

ACGME Requirements Review and Comment Form



Title of Requirements	Addiction Psychiatry
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Organizations submitting comments should indicate whether the comments represent a consensus opinion of its membership or whether they are a compilation of individual comments.

Select [X] only one	
Organization (consensus opinion of membership)	X
Organization (compilation of individual comments)	
Review Committee	
Designated Institutional Official	
Program Director in the Specialty	
Resident/Fellow	
Other (specify):	

Name	Kevin Sevarino, MD, PhD and Shelly F. Greenfield, MD, MPH
Title	President and Immediate Past-President
Organization	American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry (AAAP)

As part of the ongoing effort to encourage the participation of the graduate medical education community in the process of revising requirements, the ACGME may publish some or all of the comments it receives on the ACGME website. By submitting your comments, the ACGME will consider your consent granted. If you or your organization does not consent to the publication of any comments, please indicate such below.

The ACGME welcomes comments, including support, concerns, or other feedback, regarding the proposed requirements. For focused revisions, only submit comments on those requirements being revised. Comments must be submitted electronically and must reference the requirement(s) by both line number and requirement number. Add rows as necessary.

	Line Number(s)	Requirement Number	Comment(s)/Rationale
1		II.B.4.c)	<p>The ACGME requirements for initiating and maintaining Addiction Psychiatry fellowships were established more than two decades ago. These requirements necessitate that the fellowship has a program director and one additional faculty member who are board certified in that specialty. We have become aware that this requirement is creating a major barrier to establishing new Addiction Psychiatry fellowship training programs especially outside of major urban centers where two board certified addiction psychiatrists are not available. Given the recognized shortage of board-certified addiction psychiatry specialists nationwide, this circumstance is not surprising. It is important to note that in many of these instances there may be other faculty members who are clinically experienced in treating individuals with substance use disorders, but these faculty may not have obtained board certification.</p> <p>In the community, among persons with substance use disorders (SUDs), more than 40% also meet criteria for another psychiatric disorder. Among treatment seeking individuals, the proportion of individuals with SUDs who</p>

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			<p>have a co-occurring psychiatric disorder is even greater than the community prevalence. The subspecialty field of Addiction Psychiatry is committed to training psychiatrists who specialize in treating substance use disorders including those with co-occurring other psychiatric disorders.</p> <p>In an effort to assist in the expansion of new Addiction Psychiatry fellowship programs, we would like to request that ACGME consider a modification of this requirement for the initiation of new Addiction Psychiatry fellowship programs applying for initial accreditation in areas where only one Addiction Psychiatry boarded faculty member (e.g., the proposed program director) is available. In this instance we would like to request that a new fellowship program on its initial application be able to request a temporary waiver of the two Addiction Psychiatry board certified faculty members for a period of up to five years, if the program can demonstrate that in addition to the proposed Program Director who is board-certified in Addiction Psychiatry, that the program would have one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A board-certified Addiction Psychiatrist affiliated with another program who is willing and able to provide supervision, mentorship, teaching of didactics either on-site or via teleconferencing • A second faculty member board certified in Addiction Medicine • A second faculty member who is a board-certified psychiatrist with 10 or more years of treating patients with substance use disorders but is not board certified in Addiction Psychiatry <p>We would suggest that having this waiver in place for the first five years would enable new programs to become established in areas where there is a major dearth of addiction psychiatrists. These programs would have a five year grace period to train, recruit and retain new junior addiction psychiatrists who have passed their boards in Addiction Psychiatry and become a member of the faculty.</p> <p>We believe this modification would enable new programs to become established in areas of the country that have great need to grow this capacity.</p>
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General Comments: