



## Policy on Equivalent Credit for Training in Other Specialties

### BACKGROUND

The American Board of Emergency Medicine (ABEM) has adopted a policy as to how equivalent credit can be granted to incoming Emergency Medicine (EM) residents who have completed previous postgraduate Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME)–accredited training in specialties other than EM.

### POLICY

ABEM may approve equivalent credit for prior ACGME-accredited postgraduate training prospective EM residents completed in other specialties under the following criteria. Equivalent credit is determined based on the types of rotations completed and similar experience obtained, not simply the amount of time a resident has completed in another training program. Training in specialty board–approved combined residency programs may also be reviewed for equivalent credit.

Training completed in ACGME-International (ACGME-I)–approved residency programs cannot be used to fulfill any residency training requirements for ABEM certification.

Training completed in an ACGME-accredited program that was applied toward American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) primary certification may be considered for credit, up to a maximum of 12 months regardless of amount of primary training, toward ABEM eligibility requirements when applicable. This training is not permitted to be applied toward subspecialty certification.

Training completed in an ACGME-accredited fellowship that was applied toward ABMS subspecialty certification may be considered for credit toward eligibility requirements for ABEM certification in Emergency Medicine. However, Emergency Medicine training may not be used to fulfill eligibility requirements for any subspecialty certification.

The form, ABEM Request for Credit for Training in Other Specialties, must be typed. Handwritten requests will not be accepted.

A copy of the block diagram for both the original (or sending) program that shows the resident’s rotation schedule to-date is required. A block diagram for the accepting program that shows a typical rotation schedule for any enrolled EM resident along with a proposed schedule with any modifications for the transferring resident is also required.

1. An EM residency program director may request, on behalf of an individual resident, consideration to receive equivalent credit for ACGME-accredited postgraduate, non-EM training completed prior to entering an ACGME-accredited EM residency program. The total number of weeks or months a resident must complete in an ACGME-accredited EM residency program is reduced by the number of weeks or months of equivalent credit approved.
  - No equivalent credit is allowed for less than 12 months of prior training.
  - A maximum of six months of equivalent credit may be granted for 12 to less than 24 months of prior ACGME-accredited, non-EM residency training; of the six months, one month can be for EM rotations. (See #3 below for the criteria the EM rotations must fulfill.)

- A maximum of 12 months of equivalent credit may be granted for 24 months or more of prior ACGME-accredited, non-EM residency training; of the 12 months, up to two months can be for EM rotations. (See #3 below for the criteria the EM rotations must fulfill.)
2. Acceptable training for which equivalent credit can be granted is defined as follows:
    - Training must be in an ACGME-accredited, non-EM residency program or a combined program approved by both respective specialty boards.
    - The individual resident must have successfully completed the non-EM residency training for which equivalent credit is being requested without repeating a postgraduate level.
    - All ACGME-accredited, non-EM training or approved combined training must have occurred within the 48-month period prior to entry into the ACGME-accredited EM program.
  3. Rotations for which equivalent credit can be approved must include the following two criteria:
    - Rotations completed that are equivalent in content and experience to rotations required in the EM residency program.
    - EM rotations must have been completed at a location with an ACGME-accredited EM residency program.
  4. Requirements for submitting the request for equivalent credit are as follows:
    - The EM residency program director must submit the request for equivalent credit to ABEM, and ABEM must approve the request, prior to the resident's enrollment in the EM program.
    - The request must refer to a specific resident.
    - The request must identify the specific rotations the resident completed that are equal and/or equivalent in content and experience to specific rotations required in the EM residency program.
    - A copy of documentation verifying the resident's successful completion of training in another specialty signed by the previous program director.
    - A copy of the EM program's standard block diagram of rotations by month (or block) by academic level must be included with the request. This block diagram should highlight which months (or blocks) the EM program is counting toward EM requirements.
    - A proposed block diagram of rotations by month (or block) by academic level for the transferring resident in the accepting EM program.
    - ABEM approval of equivalent credit for a resident applies only to the program submitting the request and is not transferable.
    - Credit for prior training may only be applied once and is not transferable. The same credit cannot be used if the resident transfers again to a new (now third or more) residency program.
    - ABEM approval is specific to the anticipated start date as listed in the program director's request for equivalent credit. If the resident does not begin the program as planned, a new request for equivalent credit must be submitted to ABEM for review.

## PROCEDURES

The maximum amount of equivalent credit that can be awarded a transferring resident is 12 months, regardless of whether it is granted under this policy, the Policy on Resident Transfer, or both.

## EXCEPTION

None

Last reviewed February 2024