

Frequently Asked Questions: Clinical Biochemical Genetics

Review Committee for Medical Genetics and Genomics

ACGME

Question	Answer
Introduction	
Will post-doctoral fellows who have previously completed ACGME-accredited medical genetics and genomics, laboratory genetics and genomics, and/or medical biochemical genetics programs still be required to complete 24 months of training in clinical biochemical genetics? <i>[Program Requirement: 4.1.]</i>	Per the American Board of Medical Genetics and Genomics (ABMGG), post-doctoral fellows who have completed at least two years of an ACGME-accredited medical genetics and genomics or laboratory genetics and genomics program will be eligible to sit for the clinical biochemical genetics certifying examination after completing 12 months of a clinical biochemical genetics program. Post-doctoral fellows who have completed an ACGME-accredited medical biochemical genetics program may be eligible to sit for the clinical biochemical genetics certifying examination provided their medical genetics and genomics education was completed in an ACGME-accredited residency program. All fellows will have to submit verification of all accredited education and training to the ABMGG prior to sitting for the clinical biochemical certification examination. Programs choosing to exercise this option should contact the ABMGG prior to the start of training to determine a fellow's eligibility for certification.
Oversight	
Will the Review Committee accept clinical biochemical genetics programs at institutions that do not sponsor an ACGME-accredited program in medical genetics and genomics? <i>[Program Requirement: 1.2.a.]</i>	Yes. While it is ideal for clinical biochemical genetics programs to be sponsored by institutions that have ACGME-accredited medical genetics and genomics programs, the Review Committee understands there may be circumstances where this is not feasible. The Review Committee will accredit clinical biochemical genetics programs at institutions that do not sponsor ACGME-accredited medical genetics and genomics programs, as long as they can demonstrate substantial compliance with the Program Requirements.
What are the Review Committee's expectations for the availability of private sleep/rest facilities since post-doctoral fellows do not have overnight responsibilities or shifts of extended time periods?	The Review Committee expects that sleep/rest facilities be present within the Sponsoring Institution and be available if the post-doctoral fellow should become fatigued, but these facilities do not have to be located specifically within or adjacent to the laboratory facilities.

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<i>[Program Requirement: 1.8.b.]</i>	
Does the program director have to submit additions or deletions of participating sites providing required education experiences less than one month FTE in duration?	No, the program director is only required to submit additions or deletions of participating sites providing required educational experiences if those experiences are one month FTE or greater. Program directors can choose to submit sites with less than one month FTE, but it is not a requirement.
<i>[Program Requirement: 1.6.]</i>	
Does the Review Committee accept only Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) certification?	All laboratories affiliated with the program must be CLIA-certified. Programs may also hold College of American Pathologists (CAP) Laboratory Accreditation, which includes CLIA certification. The Review Committee considers CAP Laboratory Accreditation to be an aspiration goal for programs.
<i>[Program Requirement: 1.7.a.]</i>	
Personnel	
What other qualifications would the Review Committee judge as acceptable for program faculty members?	Appropriately qualified genetic counselors or laboratory technicians who serve in teaching roles would be acceptable program faculty members.
<i>[Program Requirement: 2.9.a.]</i>	
Does the program director count as one of the three required core faculty members?	Yes, the program director counts as a core faculty member and can count toward the requirement for three core faculty members.
<i>[Program Requirement: 2.11.b.]</i>	
Can the program director also be the program coordinator?	No. The program director and the program coordinator are two distinct roles, and cannot both be fulfilled by the same person. The program coordinator is intended to provide administrative support for the program director to allow the program director to target his/her educational efforts.
<i>[Program Requirement: 2.12.]</i>	
Post-Doctoral Fellow Appointments	
If a program accepts a fellow holding a PhD in a field related to genetics and the fellow intends to seek board certification through the ABMGG, are there any considerations that should be taken under advisement?	Programs must be aware that completing an ACGME-accredited post-doctoral fellowship program by itself may not be sufficient to meet the ABMGG eligibility requirements for certification. Programs must contact the ABMGG directly to determine an applicant or fellow's eligibility for certification.

