

Operational Graduate Medical Education (OGME): FAQs

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GENERAL ITEMS

What are the **main differences** between the OGME pathway and traditional residencies?

- You will utilize elective time (up to 4 months/blocks) during an OGME residency to complete the core training courses for flight surgeons and/or complete other operational courses of interest
- Upon graduation from an OGME residency, you will receive an assignment in Aerospace Medicine and serve as a flight surgeon
- This is the fastest pathway into the flight medicine for residency trained physicians

Where is each program located according to specialty?

- **Operational Family Medicine/OFM:** 6 slots
 - 5 positions at any USAF Active Duty Family Medicine residency (Eglin/FL, Nellis/NV, Travis/CA, Offutt/NE, Scott/IL, NCC/MD)
 - 1 position at Ohio State Univ [Civilian Sponsored; Consecutive Payback]
- **Operational Emergency Medicine/OEM:** 10 slots (1-3 at each site)
 - Ohio State University (Columbus, OH)
 - Einstein (Philadelphia, PA)
 - Mercy Health-St. Vincent (Toledo, OH)
 - Virginia Commonwealth University (Richmond, VA)
 - St. Louis University (St Louis)
- **FAM-RAM** (Family Medicine-Residency of Aerospace Medicine)
 - 3 positions at Wright State University/USAF School of Aerospace Medicine
- **Operational Internal Medicine/OIM:** 3 slots
 - 2 positions at any USAF Active Duty Internal Medicine residency (San Antonio/TX, Wright-Patterson/OH, Travis/CA, Keesler/MS, NCC/MD)

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- 1 position at Ohio State Univ [Civilian Sponsored; Consecutive Payback]
- **Operational Pediatrics/OPeds**
 - 6 positions at any USAF Active Duty Pediatrics residency (San Antonio/TX, Wright-Patterson/OH, Portsmouth/VA, NCC/MD)

What is the difference between Civilian Sponsored and Civilian Deferred?

- **Civilian Sponsored:** you are on Active Duty status but at a civilian institution. Pay is AD rate plus a resident bonus. You will be expected to maintain your annual PT test (with the nearest ROTC detachment), PHA/MHA—annual health exam and dental exam (at the nearest military treatment facility). Time served will count towards retirement and rank. You will incur an Active Duty Service Commitment (ADSC) for each year of residency (1 for 1).
- **Civilian Deferred:** you are essentially a civilian during your training. You have no military obligations and the AF does not provide you with any pay or benefits. Time in this status does count towards rank and grade but does not count towards retirement. It also does NOT incur an Active Duty Service Commitment (ADSC).

What is the difference between concurrent and consecutive paybacks?

- **Concurrent Payback:** Time owed can be paid back at the same time as another active duty service commitment (ADSC).
 - This occurs with all military residencies.
 - For example, if you owe a 4 year HPSP scholarship and complete a 3 year AD residency, you can separate after 4 years of service. (The 3 years of residency is being payed back simultaneously with the medical school scholarship.)
- **Consecutive:** Time owed must be paid back AFTER one's initial ADSC.
 - This occurs at OSU and all our OEM programs.

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- For example, if you owe a 4 year HPSP scholarship and complete a 3 year civilian sponsored residency, then upon graduation you first pay back your HPSP scholarship, THEN the residency obligation, for a total of 7 years on active duty.

Who composes the **OGME team**?

- Director: Col Paul Deflorio (Emergency Medicine/Sr Flight Surgeon)
- Deputy Director; Director of FM-RAM: Lt Col Katie Crowder (Family Medicine/Flight Surgeon)
- Program Coordinators: Amanda Lee & Sherese Wheeler, contractors
- GSU Liason: Jason Provins, GS-11

Where can I find **more information** about OGME and Aerospace Medicine?

- OGME Website: coming soon!
- OGME brochures: please request through usafsam.op.med@us.af.mil
- Aerospace Medicine page:
<https://airforce.com/careers/detail/aerospace-medicine-specialist-flight-surgeon>

ASSIGNMENTS

What **types of assignments** are available upon graduation? Are the various specialties vectored towards a particular assignment/unit?

