III. Structure of the Residency Program

The residency program is conducted under the requirements established by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) from which the Residency Review Committee for Surgery (RRC) has direct responsibility to formulate policies that organize and conduct the general surgery residency program education. (A copy of the ACGME’s requirements for residency education and training in general surgery is included as an addendum to this manual. Please read this document and become familiar with its contents, Addendum IV.)

The RRC is charged with the responsibility of accrediting residency programs. General surgery residents graduating from an accredited program are, however, certified by a separate organization, the American Board of Surgery. Upon successful application to the Board at the completion of training, the applicant may sit for Part I (the qualifying examination), a written test encompassing the basic and clinical sciences of the surgical practice. After passing Part I, the applicant is allowed/qualified to take part or to participate in Part II (the certifying examination), an oral test of the surgeons ability to exercise sound judgment in various clinical situations.


The Department has global fundamental educational principles and expectations that apply to all residents. These are consistent with all residency programs throughout the United States that are approved through the RRC. These principles should help prepare a resident for Board Certification. However, simply passing the Boards is not sufficient and our goal is a minimum score in the 40th percentile on the in-training exam or a resident will run the risk of being placed on observational status.