

Frequently Asked Questions: Adult Cardiothoracic Anesthesiology

Review Committee for Anesthesiology

ACGME

Question	Answer
Educational Program	
Who is included in the multidisciplinary team for patient safety and patient care quality? <i>[Program Requirements: 4.11.g.1. and 6.3.]</i>	The multidisciplinary team is the cardiothoracic team that includes surgeons, nurses, anesthesiologists, and other staff members in the intensive care unit (ICU) or the operating room.
How should fellows assign cases to the cardiac procedure categories? <i>[Program Requirement: 4.11.a.1.]</i>	Fellows must have at least two procedures that fulfill two separate categories. Fellows must not use one case to fulfill multiple categories. For example, a heart transplant should be counted as either the surgical procedure or the placement of a circulatory assist device, but not both.
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.
The Learning and Working Environment	
Does the Review Committee limit the maximum number of consecutive weeks of night float? <i>[Program Requirement: 6.26.]</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	

Question	Answer
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 in adult cardiac anesthesiology when offered.