

STIPEND LEVEL

Trainees in all ACGME accredited programs at the same level of training must be paid in accordance with the stipends set by the Graduate Medical Education Committee (GMEC). Trainees may not be paid less than or in excess of the stipend set by the GMEC for their level of training.

PGY Level Credit:

Credit will be given to individuals who complete an ACGME-accredited combined residency.

Credit is not given for a chief resident year (when it is done as an extra year of training after completing the core program). Training for doing a research year in a lab does not count towards your PGY level unless it is part of your mandated ACGME training that all residents complete during their required years.

A trainee entering a training program after completing a portion or all the board requirements in another specialty may receive credit for only the portion of training which is acceptable to board requirements for certification in that specialty which he/she is entering. This credit will impact their stipend level. Currently, the University of Tennessee Health Science Center Office of Graduate Medical Education recognizes PGY1 – PGY7 stipend levels.

Chief Residents:

Programs at their own expense may provide an extra stipend to residents or fellows designated as chiefs for their additional duties. A job description and account number must be provided to GME in advance. Extra year chief residents, which is a non-standard year, may be paid up to the approved non-standard rate.

Program Responsibility:

Programs must receive and retain verification in writing from the appropriate specialty board of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) for credit approved from another ACGME accredited specialty for prior training.

Additional Training:

It is recognized that there are trainees accepted into a training program that have completed additional GME training above and beyond what is required for the training program they are entering. There may also be trainees accepted into a program that have spent time in non-GME activities (employment, graduate school, etc.). While these accomplishments are noteworthy, only training that is required to start in the training program will affect the stipend level. The Assistant Dean of GME will have the final determination of PGY levels.

Examples:

- Residents completing a Med/Peds or other 4-year combined residency program will enter the pediatric or medicine fellowship program as a PGY 5 instead of a PGY 4
- Internal Medicine or Pediatric extra year chief residents will be a PGY 4 for their chief year

and will remain a PGY 4 when they enter a pediatric or medicine fellowship.

- Surgery residents who enter a one- or two-year research fellowship will advance to the next PGY level, generally to the PGY 3 level, and remain a 3 for all years of research and for the year the resident returns to the accredited training year.
- A resident who has completed all three years of Internal Medicine and has now decided to do a Pathology residency will start over at the PGY 1 level and not at a PGY 4 level. If the American Board of Pathology grants a year of credit for this trainee, then he or she will start at the PGY 2 level.

Non-Standard Programs:

Non-standard programs run through the GME Office must pay at least the ACGME salary for all trainees. These fellowships may pay above the rate to a GMEC preapproved maximum rate with documentation from the department or a hospital that they will reimburse at the designated rate.