

# SES092: Review Committee for Thoracic Surgery Specialty Update

Aimee Morales  
Associate Executive Director

# Conflict of Interest Disclosure

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Speaker: Aimee Morales

## **Disclosure**

None of the speakers for this educational activity have relevant financial relationship(s) to disclose with ineligible companies whose primary business is producing, marketing, selling, re-selling, or distributing healthcare products used by or on patients.

# Objectives

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- Review Committee Overview
- Accreditation Activity
- Specialty Information
- Review Committee Updates
- ACGME Updates

# Review Committee Overview

# Review Committee Membership

**James Jagers, MD, *Chair***

University of Colorado

**Sandra Starnes, MD, *Vice Chair\****

University of Cincinnati Medical Center

**Chi Chi Do-Nguyen, MD, *Resident Member***

University of Michigan

**Mark Swofford, PhD, *Public Member***

Optum Serve Health Services

**Thomas Beaver, MD**

University of Florida

**Sara J. Pereira, MD**

Indiana University

**K. Robert Shen, MD**

Mayo Clinic - Rochester

**Stephen Yang, MD\***

Johns Hopkins University

\*Term ends June 30, 2026

# Incoming Members

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**Ravi Ghanta, MD**  
Baylor College of Medicine

**Mark S. Slaughter, MD**  
University of Louisville

# Review Committee Role and Function

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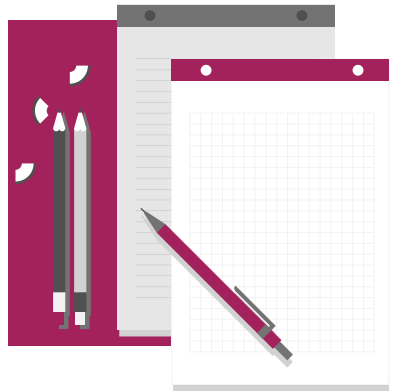
## What does a Review Committee do?

- Peer review programs
- Determination of a program's "substantial compliance" against a defined set of standards

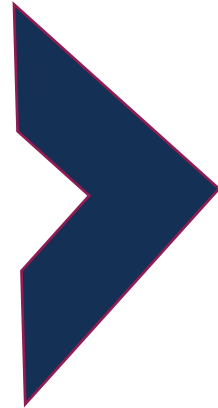
## What is reviewed?

- Program Information in Accreditation Data System (ADS)
- Response to citations
- Annual/multi-year Resident/Fellow Surveys
- Faculty Surveys
- Graduate Case Logs
- Board Pass Rate Data
- Site Visit Reports

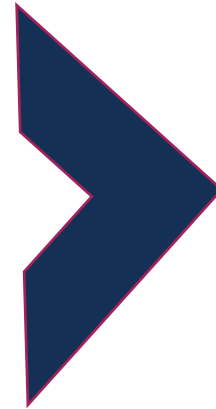
# Annual Data Review Cycle



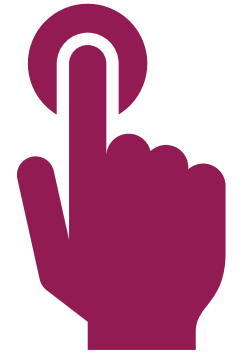
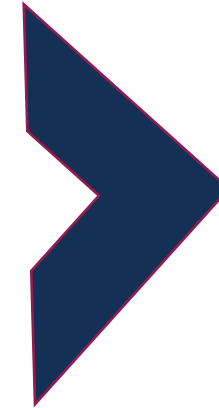
**Data Collection**  
(January - September)



**Executive Committee Review**  
(October - November)



**Review Committee Review and Decision**  
(December and March)



**Program Notification**

# Accreditation Activity

# Newly Accredited Programs

Thoracic Surgery  
– Independent

- Florida International University/Baptist Health

Congenital  
Cardiac Surgical

- UCLA Geffen School of Medicine

# Program Accreditation Status Breakdown

## 2024-2025 Academic Year

Specialty	Initial Accreditation	Initial Accreditation with Warning	Continued Accreditation without Outcomes	Continued Accreditation	Continued Accreditation with Warning	Probationary Accreditation	Total
<b>Thoracic Surgery-Independent</b>	5	1	0	69	3	1	<b>79</b>
<b>Thoracic Surgery-Integrated</b>	2	0	8	24	2	0	<b>36</b>
<b>Congenital Cardiac Surgery</b>	1	0	3	14	0	0	<b>18</b>

