

**UNC School of Medicine
General Surgery Residency
Policy on Satisfactory Completion of Residency
September 2010**

Rationale:

The Program must routinely state to licensure and other certifying and accrediting agencies whether or not a given resident satisfactorily completed one or more years of residency education. This Program has not previously defined “satisfactory completion” or “one year” for this purpose.

To date, the Residency Review Committee of Surgery (RRC) and the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) have remained silent in defining these terms.

The American Board of Surgery (“Board”) is also silent on the question of “satisfactory completion” except with respect to admissibility to the certification process wherein the Board states that one, “Must have demonstrated to the satisfaction of the authorities of their graduate educational program in Surgery, to their peers and to the Board, that one has attained the level of qualifications in Surgery required by the Board”. The Board does, however, describe the requirements for “one year” as follows: “No fewer than 48 weeks of full-time surgical experience in each residency year. For documented medical problems or maternity leave, the ABS will accept forty-six (46) weeks of surgical training in one of the first three years and 46 weeks of training during one of the last two years, for a total of 142 weeks in the first three years and 94 weeks in the last two years. Unused vacation or leave time cannot be applied to reduce the amount of full-time surgical experience required per year without written permission from the ABS.” American Board of Surgery, Inc., 2008-2009, *Booklet of Information*.

While individuals with fewer than five years of general surgery residency are not admissible to the Board certification process, in the absence of prior definition by this Program, by the RRC or the ACGME, this Program will adopt the definition of “one year” of residency as put forth by the American Board of Surgery.

Policy:

- 1) “One year” of residency in this Program shall consist of forty-eight (48) weeks of full-time surgical experience. For documented medical problems, maternity leave, or paternity leave, the Program will accept forty six (46) weeks of full-time surgical experience as comprising “one year” of residency.
- 2) Forty-six (46) weeks of training will be accepted in one of the first three years and one of the last two years of training.
- 3) In order to receive credit for each of the first three years of general surgery residency, an individual must during that time accrue a total of one hundred forty-two (142) weeks of full-time surgical experience.

- 4) To receive credit for each of the penultimate and ultimate (typically the fourth and fifth) years of residency, one must during that time accrue a total of ninety-four (94) weeks of full-time surgical residency experience.
- 5) All vacation and leave time taken during residency must be accounted for in the American Board of Surgery application for certification.
- 6) Have completed Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support, Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS), Fundamentals of Laparoscopic Surgery (FLS)
- 7) Have acquired a **minimum of 25 cases** in surgical critical care patient management, with a minimum of one in each of the seven categories.
- 8) Have been the operating surgeon for a minimum of **750 operative procedures** in five years and as surgeon for a minimum of **150 operative procedures** in the chief resident year.
- 9) "Satisfactory completion" of one year of residency will be ascribed when a resident:
 - a. Meets the definition of "one year" (above), *and*
 - b. Is not on probation for any reason or has satisfactorily remediated all conditions associated with probationary status, *and*
 - c. Has met the goals and objectives for all service rotations.
- 10) Although the University of North Carolina Office of Graduate Medical Education Policy on "Serious Illness, Major Disability and Parental Leave" stipulates that the "resident may take leave intermittently or work on a reduced schedule", *less than full time participation* in the training program will not be credited to the resident unless prior approval for such action is obtained by the ABS and granted by the Program Director.
- 11) This policy is effective immediately.

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Program Director

Approved by the Department Education Advisory Committee ___/___/___