

**TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER**  
**Paul L. Foster School of Medicine**  
**GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION**  
**Standard Policy and/or Procedure**

**TITLE:** Eligibility and Selection Criteria

**APPROVED:** 7/1/2009

**REVISED:** 8/7/2006; 4/17/2009

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** 8/7/2006; 7/1/2009

**PURPOSE:** To set forth criteria for the eligibility and selection of prospective trainees.

**POLICY STATEMENT:** Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center – El Paso Paul L. Foster School of Medicine shall assure that all selected trainees for graduate medical education are eligible for training.

1. **Eligibility:** Applicants with any one of the following qualifications are eligible for appointment of graduate medical training programs at PLF-SOM:
  - a. A graduate of a medical school in the United States and Canada that is accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME);
  - b. A graduate of colleges of osteopathic medicine in the United States accredited by the American Osteopathic Association (AOA);
  - c. A graduate of a medical school outside the United States and Canada who meet one of the following qualifications:
    - 1) Has received a currently valid certificate from the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates or,
    - 2) Has a full and unrestricted license to practice medicine in a United States licensing jurisdiction in which he/she will train or,
    - 3) Has completed a Fifth Pathway program provided by an LCME accredited medical school.

An applicant to any residency or fellowship program must be subjected to a Criminal Background Check (HSC OP 10.20) prior to training. Any individual listed by a federal agency as excluded, suspended or otherwise ineligible for participation in federal programs are ineligible for residency or fellowship.

Non-citizens must have permanent resident status or a J-1 visa for graduate medical education training programs sponsored by the School of Medicine.

2. **Selection:** Graduate medical education programs must select appointees, from among eligible applicants, on the basis of each applicant's preparedness, ability, aptitude, academic credentials, communication skills, and person qualities such as motivation and integrity. However, programs must not discriminate with regard to sex, race, age, religion, color, national origin, disability, or any other applicable legally protected status.

Most first year residency positions (PGY-1) should be offered through the National Residency Matching Program or another national matching program. Programs that consider applicants who are medical students at the time of consideration must do so through a national matching program. When programs do not fill through the MATCH, off-MATCH residents may subsequently be appointed to unfilled

positions as long as they meet institutional standards. Pre-match offers to J-1 Visa holders is not allowed per GMEC policy

A training program's selection committee shall rank a candidate on the basis of the group's assessment of the individual's potential contributions in that particular specialty of medicine. Such judgments shall be based on the applicant's academic performance, the assessment of his/her abilities as reflected by letters of recommendation and personal qualities evaluated during the interview process conducted by faculty and resident representatives in addition to qualities previously noted.

An applicant who is seeking to transfer from another graduate medical education program shall be subject to additional requirements. Per ACGME requirements, the program director of the applicant's current program must provide written verification of the individual's previous educational experiences and a statement regarding the performance of the applicant.

In addition to the aforementioned guidelines, the Texas Medical Board mandates a physician-in-training permit for all trainees entering Texas graduate medical education programs. A selected applicant shall not be allowed to enroll in his/her program until he/she has been issued a permit or a Texas medical license.

Prior to accepting an applicant for residency, the Program Director shall verify that the applicant has passed USMLE , Step 1 and Step 2 CK and CS or COMLEX, Step 1 and Step 2 or NBOME, Step 1 and Step 2, as applicable. Passage of licensing examinations must be within the number of attempts indicated by the Texas Medical Board (TMB) for Texas licensure.