

Joint Surgery-Pediatric Surgery Program in Pediatric Surgery (JSPS) Review Committee for Surgery

The Review Committee for Surgery will consider proposals for the JSPS program, a pathway leading to certification in both general surgery and pediatric surgery. This pathway includes four years of general surgery and three years of pediatric surgery education and training to be completed at the same institution. The underlying concept is that 12 months of the pediatric surgery education will occur in either the PGY-5 or divided between the PGY-4 and PGY-5 (see below), while the resident is enrolled in the general surgery program, and will count toward general surgery certification requirements. The accredited length of the educational program for pediatric surgery remains 24 months.

The JSPS program allows enhancement of a fellow's pediatric surgical education but does not reduce the general surgery educational requirements. Sixty months of general surgery residency are required prior to American Board of Surgery (ABS) certification, and ACGME Program Requirements for Graduate Medical Education in General Surgery apply. The JSPS program candidate must be identified before completion of the PGY-3 in general surgery and must be listed on the general surgery program's Resident Roster for the 60 months of residency. All cases performed by the resident in the PGY-5 must be entered into the resident's general surgery case log.

The JSPS program is designed to recognize unique general surgery residents who have the focus and determination to become pediatric surgeons and who, in the collective judgment of the general surgery and pediatric surgery program directors, have demonstrated the required knowledge, skill, and judgment to be selected early into pediatric surgical subspecialized education and training.

Both the general surgery and pediatric surgery programs must be sponsored by the same ACGME-accredited Sponsoring Institution and hold a status of Continued Accreditation for any resident to be approved for entry into a JSPS program.

A pediatric surgery program sponsored by an ACGME-accredited Sponsoring Institution that does not sponsor a general surgery program can offer a JSPS program in combination with only one general surgery program, with consideration of the following:

- The primary clinical site of the general surgery program must be located in close geographic proximity to the primary clinical site of the pediatric surgery program.
- The combined participation of the pediatric surgery program and that general surgery program in offering a JSPS program must be ongoing.

Proposals for a JSPS program must be approved by the Review Committee for Surgery *before* implementation. A description of what must be included in a program proposal and how to submit an application follows.

Content Areas or Specialty Content Areas that Must Be Addressed in a JSPS Program

1. Essential content areas of general surgery, defined as the following:
 - Alimentary tract
 - Abdomen and its contents
 - Skin, soft tissues, and breast
 - Endocrine system
 - Head and neck surgery
 - Pediatric surgery
 - Surgical critical care
 - Surgical oncology
 - Trauma and non-operative trauma (burn experience that includes patient management may be counted toward non-operative trauma)
 - Vascular surgery
2. Secondary areas/rotations are:
 - Endoscopy
 - Otolaryngology – head and neck surgery
 - Plastic and reconstructive surgery
 - Thoracic surgery
3. Additional technical experience (these are separately evaluated by the Review Committee as defined categories, but generally involve one of the above noted content areas) includes:
 - Laparoscopy
 - Advanced laparoscopy
4. Other specialty areas that have previously been defined are:
 - Anesthesia
 - Gynecology
 - Neurological surgery
 - Orthopaedic surgery
 - Urology
 - Transplantation

Requirements for a JSPS Program

- No more than four months may be spent in pediatric surgery during the first 36 months of the surgery residency.
- During the 24 months of the PGY-4 and -5, 12 months must be spent as **chief resident in general surgery**. The chief resident is the most senior resident serving on a service during a rotation, is directly responsible for overseeing all patients on the service, and reports directly to the responsible attending physician.
 - The general surgery chief resident rotations must be in essential content areas *other than* pediatric surgery.
 - No more than six months of the 12-month general surgery chief resident experience may be in any single content area.
- A total of 12 months of pediatric surgery experience is required during the PGY-4 and -5.
- The PGY-6 and -7 must consist entirely of 24 months of pediatric surgery experience.

The 12 months of pediatric surgery education and training credited toward the surgery program requirements must be spent entirely in clinical rotations and cannot include research rotations. Similarly, non-operative rotations specific to pediatric surgery, such as in the neonatal intensive care unit or pediatric intensive care unit, will not be credited toward the certification requirements in general surgery. These would need to be reserved until the PGY-6-7 pediatric surgery education and training.

This table clarifies the documents that must be submitted along with proposals for new JSPS programs, as well as the materials required for established JSPS programs to request new candidates.

Requests for a New JSPS Program	Requests for New Candidates in an Approved JSPS Program	Documents
X	X	A letter of support each from the surgery and pediatric surgery program directors that documents resources to provide all residents and subspecialty fellows with a sufficient breadth and balance of operative experience in the essential content areas
X	X	A letter of support from the Sponsoring Institution's designated institutional official (DIO)
X	X	Verification that both programs' American Board of Surgery pass rates on the Qualifying and Certifying Examinations meet or exceed those specified in the ACGME Program Requirements
X		A description of the process used for candidate selection
X		The block diagram for the first four years of surgery education justifying a candidate's preparation for the JSPS program (no more than four months of the first 36 months of surgery residency can be spent exclusively on the pediatric surgery service)
	X	Confirmation that the rotations have not changed since the last proposal for the JSPS program; if changes have occurred, describe the changes and demonstrate compliance with curricular program requirements
X		Operative data demonstrating that the program is providing sufficient operative experience during the PGY-1-4 in the essential content areas for all current residents in the general surgery program during the academic year in which the initial proposal is made

Direct questions to Review Committee staff members (contact information is listed on the Surgery section of the ACGME website).

Submit completed proposals and requests for new candidates to Associate Executive Director Kelsey Sill, MHA at ksill@acgme.org.