



**SCUF**  
Society of Clinical Ultrasound Fellowships

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Re: SCUF Response to COVID-19 and Clinical Ultrasound Fellowship Requirements

Dear EUS Community

The Society of Clinical Ultrasound Fellowships (SCUF) recognizes the tremendous effort required to ensure the medical needs of our patients, while also assuring the safety and well-being of health care workers. The COVID-19 pandemic is an unprecedented challenge to the practice of emergency medicine.

In recent weeks, the ACGME released [guidelines](#) for Graduate Medical Education (GME). These include the recognition that the completion of some graduation requirements may be difficult to obtain in the current clinical environment.

In a similar fashion the SCUF Board of Directors (BOD) recognizes the burden COVID-19 is placing on clinical ultrasound fellowship programs. To this end, SCUF has made the following recommendations for fellowship programs and hospitals in regard to fellowship program graduation requirements for clinical ultrasound fellowships for the 2019-2020 academic year:

1. No clinical ultrasound fellows should be expected to perform clinical ultrasound duties without proper personal protective equipment. Given ongoing concerns about infection control and personal protective equipment shortages, SCUF encourages ultrasound program directors to consider the suspension of educational scan shifts for safety and to support the greater clinical enterprise of their healthcare systems.
2. The [ACEP Emergency Ultrasound Fellowship Guidelines](#) and the [Emergency Ultrasound Fellowship Accreditation Council Program Requirements](#) delineate 1000 point-of-care ultrasound examinations as the minimum number required for graduation. With the recognition that many fellowship programs have decreased or eliminated ultrasound scan shifts. We recommend that competency and completion of graduation requirements not rely upon a specific number of ultrasound examinations performed, nor on the number of scanning shifts performed, during the period of restricted patient contact. The SCUF BOD encourages fellowship program directors to make graduation decisions based on competency assessments including the

- performance of Q/A, completing online assessments, virtual demonstrations of bedside teaching, and other equivalent competency examinations.
3. The SCUF BOD recommends all clinical ultrasound fellowship programs continue their regular educational programs via teleconference and other media to the best of their ability. Fellowship directors should convert traditional educational opportunities into remote opportunities when possible. Despite the limitations of the current practice environment, clinical ultrasound fellows should receive twelve months of educational content, with the recognition that this may require less in-person bedside ultrasound scanning.
  4. The SCUF BOD recognizes that other fellowship graduation requirements may be difficult to meet. Clinical ultrasound fellowship directors should make fair, reasonable accommodations for fellows during this time.

The SCUF BOD appreciates the commitment of fellowship directors and fellows in this very challenging time for the medical education and related medical communities. Now more than ever, the BOD is committed to supporting and advocating for fellows, fellowship directors, and clinical ultrasound programs.

Sincerely,

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Approved by the 2019-2020 SCUF BOD