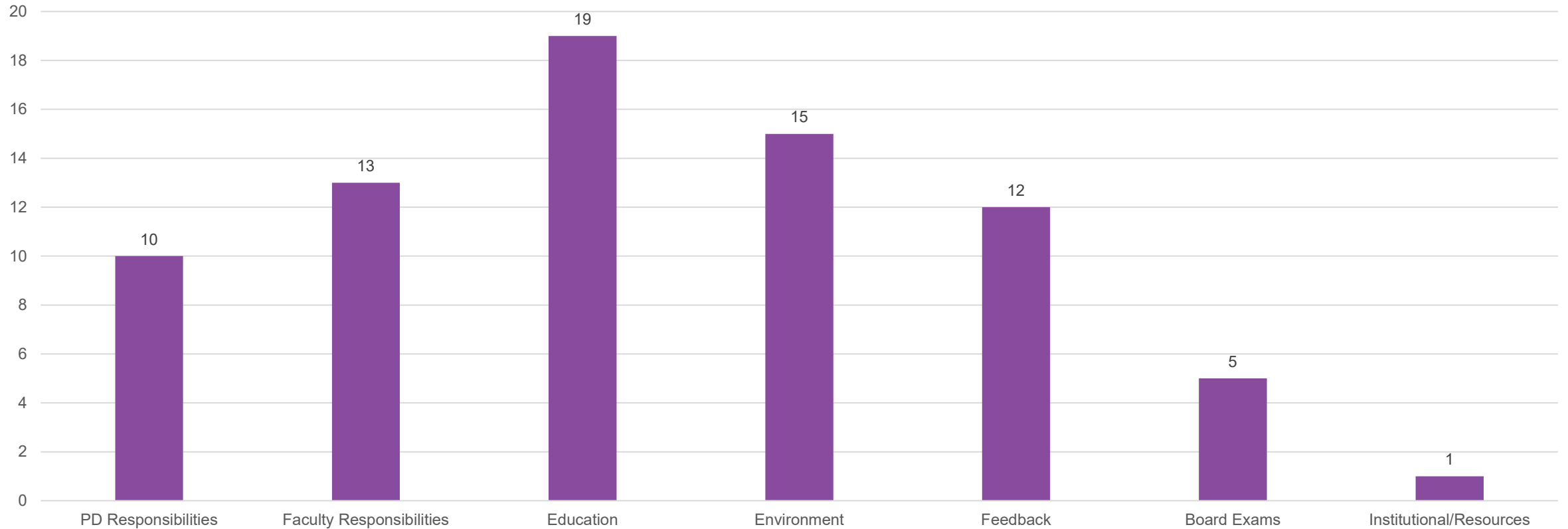
# Program Complement

## 2025 - 2026 Academic Year

Specialty	Accredited Programs	Applications (As of 01/26/26)	Complement Approved (2025-2026)	Compliment Filled (2025-2026)
<b>Thoracic Surgery-Independent</b>	79	3	331	252 (76%)
<b>Thoracic Surgery-Integrated</b>	36	0	364	287 (79%)
<b>Congenital Cardiac Surgery</b>	18	0	18	12 (67%)

