

Frequently Asked Questions: 2025-2026 ACGME Accreditation Data System (ADS) Annual Update

An overview of the ADS Annual Update for domestic programs is available on the [Annual Update section](#) of the ADS Help Center. Email questions about the 2025-2026 ADS Annual Update to accreditation@acgme.org or ADS@acgme.org.

Note: The ADS Annual Update for ACGME International-accredited programs may have some differences and international programs should email acgme-i@acgme-i.org for more information.

Questions About 2025 Changes

1. **Why did the ACGME reduce the amount of required data reporting for faculty scholarly activity?**

Answer: Faculty scholarly activity continues to be an important ACGME requirement and the change in data collection should not be interpreted as a reduction in the value of this requirement. The ACGME heard from the graduate medical education (GME) community that collection and reporting of detailed faculty scholarly activity data for individual faculty members added significant burden to programs. Faculty scholarly activity represents one of the surrogates for the program's effectiveness in the creation of an environment of inquiry that advances residents'/fellows' scholarly approach to patient care. To that end, the ACGME will continue to focus on other ways to measure a program's effectiveness in creating this environment, such as resident/fellow scholarly activity, the annual Resident/Fellow and Faculty Surveys, site visits, etc. Two program-level questions have been added to the ADS Annual Update for programs with Initial Accreditation and Continued Accreditation. Programs are encouraged to thoughtfully answer these questions from the perspective of scholarly activity for their entire faculty group over the past academic year. Suggestions from the community are welcome on how to more efficiently collect and report faculty scholarly activity while also attending to burden reduction; submit suggestions to accreditation@acgme.org.

2. **Can a program still download previous years' scholarly activity data for faculty members?**

Answer: Yes, programs can access previous faculty scholarly activity data from the "Reports" tab and the "Downloads" section of ADS.

3. **What is the rationale for removing questions from this year's Annual Update?**

Answer: As communicated by ACGME President and Chief Executive Officer Debra F. Weinstein, MD during her address at the 2025 ACGME Annual Educational Conference, the ACGME is committed to reducing burden associated with the accreditation process for Sponsoring Institutions and programs. The ACGME will continue to make changes in the accreditation processes to support Sponsoring Institutions and programs while maintaining high standards for resident and fellow education in support of health care and population health. Several questions were removed in an effort to support burden

reduction for Sponsoring Institutions and programs. The ACGME welcomes feedback from the community; email comments to accreditation@acgme.org.

General Program ADS Rollover and Annual Update Questions

1. What is the ADS rollover?

Answer: The ADS academic year rollover is a term used by the ACGME to describe the transition of ADS from one academic year to the following academic year (e.g., the transition from 2024-2025 to 2025-2026). An announcement is posted on the ADS login page that specifies the date of the rollover (this year: June 28, 2025). When the rollover occurs, a program's ADS data for the current academic year is archived, the screens in ADS will reflect the new academic year, and all residents/fellows are given an "unconfirmed" status.

2. When do programs need to complete the ADS Annual Update?

Answer: Sponsoring Institutions, Case Log specialties, and non-Case Log specialties are assigned different timeframes to complete their Annual Update. A detailed list of all specialties/subspecialties and their ADS Annual Update window is available in the ACGME's [ADS Help Center](#). Programs' Annual Update must be submitted by the program director and approved by the designated institutional official (DIO) before the end date of the applicable window.

3. Are there parts of the ADS Annual Update that can be completed before the window opens?

Answer: No. All areas of ADS must be updated after the rollover date for the new academic year (this year: June 28, 2025). The ADS Annual Update window dates provide a period during which programs must update ADS.

4. Should program applications be updated during the ADS Annual Update?

Answer: Applications for program accreditation submitted prior to the academic year rollover (this year: June 28, 2025) for programs that have not achieved Initial Accreditation will not be asked to complete the ADS Annual Update. Applications in progress and not yet submitted at the time of the academic year rollover will be prompted to update responses to the application questions *only if* changes have been made as part of the ADS Annual Update to any questions within an application. Once a program achieves Initial Accreditation, it will be scheduled for the next ADS Annual Update. If a program's accreditation is withheld, it may proceed with re-application.

5. If a program just achieved Initial Accreditation, does it need to complete the ADS Annual Update?

Answer: Yes. The ADS Annual Update is assigned by the ACGME based on program accreditation status as of July 1 of a given academic year and programs with Initial Accreditation as of that date will be assigned to complete the ADS Annual Update.

6. Do programs with no enrolled residents/fellows have to complete the ADS Annual Update?

Answer: Yes. All programs with Initial Accreditation or Continued Accreditation must review and complete all items under “Annual Update” on the “Overview” tab. This is because the ADS Annual Update contains important information about the program’s structure and resources. Note that programs with a status of Initial Accreditation do NOT need to update documents under “Updated Application” on the “Overview” tab.

7. Are the ADS Annual Update questions different for programs with Continued Accreditation and Continued Accreditation without Outcomes?

Answer: No. The same ADS Annual Update questions apply to programs with Continued Accreditation, Continued Accreditation without Outcomes, Continued Accreditation with Warning, and Probation status.

