

TOP 10

Reasons Why Programs Lose Accreditation

An educational resource brought to you by
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And. . . Recommendations on Ways to Avoid this Happening to You!

Reason 1: Ignore ACGME Requirements

Be sure you review your program's requirements as well as the institutional requirements regularly. Requirements change. When they do, they are posted on the ACGME website. Visit www.acgme.org on a regular basis.

Reason 2: Do Not Follow Directions

Read the directions more than once and be sure you understand how to respond before you begin to complete the Program Information Form (PIF). After completing the PIF, read the directions again to see if you have followed them completely.

Reason 3: Do Not Prepare an Accurate PIF

Take this responsibility very seriously – this is your opportunity to describe your program and its compliance with the ACGME requirements. The better you complete the PIF, the better your chances are for a successful accreditation. Be sure that your data is correct – check other sections of the PIF where the same information is requested and be sure it is the same in all places.

Reason 4: Delegate Your Responsibilities to Your Support Staff

DO enlist your support staff and faculty to assist you in completing the PIF. DO NOT expect them to write the document for you! Take this opportunity to renew your dedication to the program and use this time to take a close look at what you are doing well and what may need to be improved.

Reason 5: Do Not Have Adequate Faculty

Do review your program's requirements and be sure that you have adequate, qualified faculty to teach your residents and to assist you in providing a quality educational experience for your residents.

Reason 6: Do Not Participate in Scholarly Activity

Be sure that you, your faculty and residents participate in scholarly activity. Read the requirements for the ACGME's definition of "Scholarly Activity" and prepare a report to show how all of you are meeting the requirements. Be sure that all CVs are up to date and include publications.

Reason 7: Do Not Participate in Your Program Specialty Association

Do join your specialty's professional association – i.e. Association of Program Directors in (your program). Use this resource to learn how others are complying with the requirements and developing innovative ways to improve their programs. Share information and ask for assistance.

Reason 8: Do Not Recruit Quality Residents

One of your jobs as program director is to educate your residents and prepare them to take their specialty boards. Develop a protocol to select residents that will give you the best chance of graduating residents who are competent, compassionate and can pass their boards.

Reason 9: Do Not Participate Fully in the Internal Review of Your Program

Take this opportunity to share your strengths and weaknesses with the Internal Review Panel so that you can continue to improve your program and be prepared for your next ACGME site visit. If an Internal Review is done properly, you should know exactly what you need to do before your next site visit, while you still have time to make any necessary adjustments in order to have a successful accreditation status.

Reason 10: Fail to Be a Leader

Be a leader. Recruit and inspire dedicated and scholarly faculty. Attract and retain top residents. Teach by example. Commit to excellence in medical education - not just to accreditation compliance.