



Probationary Accreditation Status

Accreditation and ACGME Updates

Meharry Medical College School of Medicine, is committed to providing timely access to the most recent, accurate information. Please check back for ongoing updates. If you have further questions, you may please email ...

School of Medicine Probationary Status

On January 21st 2022, the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) notified Meharry Medical College, School of Medicine that its role as sponsor of our graduate medical education, was being placed on probationary accreditation status effective Jan 18th.

All residency and fellowship programs at Meharry Medical College, School of Medicine remain accredited and an ACGME follow-up site visit has already been scheduled for August 2022.

Probationary Status FAQs

Meharry Medical College takes this accreditation decision very seriously and we are moving forward with a corrective action plan to restore our accreditation status as quickly as possible. Our goal is not just to have the probation status lifted but to exceed the ACGME's standards.

What does “Probationary Accreditation status” mean?

Probationary accreditation status is a label conferred by the ACGME – our national graduate medical education regulatory body that provides accreditation to sponsoring residency and fellowship programs. Probation is a term used for programs and/or sponsoring institutions (SI) that do not demonstrate “substantial compliance” with the ACGME's published requirements.

SIs on probationary status remain accredited to sponsor all currently accredited residency and fellowship programs, but they may not apply for accreditation of new

programs. SIs on probationary accreditation status must share the probationary status information with current residents, fellows and applicants.

Why did the ACGME place Meharry Medical College, School of Medicine on probationary accreditation status?

The ACGME conducted a site visit on Jan. 14, 2022, in response to lower-than-national average scores on our annual resident surveys. At this time, we do not have the full report from the ACGME, which may take up to 60 days.

However, based on initial feedback from the ACGME during the Jan. 14 site visit, we anticipate corrective action plans will be required for administrative issues that were reviewed and discussed with the ACGME SI site visit team.

If I am applying for a residency program, what effect does accreditation status have on me or on the upcoming Match Day?

As an applicant or interviewee, this accreditation status will have no impact on your ability to match to our Program(s). The ACGME is very clear that this accreditation status will have no effect on our recruitment efforts and all interested candidates are urged to apply.

If I am a resident or fellow, will SI probationary status affect my license or my ability to graduate from a residency or fellowship program?

No. Our ACGME Sponsoring Institution and all of its residency and fellowship programs remain accredited with no impact on graduation or recruitment.

What steps are we taking to address the ACGME probationary status?

We have taken immediate actions to resolve the ACGME's concerns and will be undertaking further initiatives throughout the coming weeks and months.

Some of the steps we have already taken or plan to take include:

- Activating a Special Review Committee to lead our remediation strategy and quality improvement process that will include a cross-section of board members, faculty, staff, residents and fellows.
- Retaining an independent, national expert in ACGME accreditation to evaluate our operation, oversight and supervision of our graduate medical education programs and recommend improvements.

- Exercising more oversight of our residency and fellowship programs to identify and address areas for improvement through more frequent reviews by our Graduate Medical Education Committee.
- Increasing resources, including hiring additional staff, to further support our Graduate Medical Education office and our residency and fellowship programs.
- Promoting open communication efforts with residents and fellows through town halls and one-on-one discussions with institutional leadership team and or outside mediators brought in to help as seen fit.

**How long will Meharry Medical College, School of Medicine be on probation?
And what is the process to have continuing accreditation status restored?**

There is no set timeline for lifting the probation, but the ACGME has indicated that it will return for a follow-up review in August 2022.

We will embrace any and all opportunities for improvement identified by the ACGME, and we will be working hard not just to meet, but to exceed Sponsoring Institutional accreditation standards by the August visit and maintained thereafter.

If you have further questions, you may please send us your questions via email at gmestatus@mmc.edu