8. If a program is closing on June 30 of a given academic year, will it be assigned to the next ADS Annual Update?

Answer: The ADS Annual Update is assigned by the ACGME based on program accreditation status as of July 1 of a given academic year. If a program has submitted a Voluntary Withdrawal request in ADS and the request has been approved by the specialty Review Committee, or if the program had its accreditation withdrawn by a Review Committee effective June 30 of an academic year, it will not be asked to complete the next ADS Annual Update. If the withdrawal effective date has passed and the program is still receiving reminders to complete the Annual Update, email ADS@acgme.org for assistance.

9. If a program director is also the DIO, can the duplicate approval be removed for the ADS Annual Update?

Answer: No. The DIO must oversee the Sponsoring Institution’s and each program’s Annual Update submission even when the same individual serves as a program director and DIO.

10. What happens if the DIO does not approve the ADS Annual Update or if edits requested by the DIO are not made by the program director?

Answer: The ADS Annual Update is considered complete only after it has been submitted by the program director and approved by the DIO. The ACGME’s ADS team will make several attempts to follow up with programs with an incomplete ADS Annual Update by the due date. Information concerning ADS Annual Update non-completion may be provided to the Institutional Review Committee and specialty Review Committees for use in accreditation processes. As part of their oversight responsibilities, the DIO and/or Graduate Medical Education Committee (GMEC) should follow up with programs that do not respond to feedback regarding completion of the ADS Annual Update.

Osteopathic Recognition ADS Annual Update Questions

1. How can a program tell if it has Osteopathic Recognition?

Answer: Osteopathic Recognition is a designation conferred by the ACGME’s Osteopathic Recognition Committee for ACGME-accredited programs that demonstrate, through a formal application process, the commitment to teaching and assessing

Osteopathic Principles and Practice (OPP) at the GME level. More information is available on the [Osteopathic Recognition](#) page of the ACGME website. If a program has Osteopathic Recognition, a recognition status will appear in ADS on the “Program” tab, in the same box as the program’s current accreditation status.

2. Are programs with Osteopathic Recognition required to update recognition-related information during the ADS Annual Update?

Answer: Yes. Programs with Osteopathic Recognition are responsible for reviewing and updating recognition-related information provided in ADS during the program’s assigned ADS Annual Update window to ensure it is up to date and accurate. The “ADS Annual Update Guide for Osteopathic Recognition,” available in the “Announcements” section of the [Osteopathic Recognition](#) page of the ACGME website, specifies the information that programs with Osteopathic Recognition must review and update during their assigned ADS Annual Update window.

Common Program Requirements Questions

1. Should programs proactively address areas of concern in the Resident/Fellow or Faculty Survey in the ADS Annual Update?

Answer: Yes. The ACGME Surveys are important sources of data used to determine substantial compliance with the Program Requirements. Programs are strongly encouraged to address both Resident/Fellow and Faculty Survey areas of concern in the “Major Changes and Other Updates” section of ADS during the ADS Annual Update, as this response will be considered by the Review or Recognition Committee in the accreditation or recognition process.

2. Does the number of trainees in a Non-Standard Training program or the residents/fellows in a combined program count in calculating the program director’s and program coordinator’s required dedicated time?

Answer: No. The full-time equivalent (FTE) percentage entered should reflect *only* the time the program director and program coordinator dedicate to administration of the specific ACGME-accredited program referenced in the ADS Annual Update.

3. Is the core faculty dedicated time question intended to provide information specific to individual faculty members or an aggregate amount of dedicated time for the total core faculty member group?

Answer: The question in the ADS Annual Update regarding core faculty members’ dedicated time asks for the aggregate faculty FTE support. For example, a program that is compliant with a requirement to have at least nine core faculty members, each with 10 percent FTE support, would report “90” in this field.

Resident/Fellow Roster Questions

1. Should residents/fellows starting in mid-to-late June be entered into ADS prior to the ADS rollover?

Answer: No. Programs should only add new residents/fellows after the annual ADS rollover has occurred on June 28, 2025.

2. Should a program “graduate” residents/fellows prior to or after the rollover?

Answer: Programs should update their Resident/Fellow Roster **after** the rollover on June 28, 2025. As part of this process, residents/fellows are automatically assigned an “Unconfirmed” status. Programs can confirm or edit this information after the rollover date or during the ADS Annual Update. An action is required by the program to advance a resident’s/fellow’s PGY level and update each resident’s/fellow’s status accordingly.

Faculty Roster, Board Certification, and Scholarly Activity Questions

1. Should new faculty members be added to ADS as they join the program or only during the ADS Annual Update? Similarly, when should a faculty member who leaves a program be removed from the Roster?

Answer: Programs can add or remove faculty members to ADS at any time of year as they join or leave the program, during the ADS Annual Update window, or in preparation for an accreditation or recognition site visit. If a large number of faculty members are being added or removed from ADS during a single academic year, programs are encouraged to enter a brief explanation in the “Major Changes and Other Updates” section during the ADS Annual Update.