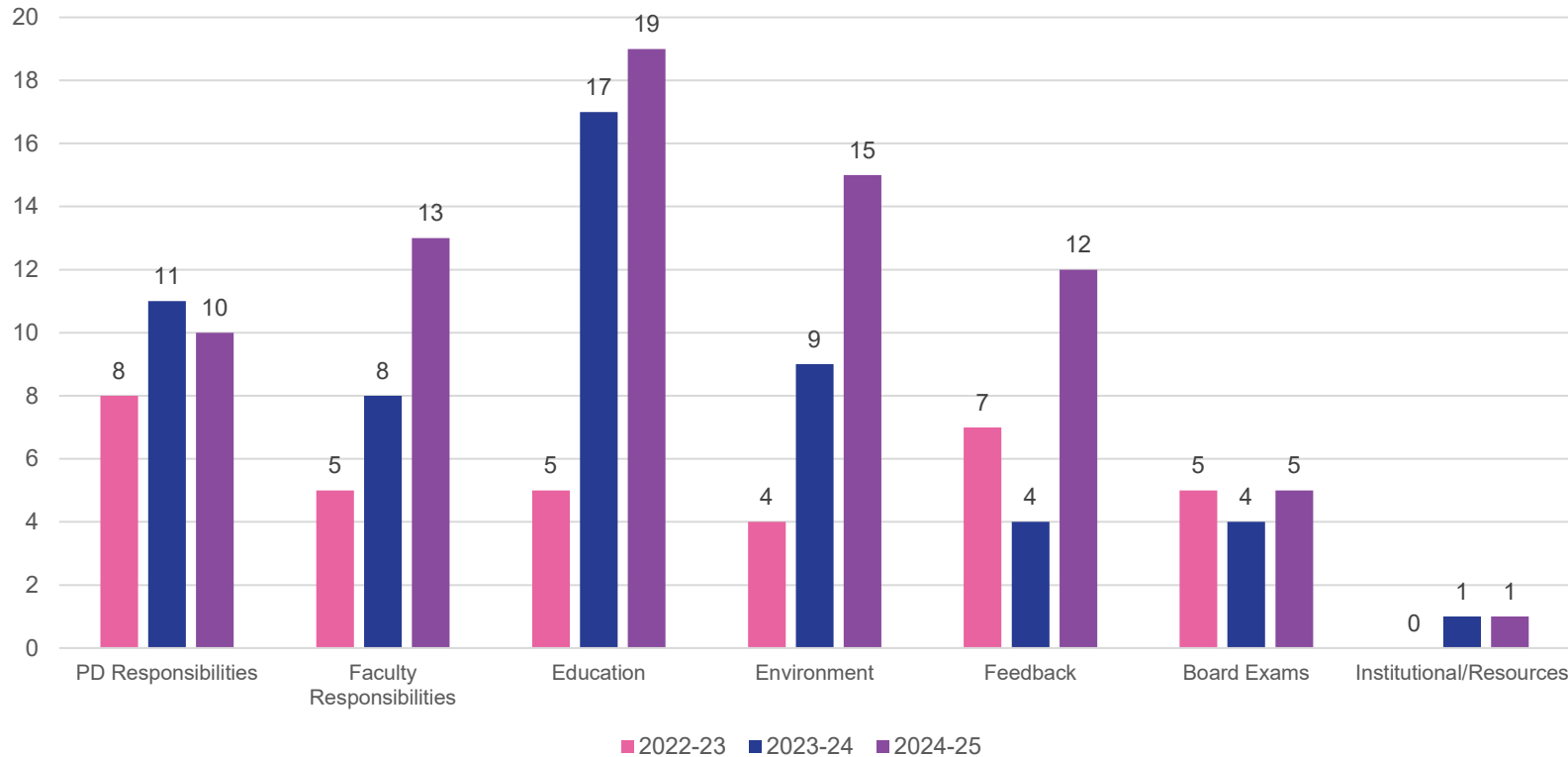
# Citations - Independent

Thoracic Surgery Independent  
2024-25 Citations (75 Total)



