programs?

The proposed revision was made to align this program requirement with the requirements of other pathology subspecialties.

Requirement #: II.A.3.c)

Requirement Revision (significant change only):

II.A.3.c) **[Qualifications of the program director:]** must include at least three years of active participation as a specialist in forensic pathology following completion of all graduate medical education. (Detail Core)

1. Describe the Review Committee's rationale for this revision:

The proposed revision was made to clarify the expectation that forensic pathology program directors must have this specialty experience.

2. How will the proposed requirement or revision improve resident/fellow education, patient safety, and/or patient care quality?

The revision will ensure that the individual ultimately responsible for fellow education (the program director) has experience as a specialist in forensic pathology.

3. How will the proposed requirement or revision impact continuity of patient care?

No impact is anticipated.

4. Will the proposed requirement or revision necessitate additional institutional resources (e.g., facilities, organization of other services, addition of faculty members, financial support; volume and variety of patients), if so, how?

Programs will need to evaluate and ensure their program director meets the proposed qualifications.

5. How will the proposed revision impact other accredited programs?

No impact is anticipated.

Requirement #: II.B.1.c)

Requirement Revision (significant change only):

II.B.1.c) Programs with two or more fellows must have at least one more forensic pathologist faculty members than the number of approved fellowship positions. (Core)

1. Describe the Review Committee's rationale for this revision:

The proposed revision was made to clarify the expectation that only forensic pathologists count toward the faculty member-to-fellow ratio, ensuring there are enough forensic pathologists to supervise and educate fellows.

2. How will the proposed requirement or revision improve resident/fellow education, patient safety, and/or patient care quality?

The proposed revision will improve fellow education by providing adequate training and oversight.

3. How will the proposed requirement or revision impact continuity of patient care?

No impact is anticipated.

4. Will the proposed requirement or revision necessitate additional institutional resources (e.g., facilities, organization of other services, addition of faculty members, financial support; volume and variety of patients), if so, how?

The proposed revision will require institutions to review forensic pathology faculty member-to-fellow ratios and, depending on the circumstance, may require a reduction in complement or additional forensic pathologists to meet the requirement.

5. How will the proposed revision impact other accredited programs?

No impact is anticipated.

Requirement #: IV.B.1.b).(2).(a).(i) - IV.B.1.b).(2).(a).(ii)

Requirement Revision (significant change only):

IV.B.1.b).(2).(a).(i) Each fellow ~~must~~ should perform at least 200 autopsies. (Detail)

~~IV.B.1.b).(2).(a).(i)~~ IV.B.1.b).(2).(a).(ii) Each fellow must ~~and not~~ perform more than 250 autopsies. (Core)

1. Describe the Review Committee's rationale for this revision:

The Review Committee is introducing competency-based language by moving toward a model that requires fellows to demonstrate competence in procedures and allowing programs increased flexibility in the minimum number of required procedures. However, to ensure a workload balance between service and education, the proposed revision limits the number of autopsies to 250.

2. How will the proposed requirement or revision improve resident/fellow education, patient safety, and/or patient care quality?

The proposed revision shifts the focus from numbers-based acquisition to a competency-based model. This revision will lead to improvements in fellow education, patient safety, and patient care quality by ensuring fellows achieve competence.

3. How will the proposed requirement or revision impact continuity of patient care?

No impact is anticipated.

4. Will the proposed requirement or revision necessitate additional institutional resources (e.g., facilities, organization of other services, addition of faculty members, financial support; volume and variety of patients), if so, how?

No impact is anticipated.

5. How will the proposed revision impact other accredited programs?

No impact is anticipated.

Requirement #: IV.C.5. - IV.C.5.b)

Requirement Revision (significant change only):

IV.C.5. [Fellow experiences must include:]

IV.C.5.a) ~~supervision of trainees and/or laboratory personnel, and with graduated responsibility, including independent diagnoses and decision-making; and,~~ ^(Core)

~~IV.C.5.a)~~ IV.C.5.b) supervision of residents and/or other learners; and, ^(Detail)

1. Describe the Review Committee's rationale for this revision:

The proposed revision was made to clarify that experiences should include supervision of residents and other learners, and it also standardizes program requirements across the pathology subspecialties.

2. How will the proposed requirement or revision improve resident/fellow education, patient safety, and/or patient care quality?

No impact is anticipated.

3. How will the proposed requirement or revision impact continuity of patient care?

No impact is anticipated.

4. Will the proposed requirement or revision necessitate additional institutional resources (e.g., facilities, organization of other services, addition of faculty members, financial support; volume and variety of patients), if so, how?

No impact is anticipated.

5. How will the proposed revision impact other accredited programs?

Residents and/or learners from other accredited programs may be supervised by fellows.

Requirement #: V.A.1.a).(1)

Requirement Revision (significant change only):

V.A.1.a).(1) The feedback, based on direct observation, should incorporate competency-based assessments ^(Core)

1. Describe the Review Committee's rationale for this revision:

The proposed revision is in alignment with the ongoing work toward the integration of competency-based medical education into ACGME-accredited programs and focuses on direct observation as a method to provide formative feedback.

2. How will the proposed requirement or revision improve resident/fellow education, patient safety, and/or patient care quality?

The proposed revision will improve fellow education by moving toward competency-based medical education and focusing more on the individual fellow.

3. How will the proposed requirement or revision impact continuity of patient care?

No impact anticipated.

4. Will the proposed requirement or revision necessitate additional institutional resources (e.g., facilities, organization of other services, addition of faculty members, financial support; volume and variety of patients), if so, how?

Programs may need to consider additional institutional resources to implement competency-based education, specifically on direct observation and feedback. Additional institutional resources may include the possibility of further faculty development.

5. How will the proposed revision impact other accredited programs?

No impact anticipated.