



Association of Pediatric Program Directors

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The following is an FAQ compiled by the Fellowship Program Directors executive committee in conjunction with the ABP and ACGME regarding questions in response to the changes in eligibility requirements for subspecialty training going into effect in July 2016. The *Program Requirements for Graduate Medical Education in the Subspecialties of Pediatrics* are posted on the ACGME website and specific sections of the document are cited in the answers below. The document is available at this link: [2016 Program Requirements](#)

Please contact the ACGME and ABP for direct counsel regarding the specific situation in your program if not outlined in this FAQ.

Q: Who is eligible for training in my subspecialty program?

A: Section III.A.2 : “All required clinical education for entry into ACGME-accredited fellowship programs must be completed in an ACGME-accredited residency program, or in an RCPSC-accredited or CFPC- accredited residency program located in Canada.”^(Core)

Q: Are there any exceptions to this regulation? For example I have an international applicant who trained in pediatrics in a non-US/Canada program.

A: Section III.A.2.b: “An ACGME-accredited fellowship program may accept an exceptionally qualified applicant, who does not satisfy the eligibility requirements listed in Sections III.A.2. and III.A.2.a), but who does meet all of the following additional qualifications and conditions: ^(Core)”**
Section III.A.2.b lists steps and procedures for eligibility under the exception, including defining “exceptionally qualified applicant**”.

Q: I have an applicant from an American Osteopathic Association (AOA) or American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) certified residency. Are they eligible?

A: Although the ACGME is working with AOA and AACOM for a single GME accreditation system, it is not yet in effect. [\(Click here for information\)](#) Graduates of osteopathic pediatric residencies may be considered for ACGME subspecialty training under the same rules of exception outlined in Section III.A.2.b. Graduates of programs that are *dually* accredited by the ACGME and AOA are eligible under Section III.A.2.

Q: If I accept a subspecialty fellowship applicant under the exceptions outlined in Section III.A.2 and they complete the subspecialty training, are they eligible for certification by the American Board of Pediatrics?

A: Those who satisfactorily complete subspecialty training under the ACGME exception will be eligible for certification. The American Board of Pediatrics (ABP) requires an applicant to complete general pediatrics residency in an ACGME or RCPSC program and achieve general pediatrics certification in order to apply for subspecialty certification.

The ABP will continue to allow individuals to complete “reverse training,” ie, subspecialty training before general pediatrics training, but only if the international applicant has been accepted into the subspecialty as an “exceptionally qualified applicant.”

The ABP will continue to consider petitions for “Waiver of Accredited Training” in general pediatrics under the [Non-Accredited Training Policy](#). This petition and consultation with the ABP must occur BEFORE beginning residency training. Approval for this pathway may allow for up to 1 year of accredited general pediatrics training to be waived.

Q: If I accept a subspecialty fellowship applicant under the exceptions outlined in Section III.A.2 but they do not wish to seek certification by the ABP, does that trainee occupy an ACGME accredited slot? I.e. if my complement approval is for 6 fellows by the ACGME, could this person occupy a 7th spot in the fellowship?

A: Yes they are counted against the accredited complement and no you could not accept a 7th trainee. Any trainee enrolled in an ACGME accredited program should be included in the approved complement regardless of their eligibility for certification by the ABP.

Q: Are there options for ABP certification if an international applicant wishes to gain experience in the subspecialty, but is not formally enrolled in ACGME-accredited subspecialty training?

A: The ABP wishes to ensure that program directors understand that international applicants or AOA trained applicants who are not approved as “exceptionally qualified applicants” will not be considered for subspecialty certification by the ABP. Individuals completing subspecialty training who are not reported to ACGME and therefore not included in the approved ACGME trainee complement cannot apply for subspecialty certification by the ABP, even if they eventually complete the required ACGME or RCPSC general pediatrics residency training and achieve ABP certification in general pediatrics.