# Independent 3-year Citation Trends

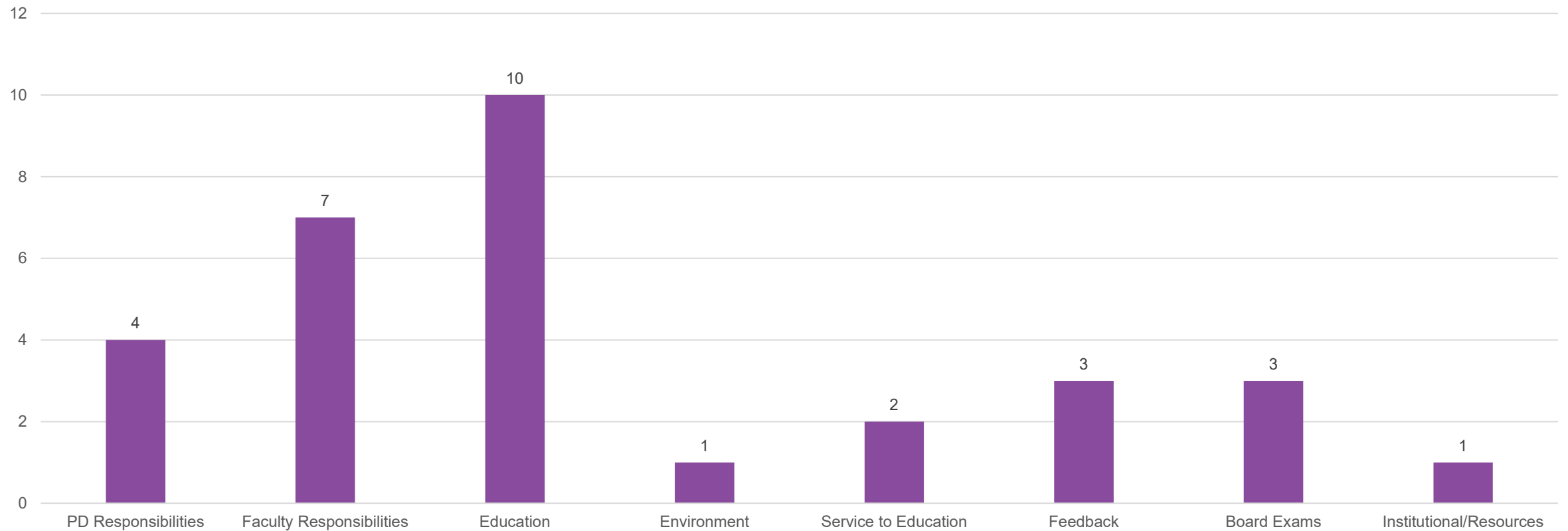
3-Year Citation Trend  
Independent Thoracic Surgery



- Citations under **Education** and **Environment** were amongst the most frequently cited areas during 2024–25
- Citations under **Institutional/Resources** and **Board Exams** remained low compared to other categories