2. If a graduating resident/fellow will be joining as a member of the program faculty, when should such an individual be added to the Faculty Roster in ADS, and will the record auto-populate with that individual’s name/National Program Identifier (NPI) number?

Answer: Physicians should not be added to the Faculty Roster while they are still listed as a resident or fellow in ADS. After the rollover (this year: June 28, 2025), programs must review and confirm their Resident/Fellow Roster, and specifically the residents’/fellows’ PGY level or program completion status. Once this step is complete, programs can add an individual who has graduated as a faculty member on the Faculty Roster. Alternatively, if a resident is transitioning to a faculty role during a time outside of the traditional June-July transition, the resident status should be updated to reflect completion of the program on the appropriate date, prior to adding them as a faculty member. When entering faculty members, programs will be prompted to search for individuals using their first name, last name, and email address or NPI number. Programs will be able to select an existing profile to use when entering such information.

3. When should a new program update the Faculty Roster if changes occurred since the application submission?

Answer: Programs may update their Faculty Roster at any time, although they are not required to make updates until they achieve Initial Accreditation. These changes will not be reflected in the application if it has already been submitted, because the data included in an application is static.

4. Will programs need to confirm the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) and American Osteopathic Association (AOA) certification data for physician faculty members?

Answer: The ABMS and AOA certification data as displayed in ADS is sourced directly from these two organizations' databases. Programs are expected to review faculty members' profile data, including the board certification data provided by the ABMS or AOA. If the certification information is correct, no further action is needed by the program. If certification information is missing or incorrect, data should be provided by the program in the manual entry section of a faculty member's profile.

5. What should a program do if a physician faculty member's board certification information is not populating in the faculty profile?

Answer: The program should verify the accuracy of information in each faculty member's profile. Faculty members' names in ADS should be the same as the name associated with their NPI number. If this information has been corrected but board certification information is still missing after 24 hours of the update, then the faculty member should contact the certifying board to ensure the physician profile information is accurate and certification information is shareable. If a match is still not identified, the program can use the manual entry option available to provide the certification information for that faculty member.

6. What should programs do about faculty members exempt from board certification, faculty members who are eligible for board certification but not yet certified, faculty members in subspecialties where there is no board certification, etc.?

Answer: The ACGME expects programs to manually provide information on other types of certifications outside ABMS and AOA, faculty members who are board-eligible but not yet certified, faculty members who are not certified by any board, etc. If that information was previously entered in ADS, it will continue to display on the faculty member's profile and in the program's Faculty Roster even after the rollover date. If a faculty member's profile included a manual entry describing that individual's future planned certification, and that individual has now achieved board certification and the information is automatically populating in the ABMS or AOA section of their profile, the program should remove the manual entry.

7. Will certification information populate when/if a program adds new faculty members?

Answer: Yes; for new faculty members, the ABMS and AOA data will be populated in their faculty profiles within 24 hours if a match is identified. One of the key data points used to match a faculty member against the ABMS and AOA datasets is the NPI number, so programs must ensure the NPI number for new faculty members is provided and is correct.

8. How should programs enter non-physician faculty members' certification?

Answer: A manual entry option is available and should be used to enter any certifications for non-physician faculty members.

Site Visit Questions

1. If a program's accreditation or recognition site visit is scheduled for mid-August but its ADS Annual Update is due on September 20, can the program be part of the

first update period so that its ADS Annual Update is completed before the site visit?

Answer: No; the documents and responses required for the ADS Annual Update and preparation for an accreditation or recognition site visit are similar but not identical. Programs are required to update ADS and complete their document uploads 14 days prior to an accreditation or recognition site visit. Instructions on what needs to be updated in ADS prior to the accreditation or recognition site visit are provided in the Site Visit Announcement Letter, in the “Updating ADS” section. For information related to site visits, review these [additional FAQs](#).

Institutional Annual Update Questions

- 1. If a Sponsoring Institution has a citation regarding documents that were reviewed at a site visit, can these new documents be uploaded into ADS?**

Answer: The Sponsoring Institution is not required to upload new Institutional Review documents but is able to do so at any time. Documents that can be uploaded through the “Institutional Review Uploads” tab include the organizational charts indicating the position of the DIO and the GMEC, the institutional statement of commitment, the GMEC membership roster, the most recent 12 months of GMEC minutes, the two most recent Annual Institutional Review (AIR) executive summaries, the special review protocol, and the special review reports for the previous two years.

- 2. Where should the Business Associate Agreement (BAA) be uploaded?**

Answer: The Sponsoring Institution can upload a new BAA on the “Institution” tab in ADS by clicking the “Edit Info” button next to the “Summary” heading. To use a fillable form, visit the [Commitment to Data Privacy and HIPAA Compliance Documents](#) page on the Legal section of the ACGME website. The form can be updated at any time by the Sponsoring Institution, as needed.

- 3. Why was the question regarding the Sponsoring Institution’s action plans arising from the AIR removed?**

Answer: The response to this question is also provided by Sponsoring Institutions in the AIR executive summaries and was removed to eliminate duplication of work.