

Frequently Asked Questions: Maternal-Fetal Medicine
Review Committee for Obstetrics and Gynecology
ACGME
(FAQs related to Maternal-Fetal Medicine effective July 1, 2025)

Question	Answer
Introduction	
How much leave time can a fellow have during the educational program? <i>[Program Requirement: 4.1.]</i>	Fellows must complete the required 36-month educational program, but there are no program requirements related to time off during that period. Programs must have leave policies consistent with the policies of their Sponsoring Institution and the applicable board [American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ABOG) or American Osteopathic Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology (AOBOG)]. If it is determined a fellow's educational program needs to be extended, the program should update the fellow's completion date in the ACGME's Accreditation Data System (ADS). In addition, a temporary complement increase for the additional education period may need to be requested. See "Requests for Changes in Resident/Fellow Complement" available on the Documents and Resources page of the Obstetrics and Gynecology section of the ACGME website. A temporary increase in fellow complement for up to one month does not require approval of the Review Committee.
Personnel	
Is there a minimum number of hours the program director must devote to the administration of the program per week? <i>[Program Requirement: 2.3.a.]</i>	The required minimum of 20 percent FTE is based on a 40-hour work week. The program director must be provided with sufficient support to devote at least eight hours a week to administrative activities related to the maternal-fetal medicine program.

How should faculty certification information be reported in the ADS Faculty Roster? <i>[Program Requirement: 2.9.]</i>	Programs must enter both obstetrics and gynecology and maternal-fetal medicine certification information into the Faculty Roster. Note: • Most faculty members have time-limited certifications, and programs should indicate continuing certification by “MOC/CC Requirements” for American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) certification or “Osteopathic Continuous Certification (OCC)” for American Osteopathic Association (AOA) certification. • For faculty members who received a time-unlimited certificate (before re-certification was required) and are not engaged in maintenance of certification, choose “Time-unlimited.” • For faculty members who recently completed a program and are not yet certified, programs should enter “ABMS Board Eligible” or “AOA Board Eligible.” • For faculty members who do not have ABMS or AOA certification, and are not eligible for ABMS or AOA certification, programs should enter “Other Certifying Body,” “Not Certified,” “Certification Lapsed,” or “RCPS(C).” “Other Certifying Body” and “Not Certified” require an explanation in the “Explain Equivalent Qualifications for RC Consideration” section. See the next two questions for additional information.
When does a program need to request the Committee’s review of the qualifications of a faculty member who is not certified in maternal-fetal medicine by ABOG or AOBOG? <i>[Program Requirement: 2.9.]</i>	Programs are expected to submit an approval request for: • a faculty member whose certification is from a country outside of the United States • a faculty member who is not an ABOG active candidate or an AOBOG-eligible candidate in maternal-fetal medicine • a faculty member with lapsed ABOG or AOBOG certification in maternal-fetal medicine A request is not needed for: • a faculty member who is an ABOG active candidate or an AOBOG-eligible candidate in maternal-fetal medicine. • a non-obstetrician/gynecologist faculty member who is board certified in their (sub)specialty.

How should a program request the Committee's consideration of the qualifications of a physician faculty member who does not have certification in gynecologic oncology by ABOG or AOBOG? <i>[Program Requirement: 2.9.]</i>	The program must submit a letter of support to the Review Committee signed by the program director and the designated institutional official (DIO). A CV for the faculty member must be attached. Email the letter to the Review Committee's Accreditation Administrator, contact information for whom can be found in the Obstetrics and Gynecology section of the ACGME website. If the Review Committee approves the individual, the program should note the approval in the ADS Faculty Roster's Specialty Certification section under "Explain Equivalent Qualifications for RC Consideration."
How many core faculty members are required? <i>[Program Requirements: 2.10.- 2.10.c.]</i>	In addition to the program director, each program must have at least one core physician faculty member. This individual may also serve as the required core faculty member who is qualified and available to be a research mentor. In this case, in addition to the program director, there must at least one core faculty member in the program. Alternatively, the program may identify a different core faculty member, who may or may not be a physician, who is qualified and available to serve as a research mentor. In this case, in addition to the program director, there must be at least two core faculty members in the program.
Fellow Appointments	
How does a program initiate a complement increase request? <i>[Program Requirement: 3.3.]</i>	See "Requests for Changes in Resident/Fellow Complement" available on the Documents and Resources page of the Obstetrics and Gynecology section of the ACGME website.
What is the reasoning for requiring at least two fellows in the program? <i>[Program Requirement: 3.3.a.]</i>	The Committee believes peers enhance fellow learning and well-being. Two or more fellows also provide programs with greater flexibility in terms of fellow assignments which may allow fellows to take advantage of unique educational opportunities. The Committee understands that it will take newly accredited programs up to three years to meet this requirement. New programs will not receive a citation for non-compliance with this requirement. Established programs with only one fellow should provide an explanation in the Major Changes section in ADS during the Annual Update.
Educational Program	
Can the time fellows spend reading ultrasounds count towards the required three months of ultrasound experience? <i>[Program Requirement: 4.11.c.1.]</i>	Fellows must have at least three months experience dedicated to education on the performance of ultrasounds and image acquisition. Reading and interpretation of ultrasounds alone is insufficient. The three months of ultrasound education must be in blocks (e.g., month-long rotation) and/or dedicated longitudinal experiences (e.g., half-day clinic).

Does the block diagram need to include information about longitudinal experiences? <i>[Program Requirements: 4.11.c.- 4.11.c.2.]</i>	The Review Committee recognizes that many programs use longitudinal educational experiences for certain content areas (e.g., ultrasound, outpatient maternal-fetal medicine) based on what is in the best interest of fellow education in their setting. The block diagram provides the Review Committee with information about fellows' clinical experiences and as such, must include information about both block and longitudinal educational rotations. The information for longitudinal rotations may be provided within the individual blocks on the block diagram and/or in a note below. The information provided should specify where and when the education takes place and the total amount of time dedicated to the experience.
Must the program have elective rotations? <i>[Program Requirement: 4.11.]</i>	No, elective rotations are not required. The ACGME defines elective rotations as rotations where fellows can choose an educational experience among several options provided by the program. The Review Committee recognizes that programs will vary in their use of elective rotations based on what is in the best interest of fellow education in their setting.
Other	
Where can a program find information about a Common Program Requirement?	See Common Program Requirements Frequently Asked Questions .
Where can a program find information about accreditation site visits?	See the Site Visit section of the ACGME website..
Where can a program find information about the Case Log System?	Information about the Case Log System is available on the Documents and Resources page of the Obstetrics and Gynecology section of the ACGME website. Additional information is available in ADS (ADS > Case Log Tab > Reference Materials).