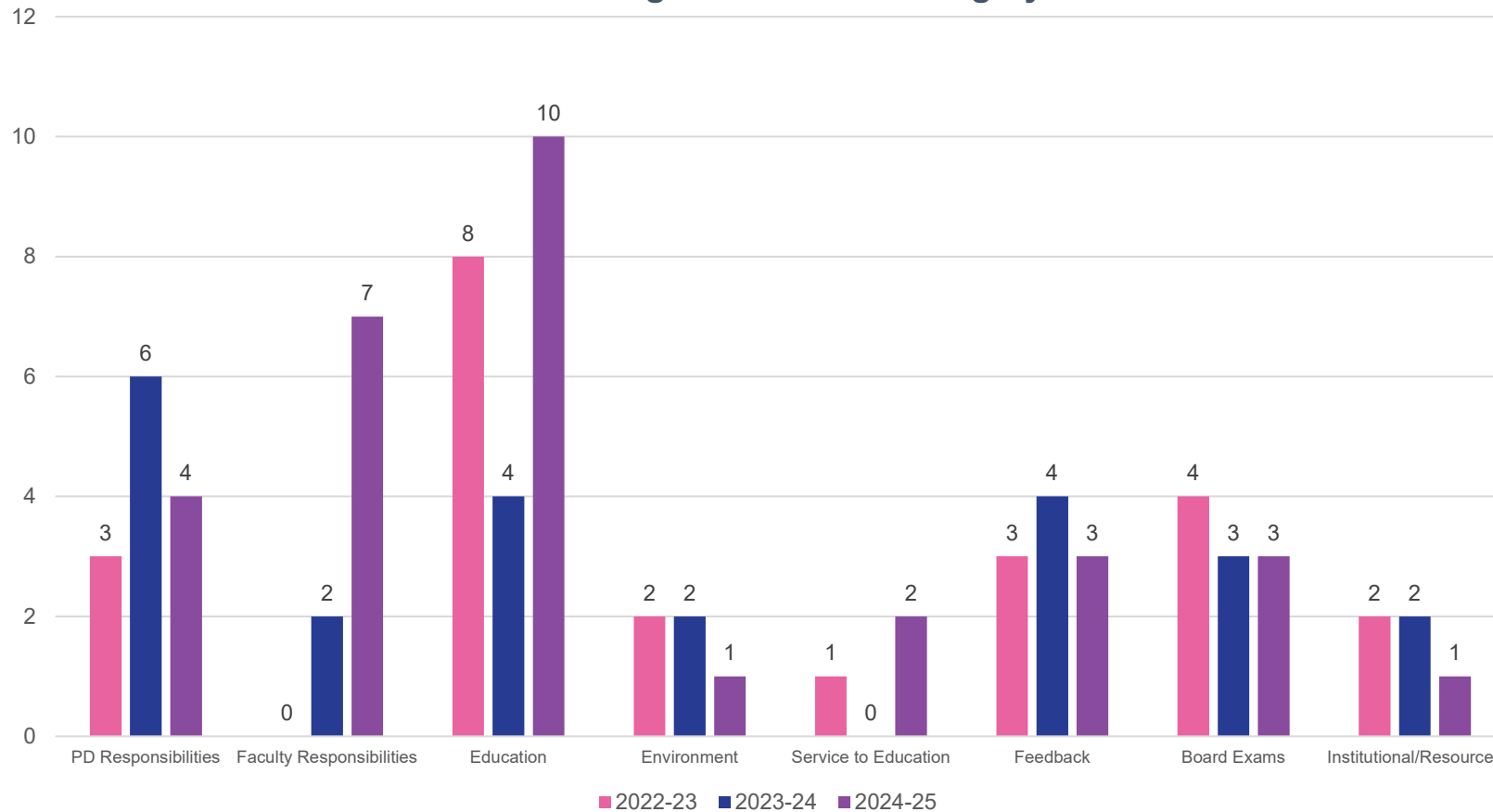
# Citations - Integrated

Thoracic Surgery Integrated  
2024-25 Citations (31 Total)



# Integrated 3-year Citation Trends

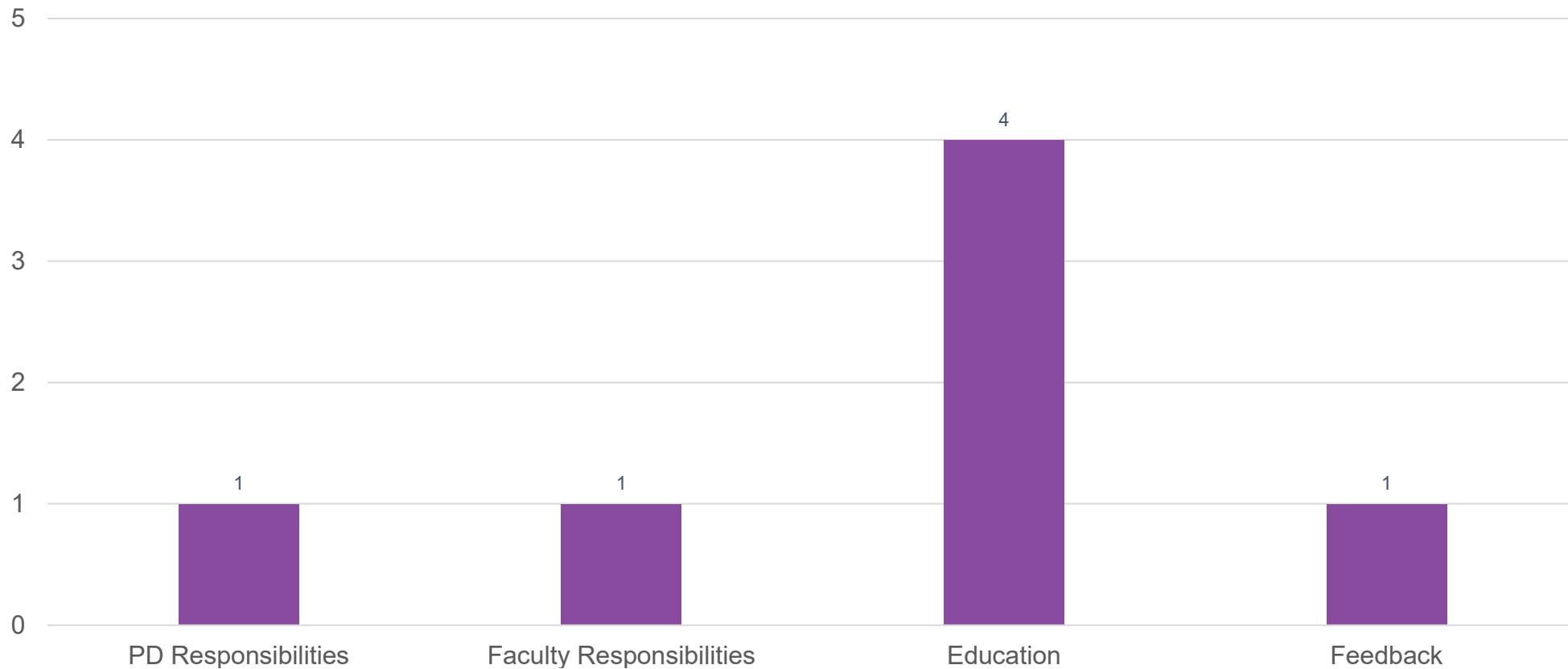
3-Year Citation Trend  
Integrated Thoracic Surgery



