

*These training requirements apply to those who begin training on or after July 1, 2020.*

The following training experiences are required, recommended, or optional, as indicated:

## **TRANSITION TO DISCIPLINE (TTD)**

*The focus of this stage is to provide an introduction to surgical skills and establish a baseline for learning by assessing incoming knowledge and skills.*

### **Required training experiences (TTD stage):**

1. Clinical training experiences:
  - 1.1. General surgery inpatient service
  - 1.2. After-hours coverage for the general surgery service
  
2. Other training experiences:
  - 2.1. Orientation to the program, the institution and the university
  - 2.2. Formal instruction in:
    - 2.2.1. Writing prescriptions, including narcotics
    - 2.2.2. Clinical documentation
    - 2.2.3. Medical records and order entry systems

## **FOUNDATIONS OF DISCIPLINE (F)**

*The focus of this stage is development of the knowledge and skills required to assess and provide initial management for patients with simple general surgery problems and acute abdomens. During this stage, trainees will develop the fundamental technical skills of General Surgery, and provide risk optimization for patients in preparation for endoscopic procedures. Trainees at this stage will initiate or participate in scholarly activity.*

**Required training experiences (Foundations stage):**

1. Clinical training experiences:
  - 1.1. General Surgery
    - 1.1.1. Inpatient service, including elective and acute care admissions
    - 1.1.2. Consultation to the emergency department and inpatient services, including the intensive care unit
    - 1.1.3. Outpatient clinic
    - 1.1.4. Operative experience
    - 1.1.5. After-hours coverage
  - 1.2. Any gastrointestinal (GI) endoscopy service, such as general surgery, acute care service or gastroenterology
  - 1.3. Critical care service
  - 1.4. Service that provides initial trauma management, such as emergency medicine, general surgery, trauma team, orthopedic surgery, or plastic surgery
2. Other training experiences:
  - 2.1. Formal instruction in:
    - 2.1.1. The academic curriculum of General Surgery (see General Surgery Competencies)
    - 2.1.2. Basic laparoscopic skills
    - 2.1.3. Working in teams
    - 2.1.4. Critical appraisal of literature
    - 2.1.5. Evidence informed decision-making
    - 2.1.6. Effective teaching
    - 2.1.7. Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS)
    - 2.1.8. Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS)
  - 2.2. Participation in critical appraisal activities, such as journal club
  - 2.3. Simulation activities for educational enhancement
  - 2.4. In-training exams
  - 2.5. Initiation or participation in scholarly activity

**Recommended training experiences (Foundations stage):**

3. Clinical training experiences:
  - 3.1. At least two of the following:
    - 3.1.1. Pediatric Surgery
    - 3.1.2. Plastic Surgery
    - 3.1.3. Urology
    - 3.1.4. Vascular Surgery
4. Other training experiences:
  - 4.1. Formal instruction in
    - 4.1.1. Energy devices
    - 4.1.2. Endoscopic skills

**CORE OF DISCIPLINE (C)**

*The focus of this stage is inpatient care, including comprehensive peri-operative and operative care, follow-up care, and surgical consultation as the senior resident responsible for clinical decision-making. Trainees build on the skills and knowledge of Foundations to perform procedures relevant to general surgery including the surgical management of trauma, minimally invasive surgeries and endoscopy. In addition, residents complete a scholarly project, and teach and supervise junior learners.*

**Required training experiences (Core stage):**

1. Clinical training experiences:
  - 1.1. General Surgery in the breadth of the discipline, including acute, non-acute and trauma presentations involving the alimentary tract, liver and pancreas, breast, skin and soft tissues, abdominal wall, and thyroid/parathyroid, in diverse populations, including immunocompromised, pregnant, pediatric, and critically ill patients
    - 1.1.1. Inpatient service, including elective and acute care admissions
    - 1.1.2. Consultation to the emergency department and inpatient services, including the intensive care unit
    - 1.1.3. Outpatient clinic, including ambulatory procedures
    - 1.1.4. Operative experience
    - 1.1.5. Trauma team
    - 1.1.6. Endoscopy
    - 1.1.7. After-hours coverage

## GENERAL SURGERY TRAINING EXPERIENCES (2020)

- 1.2. Leadership of the general surgery inpatient team, including clinical and administrative responsibilities
  - 1.3. Participation in interprofessional rounds, including tumour board
  - 1.4. General Surgery in the community setting
2. Other training experiences:
- 2.1. Formal instruction in:
    - 2.1.1. The academic curriculum of General Surgery
    - 2.1.2. End-of-life care
    - 2.1.3. Difficult conversations
    - 2.1.4. Operative planning
    - 2.1.5. Safe transfers of care, including transfers of most responsible physician and inter-hospital transfers
    - 2.1.6. Medical error
    - 2.1.7. Medico-legal issues
    - 2.1.8. Focused assessment with sonography for trauma (FAST)
  - 2.2. Participation in critical appraisal activities, such as journal club
  - 2.3. Participation in quality improvement activities, such as morbidity and mortality rounds
  - 2.4. Formal and informal teaching of junior learners
  - 2.5. Scholarly work, including development and execution of a scholarly project
  - 2.6. In-training examinations
  - 2.7. Career counselling

