



University Hospital of Brooklyn

College of Medicine

School of Graduate Studies

College of Nursing

School of Health Related Professions

School of Public Health

Office of Graduate Medical Education

SUBJECT: GME PROMOTION POLICY

Originating Department. Graduate Medical Education Date Approved by GMEC: 7/16/2025

Original Date: 6/15/2011 Revisions: 9/16/2015, 12/11/2019, 7/16/2025

In accordance with section 4.4, 4.4a, 4.4b, and 4.5 of the ACGME Institutional Requirements, the Sponsoring Institution must have a policy that requires each of its ACGME accredited programs to determine the criteria for promotion and/or renewal of a resident/fellow's appointment.

Purpose

To establish a policy for all GME Programs regarding promotion of trainees and advancement in training level leading to completion of the Program. This Policy supplements the following currently existing policies: Policy on Appointment and Reappointment, Evaluation Policy and Procedure, Policy on Academic Performance and Due Process, Policy on Completion of USMLE or COMLEX Examinations, and Policy on House Staff Post Graduate Year Levels.

Scope:

This Policy applies to all Programs and residents participating in such Programs.

Definitions:

Due Process: an individual's right to be adequately notified of any charges or proceedings involving him or her, and the opportunity to be meaningfully heard with respect to those proceedings.

GME Program or Program refers to a structured educational experience in graduate medical education designed to conform to the ACGME Program Requirements of a particular specialty/subspecialty.

Promotion: Progressing within a GME program to a more advanced training level or toward completion of the program generally requiring demonstration of increasing competency, and ability to function with progressive independence and assumption of greater responsibility.

Resident, or House Staff or House Officer: refers to all physicians enrolled in a SUNY Downstate Health Science University ACGME accredited programs of graduate medical education, including fellows.

Policy

Through the course of training, a resident is expected acquire increasing competence in the discipline in which he/she is training. Promotion to the next level of training (e.g. R-1 to R-2) is based on the achievement of Program specific competencies, performance parameters and specialty-specific Milestones. These can include specific

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cognitive, clinical, technical, interpersonal and communication skills, professional behaviors and ethical conduct as determined by the Program and/or SUNY Downstate as level appropriate completion of curricular objectives, mastery of clinical materials and/or technical skills, satisfaction of additional applicable ACGME Program competencies, and completion of USMLE or COMLEX Examinations. Residents who satisfactorily meet all requirements for promotion in each year as well as expected specialty Milestones benchmarks are expected to be advanced to each successive level until all Program requirements for graduation from the Program have been completed. Promotion to successively higher levels within a training program shall be based on the decision of the Program Director who may be guided and informed by the Program faculty and who shall receive input from the Clinical Competency Committee.

Programs must communicate to residents' expectations of performance/achievement required for advancement. This can be done through appropriate Program and/or rotation specific written curricula (paper or electronic) which are reviewed with residents at the beginning of their training and/or in each individual year and/or at the start of each rotation or major assignment.

Non-renewal of appointment or non-promotion: In instances when a resident will not be promoted to the next level of training including graduation from the Program or if a resident's agreement will not be renewed, the Program must provide the resident with a written notice of intent no later than four months prior to the end of the resident's current agreement. If the primary reason(s) for the nonrenewal or non-promotion occurs within the four months prior to the end of the current agreement, the Program must provide the resident with as much written notice of the intent not to renew or not to promote as circumstances will reasonably allow, prior to the end of the agreement. The DIO and GME Office must be informed of any decision to non-renew or non-promote a resident.

Extensions. If a resident's performance has been significantly deficient, and additional training time is required, the Program Director may elect to authorize an extension of the resident's contract. No resident may remain at the same level of training for more than 24 months, exclusive of leave. Funding for any such extension cannot be assured by SUNY Downstate, and it is the Department's responsibility to make a good faith effort to acquire funding from available sources such as affiliated participating hospitals, grants, practice plan, etc. for any such extension. An extension of training does not ensure subsequent promotion or successful completion of a training program.

The training level within a residency or fellowship program may not necessarily correspond to the trainees post graduate year (PGY) level.

Notice of Due Process. Residents are entitled to and must be informed of their right to receive due process and implement the grievance and appeals procedures in the Academic Performance or other applicable Due Process Policy if they receive written notice either of (i) the intent not to renew their agreement(s), or (ii) of intent to not promote or not graduate the resident.

The Graduate Medical Education Committee (GMEC) reviews overall promotional activity and any adverse actions taken by Programs as part of the program annual report process.

This Policy does not apply to individuals appointed in a training program training track or to a program expected or intended to be of limited duration (e.g. one-year preliminary positions).

This Policy is supplemental and not meant to not reduce or nullify any conditions set forth in other GME policies of SUNY Downstate

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Signed by:

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Chairman of the GMEC

Lisa J. Dremer

DIO

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