



DoD INSTRUCTION 6015.24

DoD GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

Originating Component: Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness

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Approved by: Virginia S. Penrod, Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness

Purpose: In accordance with the authority in DoD Directive 5124.02 and pursuant to Section 749 of Public Law 114-328, this issuance establishes policy and assigns responsibilities to conduct and provide oversight of the DoD Graduate Medical Education (GME) Program.

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SECTION 1: GENERAL ISSUANCE INFORMATION

1.1. APPLICABILITY.

This issuance applies to OSD, the Military Departments (MILDEPS), the Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Joint Staff, the Combatant Commands, the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Defense, the Defense Agencies, the DoD Field Activities, and all other organizational entities within the DoD.

1.2. POLICY.

It is DoD policy that:

- a. The MILDEPS maintain the medical capabilities to support wartime and related operational missions. The MILDEPS develop specialty-trained physicians ready to support wartime and related operational missions and force generation.
- b. GME programs are prioritized, reviewed, restructured, and realigned, as needed, to meet the operational medical force requirements of the MILDEPS.
- c. The DoD GME Program provides military physicians with didactic and clinical education to prepare them for independent practice in a medical specialty or subspecialty. These programs must meet the standards of the appropriate civilian accrediting body.
- d. MILDEPS have primary responsibility for the identification of operational medical force requirements and the organizing of military medical personnel. MILDEPS determine the number and medical specialty of military personnel to be trained in GME and reflect their operational medical force requirements in annual GME training plans. GME programs are conducted jointly and in military medical treatment facilities to the maximum extent practicable.
- e. A Military Health System-wide oversight process, promulgated through Defense Health Agency (DHA) procedural instructions, ensures that GME programs prioritize the medical capabilities to support wartime and related operational missions of the MILDEPS and, additionally, support the medical readiness of the Armed Forces.

SECTION 2: RESPONSIBILITIES

2.1. UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR PERSONNEL AND READINESS (USD(P&R)).

The USD(P&R) has overall responsibility for the DoD GME Program.

2.2. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR HEALTH AFFAIRS (ASD(HA)).

Under the authority, direction, and control of the USD(P&R), the ASD(HA):

- a. Provides oversight for the DoD GME Program.
- b. Provides appropriate policy recommendations to the USD(P&R).

2.3. DIRECTOR, DHA.

Under the authority, direction, and control of the USD(P&R), through the ASD(HA), the Director, DHA:

- a. Is responsible for policy, procedures, and direction of the DoD GME Program and GME in military medical treatment facilities.
- b. Issues procedural guidance for the implementation of this issuance.
- c. Establishes procedures to ensure that GME programs are conducted jointly, to the extent practical, and focused on operational medical force requirements.
- d. Coordinates with the Secretaries of the MILDEPS to assign Service members to GME programs, including faculty, support staff, and trainees necessary to operate GME programs.
- e. Provides sufficient resources, including personnel to augment the personnel provided by the MILDEPS, as required, to maintain operational readiness and GME program accreditation or certification.
- f. Establishes policies and procedures to enter into Federal and non-Federal partnerships and agreements to fulfill civilian accrediting body and GME operational requirements.
- g. In conjunction with the Secretaries of the MILDEPS establishes and conducts the Joint GME Selection Board annually.
- h. Conducts a review of GME programs at least once every 2 years and provides a report to the ASD(HA), through the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Services Policy and Oversight, with an assessment of the DoD GME program and recommendations for improvement.

2.4. PRESIDENT, UNIFORMED SERVICES UNIVERSITY OF THE HEALTH SCIENCES.

Under the authority, direction, and control of the ASD(HA), the President, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences:

- a. Provides advice and recommendations concerning the DoD GME Program to the ASD(HA), in coordination with the Services' GME representatives.
- b. Develops and implements overall procedures for operation and oversight of Uniformed Services University support to GME programs, including, but not limited to, strengthening the teaching skills of GME program directors and faculty throughout the Military Health System.

2.5. SECRETARIES OF THE MILDEPS.

The Secretaries of the MILDEPS, in coordination with the Director, DHA, and through the MILDEPS' Surgeons General:

- a. Annually determine the required GME positions by type and number required to meet operational medical force requirements.
- b. For approved GME programs, select trainees and assignments based on the annual training plan, listing the number and types of each specialty of physician to be trained, as determined by operational medical force requirements.
- c. Provide Service members, to include GME faculty, clinical support staff, and trainees, through assignment of medical personnel with duty at GME medical treatment facilities.
- d. Provide necessary resources to the Director, DHA, to support MILDEP-specific operational readiness training requirements beyond GME accreditation requirements when these requirements are managed by DHA.
- e. Comply with procedural instructions published by the Director, DHA.

SECTION 3: SELECTION PROCESS

- 3.1. MILDEPS will submit their GME training plans, which will be based on the operational medical force requirements of the MILDEPS and listed by specialty and number, for the Fiscal Year Defense Program annually to DHA by 1 July each year.
- 3.2. DHA will consolidate these inputs from the MILDEPs, and, in conjunction with the MILDEPS' Surgeons General, will size the DoD GME program to assure adequate training opportunities either within the Military Health System or with civilian GME programs.
- 3.3. During the annual Joint GME Selection Board, the MILDEPs' Surgeons General will select applicants for GME positions in accordance with the annual training plan.
- 3.4. Alterations in the numbers and mix of specialties is permitted during the board meeting, but the MILDEPS and the USD(P&R) will be briefed on any changes to the numbers and mix of specialties made by the board.

GLOSSARY

G.1. ACRONYMS.

ACRONYM	MEANING
ASD(HA)	Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs
DHA	Defense Health Agency
GME	graduate medical education
MILDEPS	Military Departments
USD(P&R)	Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness

G.2. DEFINITIONS.

Unless otherwise noted, these terms and their definitions are for the purpose of this issuance.

TERM	DEFINITION
annual training plan	A plan made annually by each Military Department listing the number and types of each specialty of physician to be trained.
GME	Didactic and clinical education in a medical specialty or subspecialty that follows the completion of undergraduate medical education and prepares physicians for the independent practice of medicine in that specialty or subspecialty. This education is also referred to as residency or fellowship education. Completion of this education typically results in board eligibility and certification by the national accrediting body for that specialty or subspecialty. This definition also includes other physician graduate professional education in clinical settings that incur an active duty service obligation.
graduate professional education	Defined in DoD Instruction 6000.13
operational medical force requirements	The required military medical personnel identified by the MILDEPS for their wartime and related operational missions. This includes physician requirements by specialty, and contributes to the military medical personnel requirements necessary to meet the operational medical force readiness requirements.

TERM

DEFINITION

trainee

The physician participating as a student in the GME program, often referred to as an “intern,” “resident,” or “fellow,” or defined by the year of participation in the program (e.g., “Postgraduate Year 1”).

REFERENCES

- DoD Directive 5124.02, “Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness,” June 23, 2008
- DoD Instruction 6000.13, “Accession and Retention Policies, Programs, and Incentives for Military Health Professions Officers (HPOS),” December 30, 2015, as amended
- Public Law 114-328, Section 749, “The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017,” December 23, 2016