### **Recommended training experiences (Core stage):**

3. Clinical training experiences:
  - 3.1. Specific and/or enhanced skills acquisition related to defined learning needs based on individual interest, career plan, community needs and/or competencies
4. Other training experiences:
  - 4.1. Simulation training for surgical skills, including trauma, tailored to individual needs
  - 4.2. Research relevant to General Surgery
  - 4.3. Attendance at a surgical scientific conference

**Optional training experiences (Core stage):**

5. Clinical training experiences:
  - 5.1. Bariatric surgery
  - 5.2. Critical care
  - 5.3. Head and neck surgery
  - 5.4. Solid organ transplantation
  - 5.5. Thoracic surgery
  - 5.6. Vascular surgery
  
6. Other training experiences:
  - 6.1. Surgical scientist program (i.e., resources and guidance as part of a formal academic program)

**TRANSITION TO PRACTICE (TTP)**

*The focus of this stage is the consolidation of skills required to manage an outpatient clinic and the day's list of endoscopic and operative procedures. During this final stage, residents participate in administrative tasks, and learn about human resource and financial aspects of practice.*

**Required training experiences (TTP stage):**

1. Clinical training experiences:
  - 1.1. General Surgery
    - 1.1.1. Outpatient clinic
    - 1.1.2. Operative experience
    - 1.1.3. Endoscopy
    - 1.1.4. After-hours coverage, including calls from referring physicians
  
2. Other training experiences:
  - 2.1. Formal and/or informal instruction in:
    - 2.1.1. Practice management, including human resources and finances
    - 2.1.2. Billing codes and ethical billing practices
    - 2.1.3. Financial planning
    - 2.1.4. Licensing, regulatory, and medicolegal requirements
    - 2.1.5. Medical liability and malpractice insurance
    - 2.1.6. Introduction to continuing professional development requirements

- 2.2. Participation in critical appraisal activities, such as journal club

**Recommended training experiences (TTP stage):**

3. Clinical training experiences:
  - 3.1. Participation in interprofessional rounds, including tumour board
  - 3.2. General surgery inpatient service
4. Other training experiences:
  - 4.1. Participation in professional organizations (e.g., Canadian Association of General Surgeons)
  - 4.2. Participation in leadership, mentorship and/or teaching activities
  - 4.3. Formal and/or informal instruction in:
    - 4.3.1. Ethical interactions with industry
    - 4.3.2. Regulations regarding communicating with patients including phone, fax, email, and/or social media
    - 4.3.3. Physician wellness and sustainability of surgical practice
    - 4.3.4. Models of physician reimbursement
    - 4.3.5. Conflict resolution in the workplace
  - 4.4. Observation of a mentor for practice management
  - 4.5. Recording of activities relevant to continuing professional development requirements and/or membership in other jurisdictions' Colleges

**Optional training experiences (TTP stage):**

5. Clinical training experiences:
  - 5.1. General Surgery in the community setting
  - 5.2. Specific and/or enhanced skills acquisition related to defined learning needs based on individual interest, career plan, community needs and/or competencies

**CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**

Royal College certification in General Surgery requires all of the following:

1. Successful completion of the Royal College examination in Surgical Foundations;
2. Completion of all elements of the Royal College Surgical Foundations Portfolio;
3. Successful completion of the Royal College examination in General Surgery; and

4. Successful completion of the Royal College General Surgery Portfolio.<sup>1</sup>

## MODEL DURATION OF TRAINING

Progress in training occurs through demonstration of competence and advancement through the stages of the Competence Continuum. General Surgery is planned as a five-year residency program. There is no mandated period of training in each stage. Individual duration of training may be influenced by many factors, which may include the resident's singular progression through the stages, the availability of teaching and learning resources, and/or differences in program implementation. Duration of training in each stage is therefore at the discretion of the faculty of medicine, the competence committee, and the program director.

### Guidance for programs:

The Royal College Specialty Committee in General Surgery's suggested course of training, for the purposes of planning learning experiences and schedules, is as follows:

- 2-4 blocks in Transition to Discipline
- 12-18 blocks in Foundations of Discipline
- 25-30 blocks in Core of Discipline
- 3-6 blocks in Transition to Practice

### Guidance for postgraduate medical education offices:

The stages of the Competence Continuum in General Surgery are generally no longer than:

- 4 blocks for Transition to Discipline
- 18 blocks for Foundations of Discipline
- 39 blocks for Core of Discipline
- 6 blocks for Transition to Practice
- Total duration of training – five years

\*One block is equal to 4 weeks

*This document is to be reviewed by the Specialty Committee in General Surgery by December 2021.*

**APPROVED** – Specialty Standards Review Committee – June 2019

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<sup>1</sup> The General Surgery Portfolio refers to the list of entrustable professional activities across all four stages of the residency Competence Continuum, and associated national standards for assessment and achievement.