

**2024**  
**VERSION 2.0**

*These training requirements apply to those who begin training on or after July 1, 2024.*

Surgical Foundations provides a common curriculum and clinical training in the fundamental knowledge and skills of surgery for residents in nine Royal College recognized surgical disciplines.<sup>1</sup>

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

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

*The purpose of this stage in Surgical Foundations is to establish an individual's baseline for learning by assessing incoming knowledge and skills and to provide an orientation to a new work and training environment.*

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

1. Clinical training experiences
  - 1.1. Any discipline providing direct primary surgical patient care
2. Other training experiences
  - 2.1. Orientation to Competence by Design, the Surgical Foundations program, and the expectations for training and assessment, including the documentation of activities in a Portfolio
  - 2.2. Orientation to institutional policies and procedures including those for
    - 2.2.1. Resident wellness
    - 2.2.2. Patient privacy and confidentiality and use of the electronic health record, digital images, and social media

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<sup>1</sup> Cardiac Surgery, General Surgery, Neurosurgery, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Orthopedic Surgery, Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, Plastic Surgery, Urology, and Vascular Surgery

- 2.2.3. Occupational health and safety relevant to surgery including basic ergonomics, appropriate handling of sharps, radiation safety, fire safety, and infectious hazards
- 2.2.4. Respectful workplace
- 2.3. Orientation to the operating room suite and procedures
- 2.4. Focused experience providing early clinical and technical skills training (e.g., boot camp)
- 2.5. Simulation training experiences in technical procedures

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

*At the completion of this stage of Surgical Foundations, the resident will be competent to provide pre-operative and post-operative management of patients undergoing elective or emergent surgical procedures, to participate in surgical procedures, and to provide basic management of patients following traumatic injury and of critically ill surgical patients.*

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

- 1. Clinical training experiences
  - 1.1. Critical care unit providing multidisciplinary care to critically ill patients
  - 1.2. Service providing initial trauma management (e.g., emergency medicine, general surgery, trauma team, orthopedic surgery, or plastic surgery)
  - 1.3. Inpatient surgical service
  - 1.4. Operative experience
- 2. Other training experiences
  - 2.1. Academic curriculum that supports the Surgical Foundations Competencies for clinical training and knowledge requirements
  - 2.2. Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS)
  - 2.3. Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS)
  - 2.4. Simulation activities for educational enhancement
  - 2.5. Formal instruction in working in teams

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

- 3. Other training experiences
  - 3.1. Formal instruction in critical appraisal of literature and evidence-informed decision-making, and/or journal club

## **ATTESTATION REQUIREMENTS**

The Royal College Surgical Foundations attestation confirms that the trainee has

1. Successfully completed all elements of the Surgical Foundations Portfolio; and
2. Successfully completed the Royal College examination in Surgical Foundations.

Promotion to the Core stage of training in a primary surgical discipline requires proof of the Surgical Foundations attestation.

This Surgical Foundations attestation is also one of the requirements for certification in a primary surgical discipline.

## **NOTES**

The Surgical Foundations Portfolio refers to the entrustable professional activities across the surgical foundations stages of training and associated national standards for assessment and achievement. Residency programs may have additional institution specific requirements over and above what's articulated in the Portfolio.

The Required Training Experiences in the Foundations stage of Surgical Foundations are intended to provide sufficient experience in a broad range and complexity of conditions relevant to surgery, with experience in surgical discipline(s) outside of the primary surgical specialty.

The program must provide the opportunity to participate in ACLS training, but it is recognized that many residents will have completed this certification in earlier training and, upon demonstrating active certification, will not be required to repeat the experience.

## **MODEL DURATION OF TRAINING**

Progress in training occurs through demonstration of competence and advancement through the stages of the Competence Continuum. Individual duration of training may be influenced by many factors, which may include but are not limited to the resident's singular progression through the stages, the availability of teaching and learning resources, or differences in program implementation. Duration of training for any individual candidate is therefore at the discretion of the Faculty of Medicine, the Competence Committee, and the program director.

Guidance for programs

For planning purposes, the stages of the Competence Continuum in Surgical Foundations are generally no longer than four blocks for Transition to Discipline and 12 blocks for Foundations. However, since this training is integrated with residency in the primary specialty and the sequence of experiences may vary, the duration of these integrated stages of training will be dependent on the resident's overall set of training experiences.

One block is equal to four weeks.

*This document is to be reviewed by the Surgical Foundations Advisory Committee by December 2026.*

**APPROVED** – Specialty Standards Review Committee – December 2017

**EDITORIAL REVISION** – September 2019

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