- Citations under **Education** were amongst the most frequently cited category
- **Faculty Responsibilities** and increased notably in 2024–25
- Citations under **Environment** and **Institutional/Resources** remained low compared to other categories

# Citations – Congenital Cardiac

Congenital Cardiac Surgery  
2024-25 Citations (7 total)



# Board Pass Rate - 2025

## Board Pass Rate

- Board pass rate will **change** every year
- Must be higher than fifth percentile or 80 percent

Specialty	ABMS Threshold for Written Exam	ABMS Threshold for Oral Exam
Thoracic Surgery - Independent	50%	0%
Thoracic Surgery - Integrated	57.5%	50.0%
Congenital Cardiac Surgery	0.0%	100.00%

# Responding to Citations

When reviewing responses to citations, the Review Committee considers:

- Does the program **understand the problem/reason** they are not in compliance?
- Is there an explicit statement of how the program **engaged the faculty/residents/fellows/institution** in the **identification of the problem(s)** and creation of an action plan?
- Are there **actionable items** implemented by the program and/or institution that directly addressed the program requirement(s) out of compliance?
- Is there an explicit identification of how the program will **monitor and sustain improvement**?

*Citation responses are considered with supporting materials (program information in ADS, annual/multi-year Resident/Fellow and Faculty Surveys, graduate Case Log data, board pass rate data, Site Visit Reports)*

# Specialty Information

# Interim Requests

- Depending on the request, interim requests are reviewed on a rolling basis and must be submitted via email or ADS. The following Interim Requests take about **4-6 weeks** to fully process:
  - Faculty Qualifications
  - Requirement Exceptions
  - International Rotations
  - Site Changes
  - Joint 4+3 Pathway Application
    - *Minimum of 12 months as chief resident in general surgery during PGY-4 and PGY-5*
    - *All qualifying PGY-4–5 rotations must be clearly identified on the block diagram*
  - Joint 4+3 Candidates
  - Temporary Complement Increases
  - Voluntary Withdrawals

# Review Committee Meetings

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Two meetings per academic year

*Upcoming Meetings*

**March 6, 2026**

**December 4, 2026**

**March 5, 2027**

[www.acgme.org](http://www.acgme.org) > Specialties > Thoracic Surgery > Scroll Down > Review Committee Dates

# New Application Submission Deadlines

- **Applications** are due approximately **six months** before the meeting to allow time for a site visit
- Site visits are required for all core and subspecialty applications

*Upcoming Application Submission Deadlines*

**July 3, 2026 for December 2026 meeting**

**October 5, 2026 for March 2027 meeting**

# Meeting Agenda Closing Dates

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- Meeting agenda closes approximately **two months** before the meeting
- **Permanent complement requests** must be submitted by the designated institutional official (DIO) by the agenda closing date to make the meeting agenda

