

Joint Plastic Surgery-Hand Surgery (JPSHS) 5+1 Pathway Review Committee for Plastic Surgery

The Review Committee for Plastic Surgery will consider proposals from integrated plastic surgery programs for the joint plastic surgery-hand surgery (JPSHS) pathway. The JPSHS pathway is an accelerated track leading to American Board of Plastic Surgery (ABPS) certification in both plastic surgery and hand surgery. Completion of this pathway includes attainment of all requirements for both the plastic surgery residency and hand surgery fellowship at the same institution. Plastic surgery residents will be required to complete 72 months of education and training to be eligible for ABPS certification; however, the 12 months of hand surgery fellowship education and training is permitted to be counted for certification in both plastic surgery and hand surgery. The JPSHS pathway allows for flexibility in plastic surgery residency education and training to accelerate qualified individuals into hand surgery specialization. Individuals selected to participate in a JPSHS pathway must demonstrate completion of program requirements as outlined in the curricular requirements below.

The JPSHS pathway is designed to recognize unique plastic surgery residents who have the focus and determination to become hand surgeons, and who, in the collective judgment of the plastic surgery and hand surgery program directors, have demonstrated the required knowledge, skills, and judgment to complete their plastic surgery and hand surgery education and training within 72 months. JPSHS pathway candidates must be identified before completion of the PGY-4 in plastic surgery.

A JPSHS pathway must meet the following requirements:

Sponsoring Institution Requirements:

- Both the plastic surgery program and the hand surgery program participating in a JPSHS pathway should be sponsored by the same ACGME-accredited Sponsoring Institution.*
- The hand surgery fellowship must be accredited by the Review Committee for Plastic Surgery.

*A hand surgery program sponsored by an ACGME-accredited Sponsoring Institution that does not sponsor a plastic surgery program can offer a JPSHS pathway in combination with a single plastic surgery program, with consideration of the following:

- The primary clinical site of the plastic surgery program must be located in close geographic proximity to the primary clinical site of the hand surgery program.
- The participating hand surgery program and plastic surgery program wishing to combine to offer a JPSHS pathway must agree to offer the pathway for a minimum of five years; however, joint programs are not required to matriculate a resident annually.

- All sites outside of the primary clinical site participating in the JPSHS pathway must have a program letter of agreement with the plastic surgery program.

Plastic Surgery and Hand Surgery Program Accreditation Status Requirements:

Initial Application: Before applying for the JPSHS pathway, both the plastic surgery residency and the hand surgery fellowship must have held a status of Continued Accreditation for a minimum of five years.

New JPSHS Residents: Both the plastic surgery and the hand surgery programs must hold a status of Continued Accreditation for any resident to be approved for entry into a JPSHS pathway. Once a JPSHS pathway is approved, if either program is conferred the status of Continued Accreditation with Warning, Probationary Accreditation, or Withdrawal, no new candidates will be accepted into the pathway until both programs regain the status of Continued Accreditation. The Review Committee for Plastic Surgery will monitor Case Log and ACGME Resident/Fellow and Faculty Survey data of the plastic surgery and hand surgery programs together to ensure substantial compliance of the JPSHS pathway.

JPSHS Curricular Requirements:

Proposals for a JPSHS pathway must be approved by the Review Committee for Plastic Surgery and must meet the following criteria.

1. Didactic education and clinical training sufficient to meet the ACGME requirements of plastic surgery training, described in the ACGME Program Requirements for Graduate Medical Education in Plastic Surgery, requirements 4.4.a. and 4.5.a.-4.5.b.6. Prior to entry into the hand surgery fellowship, candidates must achieve all required minimums as outlined in the Defined Category Minimums for Plastic Surgery document, available on the Case Log Information section of the [Documents and Resources](#) page on the Plastic Surgery section of the ACGME website.
2. Didactic education and clinical training sufficient to meet the ACGME requirements of hand surgery training, described in section 4 of the ACGME Program Requirements for Graduate Medical Education in Hand Surgery. Hand surgery case minimums are outlined on the Defined Category Minimums for Hand Surgery document, available on the Case Log Information section of the [Documents and Resources](#) page on the Plastic Surgery section of the ACGME website.
3. During the final year of the JPSHS candidate's plastic surgery education and training, the JPSHS candidate must serve as the chief resident in plastic surgery rotations. The chief resident is directly responsible for overseeing all patients on the service and reporting directly to the responsible attending physician(s).
4. The hand surgery fellowship portion of the JPSHS pathway must be at an ACGME-accredited fellowship with sufficient approved positions to accommodate both the JPSHS candidate and traditional fellowship positions. The hand surgery fellowship will be expected to request a temporary complement increase for any year it matriculates a resident in the JPSHS pathway.

5. At each program, only one resident per year may be enrolled in the JPSHS pathway.

Approved programs should demonstrate substantial compliance in meeting the minimum case requirements for both the plastic surgery and hand surgery programs.

