Program Reduction & Closure Policy

Scope:
All University of Washington (UW) graduate medical education (GME) training programs accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) and sponsored by the UW School of Medicine.

Policy:
UW School of Medicine (UWSOM) is committed to providing a high quality educational experience for all residents and fellows enrolled in UW GME programs. In the event that a program must reduce the size of or close the program due to an adverse action of the ACGME or involuntary loss of a training site, the Program Director must notify the Graduate Medical Education Committee (GMEC), the Designated Institutional Official (DIO), and the program’s trainees within 30 days of receiving notification of the involuntary reduction or closure. Programs that wish to voluntarily reduce the size of the program or to withdrawal accreditation must obtain prior approval for the reduction or closure from the DIO before notifying the ACGME and the program’s trainees.

Should UWSOM as the sponsoring institution intend to close, the Dean or designee must inform the GMEC, DIO, programs, residents and fellows within 30 days of the decision to close the institution.

In the event of a UW GME program reduction or closure, or closure of the institution, UWSOM and the program will work collaboratively to ensure that residents/fellows currently enrolled in the program are able to complete their education within the program or will assist trainees in enrolling into another ACGME-accredited program in which they may continue their education. UWSOM and the program director will consider such issues as transfer of funding and board-specific requirements of trainees, and will make every attempt to phase out the program over a period of time to allow all residents/fellows currently in the program to complete their training. In all cases, UWSOM and the program will fulfill the terms of appointment (e.g., stipend, benefits) as described in the Resident Position Appointment/Fellowship Position Appointment (RPA/FPA) for the duration of the current academic year, if applicable.