- OEM residents are vectored towards Special Operations and Combat Search and Rescue units. They are also eligible for CCATT (Critical Care Aeromedical Transport Team) and Ground Surgical Teams (GST).
- OFM and OIM residents can really be stationed anywhere.

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- OFM graduates are also eligible for Special Operations/Search and Rescue assignments. Because these are highly sought-after assignments, this desire should be shared with the Aerospace Medicine consultant as early as possible.
- FAM RAM residents will likely either become an SGP (Chief of Aerospace Medicine). If qualified, they could also pursue a command position.

How do I make my **assignment choices known** to the Aerospace Medicine Consultant?

- By the Fall of your final year of residency, you should engage with the OGME faculty and relay any special desires or complicating factors
 - OFMs who want to go into Special Ops
 - Dual spouse situations
 - Sick family members, unique spousal/children requirements
 - Unaccompanied tour requests
 - OCONUS requests
 - Applying to fellowship
- OGME faculty will also seek out your general assignment desires and liason with the Aerospace Medicine consultant and assignment officer to ensure you receive an optimal assignment
- Assignments are usually finalized by March/April of your final year of residency

When, if desired, can I choose an assignment in my primary residency field?

- After one tour in flight medicine (2-3 years), you can request an assignment within the field of your residency training. This will be negotiated between the Aerospace Medicine consultant and the specialty consultant.

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- You can return to flight medicine after serving in your specialty field for one tour or by special request; or you could stay in that field indefinitely.
- That being said, always keep in mind: the needs of the Air Force will ultimately trump your personal desires

APPLICATION PROCESS

How can I **optimize my competitiveness** for the OGME match? What will make me a stronger OGME candidate?

- Research: the more robust, the more points you'll earn in the scoring process. For example, publishing in a peer reviewed journal is superior to a poster presentation at a local conference.
- Leadership skills: highlight these in your CV.
- Community service: highlight these in your CV.
- Nail the interviews!
- Prior service as a GMO flight surgeon and/or deployments should be highlighted in your CV.
- Lock down the basics: pass step exams on 1st try, avoid probation or having to repeat courses; avoid any disciplinary actions, PT test failures, skirmishes with the law (the obvious).

What is MODS?

- MODS is the military's version of ERAS. It is the computer system used by military GME to match all incoming residents, PGY-1's and fellows.

How do I access MODS?

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- <https://education.mods.army.mil/MEDED/UserLogon/UserLogon.asp>
- For new applicants requesting a login, it can take up to 48 hours to gain access. After logging in, follow prompts to apply to programs.
- If you have questions regarding MODS, please contact David Zemkosky by email at david.zemkosky.1@us.af.mil or by phone at 210-565-0655.

How do I differentiate my application for OGME from the traditional residency?

- Operational Residency Training Form/Operational Medicine Choice Form
 - https://www.airforcemedicine.af.mil/Portals/1/Documents/Phys_Ed_Branch/JSGMESB/2019/Forms/Operational_Residency_Training_Form_2019v2.pdf
 - Upload into MODS with your application.
 - Annotate your residency choice and (if applicable) training site preferences.
- Contact OGME staff to schedule an interview.
- Ensure the AD training site Program Directors are aware of your desire to apply to OGME as your first choice (this does not apply for OEM).
- Strongly consider utilizing your personal statement to explain your desires to choose the OGME pathway. What draws you to Operational/flight medicine?

What do I need to know about **Interviews** for OGME residencies?

- You should interview with the program directors at your top 2-4 training locations PLUS an OGME faculty (Col Deflorio or Lt Col Crowder).
- OEM applicants should request the OEM Interview Survival Guide from OGME staff.

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- OFM and OIM applicants should request the OFM or OIM interview guide
- Interviews begin around June and must be completed by the first week in October.
- In-person interviews are preferred; telephone interviews are acceptable.
- [Click Here](#) for Points of Contact for each program.

ORIENTATION

What does **OGME Orientation** consist of?

