

ACGME Clinical Work and Education Requirements Overview

To view ACGME's full Clinical Experience and Education requirements, [click here](#) and reference section VI.F.

80 hour weekly maximum averaged over four weeks (320 hours total in a four-week period)

Clinical and educational work hours must be limited to no more than 80 hours per week, averaged over a four-week period, inclusive of all in-house clinical and educational activities, clinical work done from home, and all moonlighting. **Only one violation is possible over the course of a four-week period.**

NOTE: Because this rule is averaged over a four-week period, this means you are not automatically in violation if you work more than 80 hours in a single week. It is only considered a violation if you work more than 320 hours over the course of a four-week period. In that case, you will have violated the rule once for that four-week period.

1 in 7 days off averaged over four weeks (4 days off total in a four-week period)

Residents must be scheduled for a minimum of one day in seven free of clinical work and required education, averaged over four weeks. At-home call cannot be assigned on these free days. **Only one violation is possible over the course of a four-week period.**

NOTE: Because this rule is averaged over a four-week period, this means you are not automatically in violation if you receive less than a day off in a single week. It is only considered a violation if you receive less than four days off over the course of a four-week period. In that case, you will have violated the rule once for that four-week period.

24+4 hour maximum period length

Clinical and educational work periods for residents must not exceed 24 hours of continuous scheduled clinical assignments.

- Up to four hours of additional time may be used for activities related to patient safety, such as providing effective transitions of care, and/or resident education. Additional patient care responsibilities must not be assigned to a resident during this time.

8 hour break between clinical work and education periods

Residents should have eight hours off between scheduled clinical work and education periods

- There may be circumstances when residents choose to stay to care for their patients or return to the hospital with fewer than eight hours free of clinical experience and education. This must occur within the context of the 80-hour and the one-day-off-in-seven requirements.

In-house call

- Residents must be scheduled for in-house call no more frequently than every third night (when averaged over a four-week period).
- Residents must have at least 14 hours free of clinical work and education after 24 hours of in-house call.

Moonlighting

- Time spent by residents in internal and external moonlighting must be counted toward the 80-hour maximum weekly limit.
- PGY-1 residents are not permitted to moonlight.

In-house night float

Night float must occur within the context of the 80-hour and one-day-off-in-seven requirements.

At-home call

At-home call must not be so frequent or taxing as to preclude rest or reasonable personal time for each resident.

- Time spent on patient care activities* by residents on at-home call must count toward the 80-hour maximum weekly limit.
- If residents return to the hospital while on at-home call to provide direct care for new or established patients, these hours of inpatient patient care must be included in the 80-hour maximum weekly limit.
- The frequency of at-home call is not subject to the every-third-night limitation, but must satisfy the requirement for one day in seven free of clinical work and education, when averaged over four weeks.

** Types of work from home that do count toward the 80-hour maximum weekly limit include using an electronic health record and taking calls. Types of work from home that do not count toward the 80 hours include reading done in preparation for the following day's cases, studying, and research done from home.*

Exceptions (for all rules except the 80 hour weekly maximum)

In rare circumstances, after handing off all other responsibilities, a resident, on their own initiative, may elect to remain or return to the clinical site in the following circumstances:

- to continue to provide care to a single severely ill or unstable patient;
- humanistic attention to the needs of a patient or family; or,
- to attend unique educational events.

These additional hours of care or education will be counted toward the 80-hour weekly limit.