American Board of Emergency Medicine

Advanced Emergency Medicine Ultrasonography Program Requirements

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

1. **Why did ABEM make updates to the AEMUS Program Requirements?** Program requirements periodically undergo review and revisions. The revised requirements build upon the original 2019 standards and 2023 revisions, reflecting the continued evolution of advanced emergency ultrasound as a focused practice area. The changes establish clearer benchmarks for clinical experience, faculty engagement, scholarly productivity, and program outcomes that distinguish fellowship training from residency-level ultrasound education.

2. **What feedback did ABEM collect to make these changes?** In the fall of 2025, ABEM sought proposed revisions from key Emergency Medicine organizations, including the American Academy of Emergency Medicine, the American College of Emergency Physicians, the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine, the Society of Clinical Ultrasound Fellowships, and EUFAC.

3. **When do these requirements take effect?** The revised AEMUS Program Requirements were approved by the ABEM Board of Directors at their 2026 Winter meeting and are effective July 1, 2026, for AEMUS fellowship programs

Clinical Experience and Faculty Requirements

4. **What are the new examination volume requirements for fellows?** Fellows must personally perform and interpret at least 1,000 ultrasound examinations during the fellowship year across a breadth of core and advanced applications. In addition, fellows must review at least 750 examinations with faculty through a formal quality-assurance process to reinforce image acquisition, interpretation accuracy, and feedback-driven improvement. These thresholds distinguish AEMUS fellowship experience from residency training and reflect expectations for physicians preparing for focused practice in advanced emergency ultrasound.

5. **What are the Program Director requirements?** The program director must hold a current Focused Practice Designation in AEMUS by ABEM. Non-FPD-eligible Program Directors require qualifications that are acceptable to EUFAC. The sponsoring institution must provide a minimum of 0.2 FTE of salary support and/or protected time for the Program Director to ensure administrative, educational, and quality-assurance responsibilities can be carried out reliably. The program must maintain a ratio of at least 1 core physician faculty member for every 3 fellows to ensure close supervision and mentorship.

6. **What are the educational session requirements?** Programs must provide at least 2.5 hours per week on average of planned educational experiences focused on ultrasound, directed toward fellow-level education. Faculty and fellows will review together a minimum of 750 total exams for quality assurance and education. Fellows must attend 70% of ultrasound-related seminars, conferences, and journal clubs

Scholarly Activity and Program Outcomes

7. **What are the new publication requirements for Program Directors and Core Faculty?** The Program Director must demonstrate authorship on at least five peer-reviewed publications (over a 5-year period) in ultrasonography, indicating a sustained scholarly record. Core Faculty, as a group, must average at least one peer-reviewed article per year over the preceding three years, underscoring ongoing scholarly engagement at the program level. Case reports, podcasts, and letters to the editor are not accepted as substitutes for original ultrasound research, which emphasizes contributions that are more substantive and generalizable.

8. **How did the pass-rate threshold change?** The aggregate pass rate requirement for graduates taking the AEMUS FPD certifying examination was adjusted from 80 percent to a minimum of 75 percent over seven years. This change maintains meaningful accountability for examination performance while recognizing the impact of small cohort sizes and normal variation in candidate performance over time.