## *Upcoming Agenda Closing Dates*

**October 9, 2026 for December 2026 meeting**

**January 8, 2027 for March 2027 meeting**

# Review Committee Updates

# Case Log Updates

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- The Review Committee is updating the Case Logs to align with the American Board of Thoracic Surgery
  - Current minimums report does not reflect revised minimums
  - Refer to Board requirements for certification eligibility

# Thoracic Surgery Specialty Track

Review Committee will issue an automatic citation for missed minimums related to incorrect specialty track in ADS

**PLEASE ENSURE CORRECT TRACK IS SELECTED!**

**2. Resident Status**

**Current Status:**  
Active Full time

**Specialty Track:**  
Cardiothoracic

- Select One
- Cardiothoracic
- Thoracic
- Cardiac

# ACGME Updates

# Programs on Continued Accreditation (CA) random sampling site visits

- The ACGME conducts site visits annually for programs with a Continued Accreditation status through a random sampling process.
- For the current academic year, 250 site visits were selected and will be scheduled between April and October 2026.

Academic Year	Number of Randomly Selected Site Visits	Number of Completed Site Visits	<u>Post Site Visit Accreditation Decisions</u>
2023-2024	150	148*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 140 Continued Accreditation</li> <li>• 7 Continued Accreditation with Warning</li> <li>• 1 Probationary Accreditation</li> </ul>
2024-2025	200	198*	Decisions in progress
2025-2026	250	In progress	Decisions in progress

\*Several programs voluntarily withdrew their accreditation after selection or were pulled for other types of site visits.

# Update: Projected Common Program Requirement Major Revision Timelines

## Residencies:



## Fellowships:



# Common Program Requirement Revisions

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- **Common Program Requirement Revisions**
  - Currently soliciting feedback on FTE, scholarly activity, clinical and educational learning environment



# Recent Requirement Revisions

## *Focused Revision to Common Program Requirements*

### *Faculty qualifications*

- Removes specialty-specific language that does not allow for alternate qualifications

### *Resident transfers*

- Removes restrictions from specialty requirements that do not allow transfers

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) integration into Requirements documents: Coming in July 2026!

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- As part of the ACGME's Digital Transformation and following the reformatting of all Requirements documents, FAQs will be integrated into the Requirements documents.
- All Common FAQs and specialty/subspecialty-specific FAQs will be available linked directly to specific requirements, where applicable.
- Except for FAQs already undergoing revision, **the content of the FAQs is not changing**, just their integration into requirements documents for ease of access.
- Revisions were also made to Resident/Fellow Transfers and Faculty Certification in many Program Requirements, effective July 1, 2026.

# ACGME Cloud

*Reducing Burden | Reimagining GME*

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## **New ACGME Cloud features launching in April will offer:**

- Unified User Experience – simplified, streamlined navigation across ACGME Cloud and the Accreditation Data System (ADS), including a user-friendly way to switch between products and an AI-powered smart search to find information in ADS and complete tasks.
- ACGME Cloud | Analytics Additions and Enhancements – additional dashboards for the annual Resident/Fellow and Faculty Surveys, operational dashboards, and Milestones dashboards.

Visit the ACGME Cloud team at the ACGME Hub in the Exhibit Hall to learn more!

Contact [Cloud@acgme.org](mailto:Cloud@acgme.org) with questions.



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## FUNDING OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENT AND FELLOW LEADERS



### OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

Resident- or fellow-developed and led projects to enhance meaning in clinical learning environments by fostering the physician-patient relationship



### PROJECT ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

- Strengthens relationships with patients
- Sustainable
- Adaptable to other programs or contexts
- Innovative and cost-effective



### PROJECT FUNDING

Additional travel stipend available to offset costs to attend Learning Collaborative meetings in Chicago, Illinois and the 2028 ACGME Annual Educational Conference in Orlando, Florida.

### FUNDING OPTIONS

- 1: up to \$10,000
- 2: up to \$5,000



**SCAN QR CODE  
FOR MORE INFO**

**PROPOSALS DUE:  
APRIL 20, 2026**



# Thoracic Surgery Accreditation Team



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# Thank you!