- Plan to block 2 days prior to your residency's official orientation for OGME orientation purposes.
- If orientation is virtual (Active Duty Residents), expectations and requirements will be reviewed and a personalized discussion of your IOP (Individualized Operational Plan) will be completed.
- If orientation is in person (Civilian Sponsored Residents), it will be more robust and address CAC cards, computer access, initial flying class physicals, annual health exams, research opportunities and AFIT (Air Force Institute of Technology) nuances.

IN-RESIDENCE TRAINING/OBLIGATIONS

What **Operational Courses** are required during residency during elective blocks?

- AMP 101 (2 weeks), AMP 102 (2 weeks), AMP 201 (2 weeks), AMP 202/ (2 weeks; flying), ACLS, ATLS, Flight Medicine (FOMC) rotation (4 weeks) and initial survival training (SERE/water survival; 3 weeks)

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- Once one has completed the minimum requirements above, they are encouraged to use any remaining elective time for Operational Courses of their choice. Please refer to the Operational Course Handbook for a detailed list.

How do I sign up for an Operational Course during residency?

- Please refer to the Operational Course Enrollment Algorithm, available upon request.

How do I ensure my **residency schedule is blocked** for required Operational courses?

- This is done proactively utilizing your individual operational plan (IOP) to communicate upcoming courses with your program director.
- Your Operational Course dates for the upcoming academic year are solidified and presented to your program by April each year to ensure your block schedule reflects these commitments. In other words, your elective time should coincide with the upcoming course dates.

What is the Distance Learning (DL) Curriculum?

- DL serves to augment OGME residents' operational education through monthly on-line lectures and live discussions with subject matter experts in the field.
- On-line lectures can be viewed at one's own pace. Live discussions will be conducted via teleconference.
- DL also provides an avenue of communication with your OGME team on a regular basis.

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Can you explain more about the AMP courses?

- AMP courses are completed in two week increments. They can be consecutive or broken up. They must be taken in order.
- The completion of one's initial flying class II physical exam (IFC II PE) is generally a pre-requisite for AMP 202. Completion of the IFC II PE generates a 2992 which is your "ticket" into AMP 202.
- AMP courses are offered in the Spring, Summer and Fall only
- Courses are centrally funded which means your unit does not have to pay for them—"big Air Force" does.
- By the completion of AMP, you will be a qualified flight surgeon!

What is the Initial Flying Class II Physical Exam (IFC II PE)?

- A robust medical exam to ensure you meet all standards to fly in military aircrafts.
- Exam should be completed during your intern year (if not before)
- Plan on an entire day for the exam—dilated eye exam, EKG, CXR, labs, anthropometric measurements, physical exam, interview with flight surgeon.
- If any potentially disqualifying conditions are identified, then a waiver must be presented on your behalf. Waivers can take months from start to completion.
- Initiate this by contacting your MTF's flight medicine clinic and request an appointment for an IFC II PE. OGME can provide a justification letter.

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

What resources exist to assist with research during residency?

- USAFSAM:
 - Airman Readiness Optimization (ARO)

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- Captures and analyzes diverse attributes of humans and operational environments to drive optimal performance
- POC: Dr. Logan Williams; logan.williams@us.af.mil; 937-938-2821
- Biomedical Impact of Flight (BIF)
 - Investigates how the extraordinary environment of flight affects humans, the ability to maintain their homeostasis, and the potential risk for injury or secondary insult
 - POC: Dr. David Burch; david.burch.7@us.af.mil 937-938-3791
- NAMRU-D:
 - NAMRU-D focuses on maximizing warfighter performance and survivability through aeromedical and environmental health research. Key areas are spatial disorientation; situational awareness; motion sickness; unusual acceleration environments; fatigue, vision and hearing studies; effects of altitude; and the toxicity of chemicals and materials used in military operations.
 - POC: LCDR Matt Doubrava; matthew.doubrava@us.af.mil (937) 938-3915
- Military Primary Care Research Network
 - USUHS/Family Medicine
 - Promotes physician inquiry, discovery, and improvement to enhance patient care; connects medical professionals at the 15 military family medicine residency training sites to promote collaborative scientific inquiry and physician improvement
 - www.usuhs.edu/MPCRN: complete an interest form to align yourself with ongoing projects
 - POC: Christy Ledford, Ph.D. Christian.ledford@usuhs.edu

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MAINTAINING COMPETENCY

How do I maintain my skills acquired during residency as a flight doc?

