



2026 ACGME John C. Gienapp Distinguished Service Award Frequently Asked Questions



Why did the ACGME establish the John C. Gienapp Award?

John C. Gienapp, PhD served as executive director of the ACGME for 19 years and made significant contributions to graduate medical education (GME) and the accreditation process during his tenure. Upon his retirement, the John C. Gienapp Distinguished Service Award was established in his honor to recognize those who, like him, have dedicated themselves to GME and have made outstanding contributions to the enhancement of residency and fellowship education and ACGME accreditation activities, including:

- serving on and chairing a Review Committee or other ACGME committee
- serving as a specialist site visitor or on an Appeals Panel
- volunteering for special Review Committee or other ACGME assignment(s) that contributed to revising requirements
- assisting Review Committee staff members in the implementation of new or innovative projects to improve the accreditation process

What is required for a nomination?

Two components are required for a nomination:

1. A **signed letter** that summarizes the nominee's preeminent contributions to GME and/or ACGME activities
2. A current curriculum vitae (CV) for the nominee (this must include the nominee's contact information (phone number, mailing address, and email address))

If the individual was previously nominated for but did not receive this award, an updated nomination must be submitted (updated CV and nomination letter) for reconsideration.

How are nominations submitted?

Email nominations and required materials to DeLonda Bonasera: dbonasera@acgme.org. Ms. Bonasera can be reached by phone at 312.755.5059 to answer questions related to submitting an award nomination.

All materials (recommendation letter and CV) must arrive by email in **one PDF (portable PDF files are not acceptable)**. To do this, assemble all materials and scan them, then email the resulting PDF to Ms. Bonasera. Material received in piecemeal will not be accepted.

What is the deadline for nominations?

All nominations must be emailed before **5:00 p.m. Central on Wednesday, March 12, 2025**. Nominations received after the deadline and/or submitted in piecemeal will not be considered.

What is awarded?

- A check for \$1,000 and a plaque.
- Travel expenses paid by the ACGME for the recipient and a guest to travel to the 2026 ACGME Annual Educational Conference, where the award will be presented. Conference registration will be waived for the awardee. The 2026 conference will take place on February 19-21 in San Diego, California.

When will the award winners be announced?



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Selections will be made by the ACGME Awards Committee at its fall 2025 meeting, and shortly thereafter recipients will be notified. Award announcements will then be published in a press release, the *Journal of Graduate Medical Education*, and the ACGME *e-Communication*, as well as on the ACGME website and social media accounts.

When will the award be presented?

Awards will be presented at the 2026 ACGME Annual Educational Conference.