

ACGME Resident/Fellow Survey – Program FAQs

What is the Resident/Fellow Survey?

Each year between January and April, the ACGME requires residents and fellows in accredited programs to complete an online survey. This survey contains questions about the clinical and educational experiences within their program.

Which programs are scheduled to participate?

All ACGME-accredited specialty and subspecialty programs with active residents or fellows, regardless of program size, will be surveyed each academic year.

When are programs scheduled to participate?

The Resident/Fellow Survey is conducted each academic year between January and April. Programs are scheduled for a single window during which residents/fellows must complete the survey. The ACGME will notify programs of their participation at the beginning of the survey window.

More information about scheduled participation windows for this survey can be found by logging into the Accreditation Data System ([ADS](#)). Click on the “Surveys” tab and review the dates under the “Resident/Fellow Survey” heading. *Scheduling for the current academic year usually takes place in late December or early January.*

Who is scheduled to complete the survey?

All active residents/fellows within a program will be scheduled to complete the survey each year. Residents/fellows who started the program off-cycle (after August 31 of the current academic year) and who are noted with a current status of “Off-Cycle” in ADS will **NOT** be scheduled to participate.

***Note:** This survey is to be completed only by residents/fellows. Program administrators do not have access to the survey or any individual responses. ADS logins do not grant access to the survey.*

How will residents/fellows know when to participate?

It is the responsibility of the program to ensure scheduled residents/fellows complete the survey by the assigned deadline. The ACGME **DOES NOT** notify or remind residents/fellows about this survey.

To notify/remind residents/fellow and provide access to the survey, log into your [ADS](#) account, click the “Surveys” tab, and click “View/Remind Takers” under the “Resident/Fellow Survey” heading. Follow the instructions provided to email residents/fellows directly.

How do residents/fellows complete the survey?

Residents/fellows can access the survey via a secure link contained in their notification email sent by their program through [ADS](#). Additional information for residents/fellows participating in this survey can be found on the [ACGME website](#).

***Note:** This survey is to be completed only by residents/fellows. Program administrators do not have access to the survey or any individual responses. ADS logins do not grant access to the survey.*

How can program administrators identify who is scheduled to complete the survey?

Access a list of scheduled residents/fellows in the program's [ADS](#) account. Click on the "Surveys" tab and click "View/Remind Takers" under the "Resident/Fellow Survey" heading. This list will be available ONLY during a program's scheduled survey window for notification/reminder purposes.

Is there a required response rate programs must meet?

Yes. A 70-percent response rate is required for all programs with four or more residents/fellows scheduled to participate. Programs with fewer than four residents/fellows scheduled should reach a 100-percent response rate. A survey must be complete and submitted to count towards the program's response rate.

Review Committees will closely monitor the response rates of programs and review those that fail to meet this requirement.

Can program administrators see the survey questions?

No. Questions are available to only residents/fellows participating in the survey while they are taking it.

What types of questions does this survey contain?

The ACGME Resident/Fellow Survey contains general questions related to the Common Program Requirements and questions regarding well-being. It may also contain questions specific to the specialty/subspecialty or Osteopathic Recognition.

Which residents/fellows see specialty-specific questions?

Residents/fellows in the following specialties' may be required to respond to additional specialty-specific questions:

Allergy and immunology	Obstetrics and Gynecology	Psychiatry
Anesthesiology	Ophthalmology	Radiation oncology
Colon and rectal surgery	Orthopaedic surgery (and subs)	Surgery (and subs)
Dermatology	Otolaryngology (and subs)	Thoracic surgery
Emergency medicine	Pathology	Transitional year
Internal medicine (and subs)	Pediatrics (and subs)	Urology
Neurological surgery (and subs)	Plastic surgery (and subs)	Combined internal medicine-pediatrics
Neurology	Preventive medicine	

When is a survey considered "complete"?

An individual survey is considered complete when all questions presented to the survey taker have been answered and the "Submit" button at the end of the survey has been clicked. Incomplete surveys or surveys that have been saved but not submitted are not considered complete and will NOT count toward a program's overall response rate.

Is this survey directly linked to a program accreditation site visit?

No. Residents/fellows are required to complete the survey on an annual basis, regardless of whether the program is scheduled for an accreditation site visit.

What if a program does not reach a 100-percent response rate for the survey?

A 70-percent response rate is required for all programs with four or more active residents/fellows. Programs with fewer than four residents/fellows scheduled to participate should reach a 100-percent response rate. Review Committees will closely monitor programs' response rates and may review programs that fail to meet the 70-percent requirement.

Where can programs review their survey results?

If at least 70 percent of the program's scheduled residents/fellows complete the survey and there were at least four residents/fellows scheduled to participate, summary reports will be available annually in [ADS](#). Only aggregate summary data are displayed on reports; no individual response data is presented. If a program fails to meet the 70-percent response rate, reports will not be available for the program that academic year.

To download/review survey reports, log into [ADS](#) and select the "Survey" option on the "Reports" tab. After choosing an academic year and program, click "View Reports" to access available survey reports for that year.

Are reports available if a program has fewer than four people scheduled to participate?

Yes. For programs with fewer than four residents/fellows scheduled to participate in the survey that still meet the required response rate, multi-year reports (containing up to four previous years of survey data) will be made available on an aggregated basis after at least three years of survey data collection have taken place. A program must continue to meet this response rate during this time to receive this report.

Programs that have received a standard report in the past will only receive this multi-year version when there are at least two years of survey data with fewer than four residents/fellows scheduled to participate.

Who else can see the data from an individual program?

All data gathered in this survey are confidential. No names will be associated with any of the data collected and no data are linked to individual respondents. Access to reports is password protected, and no individual responses are provided.

Summary data from this survey may be used to inform ACGME policy decisions at the national level. The ACGME may publish summary data and other information about Sponsoring Institutions, programs, resident/fellow physicians, or graduate medical education that is not identifiable by person or organization in a manner appropriate to further the quality of graduate medical education and consistent with federal and state laws and ACGME policies.

Why are some of the data in the aggregated report highlighted in gray?

Programs with Resident/Fellow Survey reports prior to and including the 2010-2011 academic year may see gray shaded boxes in the report to highlight non-compliance within responses (as compared to the ACGME Common Program Requirements from that academic year).