- Moonlight
 - Not an option DURING residency
 - Must request permission from your commander (follow the rules)
 - Source of valuable income
 - Performed OFF duty—must be on leave if out of the local area or if it's a duty day
- Utilize duty time to work periodically in your residency field
 - Spend a few half/full days per month working in your residency field (civilian affiliate or at the MTF)
 - Not paid but do not need to use leave
 - Time away must be negotiated with your commander; Primary mission is to care for your unit
- TDY
 - Spend days/weeks at a distant MTF or civilian facility
 - An option if your nearest MTF cannot accommodate your needs

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Important Links

[Operational Residency Training Form](#)

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Important Contacts

OGME Program Staff

Name	Title	Email	Phone
Col Paul Deflorio	Program Director	paul.deflorio@us.af.mil	937-938-2727
Lt Col Katie Crowder	Deputy Director	katie.crowder@us.af.mil	937-713-1116
Capt Linda Reed	IMA Reservist	linda.reed.4@us.af.mil	937-938-2691
Amanda Lee	Program Coordinator	amanda.lee@us.af.mil	937-938-3103
Sherese Walker	Program Coordinator	sherese.wheeler@us.af.mil	937-938-2782
Jason Provins	CSS Support	jason.provins.1@us.af.mil	9337-713-2586
Program Information		Usafsam.op.med@us.af.mil	937-938-2782

Civilian Affiliates

Emergency Medicine

Einstein University

Name	Title	Email	Phone
Deborah Pierce	Program Director	pierce@einstein.edu	
JoAnn Corbi	Program Coordinator	corbij@einstein.edu	215-456-6336

Mercy Health – St. Vincent

Name	Title	Email	Phone
Randall King	Program Director	randy_king@mercy.com	
Rachel Hill	Program Coordinator	rachel_hill@mercy.com	419-251-4724

Ohio State University

Name	Title	Email	Phone
Sorabh Khandelwal	Program Director	sorabh.khandelwal@osumc.edu	
Brittany Williams	Program Coordinator	brittany.williams@osumc.edu	614-293-8305

Saint Louis University School of Medicine

Name	Title	Email	Phone
Craig Krausz	Program Director	craig.krausz@gmail.com	
Wanda Bailey-Gregory	Program Coordinator	wanda.baileygregory@health.slu.edu	314-268-7133

Virginia Commonwealth University

Name	Title	Email	Phone
Joel Moll	Program Director	joel.moll@vcuhealth.org	
Kevin Keller	Program Coordinator	kevin.keller@vcuhealth.org	804-828-4850

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Family Medicine

Wright-State University

Name	Title	Email	Phone
Peter Reynolds	Program Director	peter.reynolds@wright.edu	
Jackie Mullins	Program Coordinator	JMullins@PremierHealth.com	937-734-6858

Ohio State University

Name	Title	Email	Phone
Fred Miser	Program Director	Miser.6@osu.edu	
Laura Thompson	Program Coordinator	Laura.thompson3@osumc.edu	614-293-2651

Internal Medicine

Ohio State University

Name	Title	Email	Phone
David Winiger	Program Director	david.winiger@osumc.edu	
Kim Roesch	Program Coordinator	kimberly.roesch@osumc.edu	614-293-9812

USAF Consultants

Name	Specialty	Email
Lt Col Michelle Anton	Family Medicine	michelle.anton@us.af.mil
TBD	Aerospace Medicine	
Col John Freiler	Internal Medicine	john.freiler@us.af.mil
Lt Col Leslie Matesick	Emergency Medicine	leslie.matesick@us.af.mil
Lt Col David Hsieh	Pediatrics	david.hsieh@us.af.mil