Requirements for Submission of a JPSHS Application

1. Separate letters of support from both the plastic surgery and hand surgery program directors. These letters should document available resources to provide all residents and fellows with a sufficient breadth and balance of operative experience in the essential content areas.
2. A letter of support from the Sponsoring Institution's designated institutional official (DIO).
3. An outline of the proposed curriculum and how the requirements for both the integrated plastic surgery residency and the hand surgery fellowship will be met.
4. Verification that both programs' ABPS pass rates on the oral and written examinations meet or exceed those specified in section 5.6. of the ACGME Common Program Requirements.
5. A description of the process to be used for candidate selection.
6. A copy of the proposed block diagram for the plastic surgery education demonstrating how program requirements will be met.
7. Operative data demonstrating that the program is providing sufficient operative experience in the essential content areas for all current residents in the plastic surgery program during the academic year in which the initial proposal is made.
8. A copy of the ACGME Accreditation Data System (ADS) Hand Surgery Fellowship Graduate Minimums report (HSMR) and the individual Experience by Role Case Log report for the preceding three years (if available).
9. A copy of the ADS Integrated Plastic Surgery Residency Graduate Minimums report (PSMR) and the individual Experience by Role Case Log report for the preceding three years (if available).

Requirements for New Candidates

Once a program has been approved for a JPSHS pathway, it does not need to resubmit for pathway approval. However, programs must apply for each candidate that wishes to participate in the pathway. Entry into the JPSHS pathway must be approved by the Review Committee and acknowledged by the ABPS.

All residents interested in the JPSHS pathway must meet the following requirements:

1. Only residents in an integrated plastic surgery residency program are eligible to

participate.

2. The candidate must be in good standing in the plastic surgery residency, and the Clinical Competency Committee must determine that the individual is eligible (e.g., on track to meet plastic surgery case minimums and didactic requirements) to participate in the JPSHS pathway.
3. The program should ensure that the JPSHS candidate has documented appropriate progress on the Plastic Surgery Milestones.
4. Candidates will not be eligible for ABPS certification until they have successfully completed 72 months of education and training which includes both plastic surgery and hand surgery.
5. The ABPS must verify that the resident has completed all didactic and clinical requirements of the plastic surgery residency prior to entry into the hand surgery fellowship. Without approval from the ABPS, the resident will be ineligible to start the hand surgery fellowship.

Additional requirements are outlined in Table 1 below.

Annual Requirements

Annually, the program must submit the following information for all individuals participating in the JPSHS pathway:

1. A copy of the block diagram for the plastic surgery and hand surgery education and training.
2. Confirmation that the rotations have not changed since the last proposal for the JPSHS pathway; if changes have occurred, the program must describe the changes and demonstrate compliance with curricular program requirements.
3. Copies of the Plastic Surgery Operative Logs (Experience by Role) for each year that a resident is participating in the JPSHS pathway.
4. Copies of the Hand Surgery Operative Logs (Experience by Role) for each year that the program has a resident participating in the JPSHS pathway.
5. Attestation that the plastic surgery and hand surgery program directors have reviewed the resident-level operative logs of both programs on a quarterly basis to ensure that the JPSHS resident is not negatively impacting either program.

Additional Information

Residents interested in the JPSHS pathway should ideally be chosen early in their PGY-4 to allow them to interview for a standard hand surgery fellowship should they not be selected for the JPSHS pathway at their home program.

After receiving approval by the Review Committee for Plastic Surgery of a resident selected for the JPSHS pathway, programs should inform the ABPS of resident enrollment in the pathway.

Table 1: Requirements for JPSHS Pathway and Candidate Approval

Required for Requests for a New JPSHS Pathway	Required for Requests for New Candidates in an APPROVED JPSHS Pathway	Document(s)
x	x	A letter of support each from the plastic surgery and hand surgery program directors that documents resources to provide all residents and fellows with a sufficient breadth and balance of operative experience in the essential content areas
x	x	A letter of support from the Sponsoring Institution's DIO
x	x	Verification that both programs' ABPS pass rates on the Qualifying and Certifying Examinations meet or exceed those specified in the ACGME Program Requirements
x		Outline of the proposed curriculum demonstrating how the requirements for the plastic surgery residency will be met
x		The block diagram for the plastic surgery education and training
x		A description of the process to be used for candidate selection
	x	Confirmation that the rotations have not changed since the last proposal for the JPSHS pathway; if changes have occurred, describe the changes and demonstrate compliance with curricular program requirements
x		Operative data demonstrating that the program is providing sufficient operative experience in the essential content areas for all current residents in the plastic surgery program during the academic year in which the initial proposal is made
x		The three most recent years of graduate Case Log data for the hand surgery fellowship and for the plastic surgery residency

Submission

Submit completed proposals, or any questions related to the JPSHS pathway, to Associate Executive Director Kelsey Sill, MHA: ksill@acgme.org.