



USF Health - Morsani College of Medicine
GME POLICY & PROCEDURE

Title: USF Non-Standard and Non-Accredited Programs Policy	GME-205
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Scope: Applies to all University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine (“USF MCOM”) residents and fellows (“Residents”) in non-accredited/non-standard programs as appointed through the House Officer Contract issued by the USF MCOM Graduate Medical Education Office (“GME Office”).

Background: Within USF MCOM, there are training programs that are not accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (“ACGME”). These programs support the interests of USF MCOM and affiliated hospitals, the patient care needs of the region, and other USF MCOM graduate medical education (“GME”) programs. The goal of this policy is to establish an organizational structure that promotes the educational quality of USF MCOM training programs, complies with regulatory requirements, ensures that new programs do not unduly interfere with existing accredited programs, and ensures a similar level of institutional support for Residents in these programs as is available for other GME Residents.

Support and oversight for non-ACGME-accredited programs by USF MCOM is further necessitated by the policies of several national organizations:

- I. **ACGME Requirement - Other Learners:** The presence of other learners and other care providers, including, but not limited to, Residents from other programs, subspecialty fellows, and advanced practice providers, must enrich the appointed Residents’ education. The program must report circumstances when the presence of other learners has interfered with the Residents’ education to the Designated Institution Official (“DIO”) and Graduate Medical Education Committee (“GMEC”) in accordance with Common Program Requirement I.E.
- II. **National Resident Matching Program (NRMP) Required Oversight:** The NRMP Specialties Matching Service includes specialties (a) accredited by the ACGME or another entity deemed acceptable to NRMP, (b) affiliated with an ACGME-accredited program in the primary discipline, or (c) that lead to certification or endorsement and oversight by a board recognized by the American Board of Medical Specialties.

Definition: A non-standard clinical training program:

- a. is an advanced clinical subspecialty discipline for which there is no specialty board certification (ABMS) available or accreditation is through a separate organization other than ACGME,
- b. is an independent subspecialty fellowship with a defined duration of training and operates in direct association with an ACGME-accredited core program in good standing and,
- c. provides further specialized training and education and must have defined goals and objectives.

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Policy: Clinical training programs within USF MCOM that provide postgraduate medical education must be accredited by the ACGME or be approved by the USF GMEC.

Established Programs: Non-standard training programs currently offered at USF must maintain: An updated program description, scope of practice, overall educational goals for the program and block schedule. Programs must be established with a defined length of training and cannot be changed without approval of GMEC unless extension is due to remediation per GME-218 or approved leave of absence. Programs must also ensure they maintain a sufficient number of faculty with competence to instruct and supervise Residents.

Program Leadership: Non-standard programs must have a designated program director, who will report directly to either the program director of the core ACGME-accredited residency or fellowship program or to the Department Chair or Division Head.

New Programs: In order to establish a new postgraduate medical education training program within USF MCOM, GMEC approval must be obtained. The program director must submit the request through GMEC using the GME New Program Request form. The GMEC can: recommend, recommend with changes, or not approve the application. The GMEC will not approve requests submitted for new non-standard programs for which board eligibility mandates training in an ACGME program. These programs must seek accreditation by the ACGME.

Governance: The USF MCOM GMEC is responsible for overseeing the Sponsoring Institution and its ACGME-accredited programs to ensure a high-quality learning and working environment within each of its programs and participating sites. The committee is responsible for approving non-standard programs and reviewing the following components to establish the educational quality of the training program: Program description, faculty roster, overall educational goals for the program, scope of practice, program length, and block schedule.

USF MCOM GMEC must review and approve any changes in training complement, changes in program length or structure, site changes, or appointment of new Program Directors prior to making the change(s).

Non-standard programs must adhere to specific requirements tracked by the GME office, including but not limited to:

Program and Resident Compliance: Non-Standard programs and Residents will follow all applicable USF Health GME policies, regulations and procedures. [[See Link](#)]

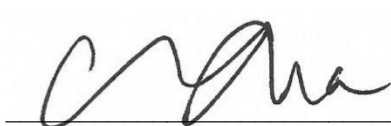
J-1 Applicants: USF MCOM does not have recognition as an institution that can sponsor J-1s in Non-Standard program, therefore Non-standard programs are not permitted to recruit J-1 applicants.

Certificates of Completion: Non-Standard programs must submit graduate information to the GME office to ensure certificates of completion are issued to those Residents. Certificates of completion from the USF MCOM GME Office will only be issued to GMEC approved non-standard programs whose Residents are appointed through the House Officer Contract issued by the USF MCOM GME Office.

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Recruitment/Selection/Appointment:

- a) Programs must comply with GME 200 Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, and Appointment Policy. This policy requires programs to provide applicants with information relevant to board eligibility and licensure.
- b) Programs must inform applicants of accreditation status (i.e., that the program is not accredited) at the time of recruitment.
- c) Non-standard program fellows must be appointed with a contract following the institutional pay scale for Residents in ACGME programs unless Federal law or visa requirements dictate a pay differential from the institutional pay scale.
- d) Residents cannot repeat training in the same non-standard program.



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Date of Origin	Effective	Revision/GMEC Approval:	Originally Policy #
2/2020	6/2025	2/2020; 6/2021; 12/2022; 6/2025	N/A