

## Idea to Program Requirement

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A revision to the program requirements includes an addition, deletion, or a change. Only changes to the specialty and subspecialty requirements may be done by the Anesthesiology RC. Every ten years, the ACGME requires the RC to review the specialty requirements and consider a revision. Changes to the Common Program Requirements are initiated by the ACGME and involve a multispecialty committee with representation from the Board of the ACGME and the chairs of the various RCs.

There are two types of revisions: major revisions, which reflect significant changes in specialty policy or practice, and minor revisions, which tend to focus on word choice or organizational restructuring. A minor revision does not involve additional resources to the program and does not have an impact to the other residencies. A major revision often involves the need for a program to obtain additional resources to implement the change and/or has an impact on other residencies.

If a specialty group or individual would like the RC to consider a change to the specialty program requirements, the first step in the process is to contact the Executive Director or the Chair of the RC with the idea, outlining the proposed change. The ED and Chair discuss and bring the specific proposal to an RC meeting for discussion and a vote. If the RC is in support of the change, the impact of the change is gauged and the procedure moves forward either as a major or minor revision.

For minor changes, the change and its specific location within the program requirements is submitted to the Department of Accreditation and Standards. If this group also feels that the change is indeed minor, it is submitted to the Committee of Requirements, which will either approve or deny the change at one of its meetings. This committee meets at the same time of the Board of Directors for the ACGME and will submit the recommendation for the change to the consent agenda for the board meeting.

For major changes, a subcommittee is formed by the ACGME and RC to investigate the impact of the change. This subcommittee will generate recommendations for the RC to consider. The RC will vote on the change and that change, the subcommittee recommendations, and the RC vote will be submitted to the Department of Accreditation and Standards. This group will generate questions regarding the clarity and intent of the proposed changes that must be addressed by the ED and Chair of the RC. This process is iterative and may involve several rounds. Once the concerns have been addressed, the proposed major revisions will be released to the community for public comment. The community receives 45 days to comment. Once the comments have been received and organized, the ED and Chair of the RC must develop responses to the concerns raised by the community. This too is an iterative process. After responding to the concerns, the final program revisions are sent to the Committee of Requirements, which will vote upon the proposed revisions. If the committee accepts, the proposed change is sent to the ACGME Board for final approval.