

## **Research Rotations during Plastic Surgery Training**

For research rotations during training, **the Board will allow a total of 12 weeks of research during a six-year program and allow a total of 6 weeks of research during a three-year program.** These research weeks can be considered as a part of the required 48 weeks of training per training year. **All training requirements must be completed for a 48-week full time residency training year.**

## **International Rotations during Plastic Surgery Training**

For clinical international rotations during training, the Board will allow a total of 12 weeks of international rotations during a six year Integrated Plastic Surgery Residency; 6 weeks during a three year Independent Plastic Surgery Residency; and 4 weeks during a craniofacial or hand surgery fellowship.

International rotations must be approved by the Board, the Plastic Surgery Residency Review Committee (RRC) and the Institution DIO. The request for approval for the international rotation must be received in the Board Office at least 90 days before the start of the rotation. Failure to meet this deadline may result in the rotation not being accepted as part of the 48 weeks of clinical experience required per year.

The Board has worked with the Plastic Surgery RRC to establish criteria for international rotations that insure the educational component of the rotation and the safety of the resident. Interested residents are referred to the Plastic Surgery section of the ACGME website (<http://www.acgme.org>) for details.

## **TRANSFERS INTO INTEGRATED PROGRAMS**

Residents **may not** exchange accredited years of training between the two different models (i.e., independent and integrated) without prior approval by the American Board of Plastic Surgery, Inc. Program Directors must request any anticipated transfers in writing and obtain prior approval by the Board well in advance of the proposed change in programs.

It is imperative that residents hold positions of increasing responsibility when obtaining training in more than one institution, and one full year of experience must be at the senior level. The full training year for the program must be completed. The Board **does not** grant credit for a partial year of training.

All resident transfers into a vacant position in an Integrated Program must be approved by the Program Director and The American Board of Plastic Surgery, Inc. **Only transfers** at or below the **PGY IV** level can be considered. The transferring resident must assume the responsibility to request approval from ABPS, and must provide the following to the Board before approval will be granted:

1. Letter from the current program director indicating the exact dates of training and month to month rotations that will be completed at the time of the transfer;
2. Letter from the receiving Integrated plastic surgery program director indicating the acceptance of the transferring resident, what level of training the resident will start at and how any deficiencies in the required rotations will be completed; and
3. Completed Resident Registration and Evaluation of Training Form, Processing Fee as listed in the Fee Schedule and photocopy of medical school diploma.

The three steps above must be completed for ALL transfers. **Transfers into Integrated programs will only be allowed as follows:**

1. **Beginning Plastic Surgery Year, PSY I or PSY II:** residents may transfer after completion of PGY I year in a surgical residency with the status of ACGME accreditation (not pre-accredited). Approved surgical residencies include: General Surgery Vascular Surgery, Neurological Surgery, Orthopaedic Surgery, Otolaryngology, Thoracic Surgery or Urology or another ACGME accredited integrated plastic surgery residency program.
2. **Beginning Plastic Surgery Year, PSY III:** residents may transfer only if they have completed at least two progressive years of an approved surgical residency as listed in #1 above or another ACGME accredited integrated plastic surgery residency program.
3. **Beginning Plastic Surgery Year, PSY IV:** residents may transfer **only** if they have completed full training sufficient to qualify for certification in one of the ACGME accredited surgical residencies listed in #1 above. Transfers from one Integrated program to another are not allowed after the PSY III year.
4. **No transfers will be accepted after the beginning of plastic surgery PSY IV because the last three years of Integrated Program training must be completed in the same institution.**

### **ACCREDITED RESIDENCY PROGRAMS**

Information concerning accredited training programs may be found in the *Graduate Medical Education Directory* published by the American Medical Association ([www.ama-assn.org](http://www.ama-assn.org)) under the aegis of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). The website of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education ([www.acgme.org](http://www.acgme.org)) also lists approved plastic surgery training programs.

The Board does not review or approve residencies. The ACGME Residency Review Committee for Plastic Surgery (RRC-PS) inspects and makes recommendations for or against accreditation of residency training programs in plastic surgery. For information, contact the RRC-PS at (312) 755-5000; [www.acgme.org](http://www.acgme.org).

The RRC-PS consists of nine members, three representatives from

each of the following: The American Board of Plastic Surgery, Inc., the American College of Surgeons, and the American Medical Association.

The Directors of the Board cannot be responsible for the placement of residents for training. The Board does *not* maintain a list of available openings in programs. Residents seeking accredited training in plastic surgery should correspond directly with the program directors of those training programs in which they are interested.

Most plastic surgery residencies participate in either the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP), [www.nrmp.org](http://www.nrmp.org) or the Plastic Surgery Residency and Fellowship Matching Services. For information, contact the San Francisco (Plastic Surgery) Match Program, 655 Beach St., San Francisco, California 94109; (415) 447-0350; [www.sfmatch.org](http://www.sfmatch.org).

### **RESIDENTS WHO COMPLETE PLASTIC SURGERY TRAINING IN CANADA**

The ABPS Resident Registration and Evaluation of Training Form must be completed and it is the responsibility of residents in plastic surgery to ensure this training is approved by the Board.

This requirement pertains to all those applying for admission to The American Board of Plastic Surgery, Inc. examination process.

To meet the requirements for admissibility to the Examination and Certification process of the American Board of Plastic Surgery, the following provisos and documentation must be completed:

1. The plastic surgery resident must be a graduate of a medical school in the United States or Canada approved by the Liaison Committee for Medical Education (LCME).
2. The plastic surgeon must have entered plastic surgery residency through the **Canadian Residency Match Program (CaRMS)**; or must have transferred into a PSY-I position in a Canadian Independent program after completing five years of an ACGME approved residency in general surgery in the United States.
3. The residency program must be accredited by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC).
4. The plastic surgeon must hold a current, valid, full and unrestricted state, province or international medical license.
5. The plastic surgeon must have successfully obtained certification in plastic surgery by the RCPSC.

The policy above will apply to those residents obtaining certification by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC) in 2007 or later.

Candidates certified by the RCPSC prior to 2007 must be reviewed by the Board's Credentials and Requirements Committee. Additionally, they must complete the Professional Standing Requirements of the Board's Maintenance of Certification in Plastic Surgery (**APC-PS**<sup>®</sup>) Program prior to being approved.