Question	Answer
<i>[Program Requirements: 3.2.a.1. and 3.2.a.1.a.]</i>	Programs may, in rare situations, accept a fellow with a PhD in a field not related to genetics who has post-doctoral experience in genetics and genomics. Acceptance of such a fellow is at the program director's discretion, but again, the program must contact the ABMGG directly to determine the individual's eligibility for certification.
Educational Program	
What are the Review Committee's expectations regarding post-doctoral fellows demonstrating competence in respect and responsiveness to heterogeneous patient populations, as post-doctoral fellows do not frequently interact with patients? <i>[Program Requirement: 4.3.f.]</i>	The Review Committee understands that post-doctoral fellows will have limited opportunity to demonstrate competence in respect for heterogeneous patient populations, as they interact with patients so infrequently. The Committee recommends that faculty members and others evaluating post-doctoral fellows during interactions with patients focus on this area so that competence can be evaluated.
What are the Review Committee's expectations regarding post-doctoral fellows communicating with patients and families, as post-doctoral fellows do not frequently interact with patients? <i>[Program Requirements: 4.8., 4.8.a.- 4.8.b., and 4.8.g.]</i>	The Review Committee understands that post-doctoral fellows will have limited opportunity to communicate with patients and their families, as they interact with patients so infrequently. The Committee recommends that faculty members and others evaluating post-doctoral fellows during interactions with patients focus on this area so that competence can be evaluated, even during limited interactions.
What are the Review Committee's expectations for post-doctoral fellows' participation in patient case conferences? <i>[Program Requirement: 4.11.f.]</i>	The Review Committee expects that this requirement be fulfilled through post-doctoral fellow participation in patient case conferences, such as tumor boards or post-clinic conferences, and not in review of laboratory cases.
Will the Review Committee accept presentations made at the local level to fulfill the requirement for post-doctoral fellow scholarly activity?	Yes, the Review Committee accepts presentations made at the international, national, regional, or local level to fulfill the scholarly activity requirement.

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[Program Requirement: 4.14.a.]	
Evaluation	
Does the program director have to appoint a separate Clinical Competency Committee (CCC) and Program Evaluation Committee (PEC) for the clinical biochemical genetics program?	Each accredited program must have its own dedicated CCC and PEC, separate from the CCC and PEC for the medical genetics and genomics and/or laboratory genetics and genomics program(s), although it may be appropriate for the membership to overlap or be identical to that of another program. Faculty members can serve on more than one committee across programs.
[Program Requirements: 5.3. and 5.5.]	
How can small programs ensure that post-doctoral fellows' annual written evaluations of faculty members remain confidential?	Small programs can combine evaluations with larger programs (such as the medical genetics and genomics program, if available) or other learners rotating through the program and report aggregate results. The designated institutional official should collect all evaluations and report the results with the evaluator <i>de-identified</i> to the program director.
[Program Requirements: 5.4. and 5.4.b.]	
The Learning and Working Environment	
What are the Review Committee's expectations regarding post-doctoral fellow education and participation in patient safety events and adverse events?	The Review Committee understands that post-doctoral fellows do not participate in patient safety in the same way that many other graduate medical education programs' residents/fellows do. The Committee expects programs to focus education on patient safety around proper handling of biological samples and patient information, especially when working in interprofessional teams.
[Program Requirements: 6.1-6.2.]	
What are the Review Committee's expectations regarding post-doctoral fellow education and participating in quality improvement activities?	The Review Committee understands that post-doctoral fellows have infrequent interactions with patients, so the opportunities for quality improvement may be different from other graduate medical education programs' residents/fellows. Examples of quality improvement opportunities for post-doctoral fellows include improvement of lab processes and/or proper handling of biological samples.
[Program Requirements: 6.3.]	
How should programs handle transitions of care, since post-doctoral fellows do not frequently interact with patients?	The Review Committee understands that post-doctoral fellows have infrequent interactions with patients, however, fellows should still be given education in how to maximize effective communication and minimize errors during hand-offs of biological samples and patient information.
[Program Requirements: 6.19.- 6.19.b.]	
Other	

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How will the Review Committee interpret requirements that mention clinical care and patient care, since post-doctoral fellows do not participate in direct patient or clinical care?	In the context of post-doctoral laboratory training, the terms “clinical care” and “patient care” will be interpreted to represent clinical laboratory training.