

Standards of Accreditation for Areas of Focused Competence Programs in Aerospace Medicine

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INTRODUCTION

The *Standards of Accreditation for Areas of Focused Competence (AFC) Programs in Aerospace Medicine* are a national set of standards maintained by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada for the evaluation and accreditation of Aerospace Medicine AFC programs. The standards aim to provide an interpretation of the *General Standards of Accreditation for Areas of Focused Competence Programs* as they relate to the accreditation of AFC programs in Aerospace Medicine, and to ensure these programs adequately prepare AFC trainees to meet the health care needs of their patient population(s) upon completion of training.

The standards include requirements applicable to AFC programs and learning sites and have been written in alignment with the standards organization framework used in the general standards that aims to provide clarity of expectations, while maintaining flexibility for innovation.

These standards are intended to be read in conjunction with the *General Standards of Accreditation for Areas of Focused Competence Programs*, as well as the discipline-specific documents for Aerospace Medicine. In instances where the indicators reflected in the *General Standards of Accreditation for Areas of Focused Competence Programs* have been modified within this document to reflect a discipline-specific expectation, the indicator as reflected in this document takes precedence.

STANDARDS

DOMAIN: PROGRAM ORGANIZATION

The *Program Organization* domain includes standards focused on the structural and functional aspects of the AFC program, which support and provide structure to meet the general and discipline-specific standards of accreditation for AFC programs.

STANDARD 1: There is an appropriate organizational structure, leadership and administrative personnel to effectively support the AFC program, teachers and trainees.

Refer to Standard 1 and its various components within the *General Standards of Accreditation for Areas of Focused Competence Programs*.

DOMAIN: EDUCATION PROGRAM

The *Education Program* domain includes standards focused on the planning, design, and delivery of the AFC program, with the overarching outcome to ensure that the AFC program prepares trainees to be competent for practice in the discipline.

STANDARD 2: Trainees are prepared for independent practice in the AFC discipline.

Refer to Standard 2 and its various components within the *General Standards of Accreditation for Areas of Focused Competence Programs* in addition to the indicators detailed below.

Element 2.1: The AFC program is designed to facilitate trainees' attainment of the required competencies.

Requirement(s)	Indicator(s)
2.1.1: The AFC program's design and delivery is based on the standards of training for the AFC discipline.	2.1.1.6: The AFC program provides a formal curriculum in aerospace physiology, biostatistics, epidemiology, human factors, and toxicology.

DOMAIN: RESOURCES

The *Resources* domain includes standards focused on ensuring that the AFC program's clinical, physical, technical, financial, and human resources are sufficient for the delivery of the education program and, ultimately, to prepare trainees for practice in the discipline.

STANDARD 3: The delivery and administration of the AFC program is supported by appropriate resources.

Refer to Standard 3 and its various components within the *General Standards of Accreditation for Areas of Focused Competence Programs* in addition to the indicators detailed below.

Element 3.1: The AFC program has the clinical, physical, technical, and financial resources to provide all trainees with the educational experiences needed to acquire all competencies.

Requirement(s)	Indicator(s)
3.1.1: The patient population is adequate to ensure that trainees attain required competencies.	3.1.1.1 (modified): The AFC program provides access to the volume and diversity of patients appropriate to the AFC discipline consistently for all trainees; this includes access to a sufficient number and variety of patients to provide the full range of involvement in all aspects of medical, surgical, and health and safety issues concerned with flight.
3.1.2: Clinical and consultative services and facilities are effectively organized and adequate to ensure that trainees attain the required competencies.	3.1.2.5: The AFC program has access to an aeromedical clinic. 3.1.2.6: The AFC program has access to clinics in occupational medicine, ophthalmology, otolaryngology, and infectious diseases, as well as an aeromedical evacuation unit. 3.1.2.7: The AFC program has access to a regulatory authority office, either Transport Canada or the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF), and the operational medical support office of the Canadian Space Agency or equivalent. 3.1.2.8: For consultation purposes, the AFC program has access to medical and surgical specialties and subspecialties.
3.1.3: The AFC program has the necessary financial, physical, and technical resources.	3.1.3.5: The AFC program has access to a flight school, an air traffic control unit, and an active military or civilian flying operation. 3.1.3.6 (Exemplary): <i>The AFC program has access to the following:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ <i>A human centrifuge;</i>○ <i>A hyperbaric unit;</i>○ <i>A hypobaric chamber;</i>○ <i>Night vision equipment;</i>○ <i>Disorientation training;</i>○ <i>Survival training;</i>○ <i>A facility that conducts underwater escape training;</i>○ <i>An accident investigation school;</i>○ <i>An aircraft maintenance facility; and</i>○ <i>A maintenance facility for life support equipment.</i>

Element 3.2: The AFC program has the appropriate human resources to provide all trainees with the required educational experiences.

STANDARDS OF ACCREDITATION FOR AREAS OF FOCUSED COMPETENCE
PROGRAMS IN AEROSPACE MEDICINE
July 1, 2020

Requirement(s)	Indicator(s)
3.2.1: Teachers appropriately implement the curriculum, supervise and assess trainees, contribute to the program, and role model effective practice.	3.2.1.1 (modified): The number, credentials, competencies, and scope of practice of the teachers are adequate to provide the breadth and depth of the discipline, including required clinical teaching, academic teaching, appropriate research, and assessment and feedback to trainees. This includes teaching staff with expertise in family medicine and internal medicine. 3.2.1.4: The AFC director has demonstrated specialty expertise in Aerospace Medicine. 3.2.1.5: The AFC program has access to teaching staff with expertise in aeromedical evacuation, hyperbaric medicine, occupational medicine, ophthalmology, otolaryngology, psychiatry, public health and preventive medicine, and infectious disease, as well as flight training staff.

DOMAIN: LEARNERS, TEACHERS, AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL

The *Learners, Teachers, and Administrative Personnel* domain includes standards focused on safety, wellness, and support for learners and teachers.

STANDARD 4: Safety and wellness are promoted throughout the learning environment.

Refer to Standard 4 and its various components within the *General Standards of Accreditation for Areas of Focused Competence Programs*.

STANDARD 5: Trainees are treated fairly throughout their progression through the AFC program.

Refer to Standard 5 and its various components within the *General Standards of Accreditation for Areas of Focused Competence Programs*.

STANDARD 6: Teachers effectively deliver and support all aspects of the AFC program.

Refer to Standard 6 and its various components within the *General Standards of Accreditation for Areas of Focused Competence Programs*.

DOMAIN: CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The *Continuous Improvement* domain includes standards focused on ensuring a systematic approach to the evaluation and improvement of the AFC program.

STANDARD 7: There is continuous improvement of the educational experiences to improve the AFC program and ensure trainees are prepared for independent practice in the discipline.

Refer to Standard 7 and its various components within the *General Standards of Accreditation for Areas of Focused Competence Programs*.

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