

Frequently Asked Questions: Anesthesiology Critical Care Medicine

Review Committee for Anesthesiology

ACGME

Question	Answer
Program Personnel and Resources	
Does the program need to keep track of the number of intensive care unit (ICU) patients for whom a fellow provides care each day? <i>[Program Requirement: 1.8.g.]</i>	No. The intent of the requirement is not to mandate counting or keeping Case Logs of the number of ICU cases for each fellow. Rather, the goal is to ensure fellows have substantial clinical experience across the spectrum of medical and surgical critical care medicine while on ICU rotations. Programs should monitor the nature of the cases and the fellow's role in those cases in order to ensure fellows receive the progressive responsibility and increased independence necessary to move the fellow along the trajectory of their development against the subspecialty Milestones.
Education Program	
To demonstrate proficiency in ultrasound, are fellows expected to attain certification in advanced perioperative transesophageal echocardiography (TEE) by the National Board of Echocardiography (NBE)? <i>[Program Requirement: 4.5.a.12.]</i>	Fellows are not expected to attain TEE certification. Rather, fellows should attain proficiency in basic ultrasound skills, such as for venous access, and procedures such as paracentesis and thoracentesis. Fellows should also have basic skills in transthoracic and TEE that allow bedside application, in particular, to assess volume status, global contractility, and basic valve integrity. Meaningful experiences in TEE can be provided in a number of ways, such as through didactic or simulation experiences, and do not need to exclusively involve direct patient care.
Must the presentation or publication of fellows' scholarly activity occur before completion of the fellowship? <i>[Program Requirement: 4.15.a.]</i>	No. A fellow's involvement in the project must begin or continue during the fellowship, but the presentation or publication can occur after the fellowship has been completed.

Question	Answer
The Learning and Working Environment	
Does the Review Committee limit the maximum number of consecutive weeks of night float? <i>[Program Requirement: VI.F.6.]</i>	No. The Review Committee recognizes that under certain circumstances, fellows may derive benefit from night float work, but the benefit should be clear to and understood by both faculty members and fellows. During an accreditation review, the Review Committee will determine whether fellows on night float are able to take advantage of educational sessions and other opportunities offered during regular daytime hours. If the Committee determines that fellows derive little benefit from night float or are not able to participate in other educational sessions as a result of night call responsibilities, the program may be cited for inadequate educational experience on the respective rotation.
Other	
May fellows engage in independent practice of their core specialty during the fellowship program? <i>[Common Program Requirement (Fellowship): 4.16.]</i>	Yes. The Review Committee elected not to permit the independent practice option in the Common Program Requirements (Fellowship) because the requirement states that the fellowship program may “assign” fellows to engage in independent practice. Fellowship programs cannot require fellows to practice in their core specialty. Fellows may voluntarily elect to moonlight in their core specialty, provided that all work hour limits are met.
What does the Review Committee require of a fellow taking approved medical, parental, or caregiver leave(s) of absence? <i>[Institutional Requirement: 4.8.]</i>	The Review Committee allows for flexibility in approved leaves of absence at the program level, provided that all clinical experience requirements are met, including case and procedure logs, and that the Clinical Competency Committee considers the affected fellow fully prepared for autonomous practice. The program director is encouraged to seek guidance from the American Board of Anesthesiology's Absence from Training Policy and/or contact the American Osteopathic Board of Anesthesiology to ensure that there will be no adverse effects on the fellow's board eligibility and ultimate board certification.