

***What does “Probationary Accreditation status” mean?***

Probationary accreditation status is a label conferred by the ACGME – our national graduate medical education regulatory body that provides accreditation to sponsoring residency and fellowship programs. Probation is a term used for programs and/or sponsoring institutions (SI) that do not demonstrate “substantial compliance” with the ACGME’s published requirements.

**Sponsoring Institutions on probationary status remain accredited to sponsor all currently accredited residency and fellowship programs**, but they may not apply for accreditation of new programs.

Sponsoring institutions on probationary accreditation status must share the probationary status information with current residents, fellows and applicants.

***Why did the ACGME place Tower Health on probationary accreditation status?***

The ACGME conducted a site visit in December 2021 to review management, governance, and administrative practices related to our GME programs. The ACGME identified areas in which it felt Tower Health did not have sufficient administrative controls or documentation in place.

***If I am applying for a residency program, what effect does accreditation status have on me or on the upcoming Match Day?***

As an applicant or interviewee, this accreditation status will have no impact on your ability to match to our Program(s). The ACGME is very clear that this accreditation status has no effect on our recruitment efforts and all interested candidates are urged to apply.

***Will this accreditation status affect visa sponsorships for incoming residents and fellows?***

No. Applicants needing a visa should proceed as usual. For more information on how to apply, [click here](#).

***If I am a resident or fellow, will Tower Health’s probationary status affect my license or my ability to graduate from a residency or fellowship program?***

No. Our ACGME Sponsoring Institution and all of its residency and fellowship programs remain accredited with no impact on graduation or recruitment. All our residencies and fellowships have achieved either Initial Accreditation or Continuing Accreditation.

***What steps is Tower Health taking to address the ACGME probationary status?***

Even prior to receiving the ACGME’s action, Tower Health implemented a number of steps to improve the administration, governance, and management of our GME programs, including:

- Appointing Wei Du, MD, as our new Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, Chief Academic Officer, and Designated Institutional Official (DIO) to provide executive leadership of Tower Health’s GME programs.

- Hiring a new GME System Director responsible for improved management of our GME programs, including improving communications among program directors, residents, and fellows.
- Entering an advisory management services agreement with our colleagues at Penn Medicine so that Tower Health's GME leadership team can benefit from Penn's expertise in GME governance, financial management, structure, and process.
- Creating a new Academic Affairs Advisory Committee, that will advise on strengthening all facets of Tower Health's academic mission, including GME, research, and nursing and allied health education.

***How long will Tower Health be on probation as a sponsoring institution? What is the process to have continuing accreditation status restored?***

The ACGME has indicated that it will return for a follow-up review in August 2022. Tower Health will embrace any and all opportunities for improvement identified by the ACGME, and we will be working hard not just to meet, but to exceed sponsoring institutional accreditation standards by the ACGME's return visit in August 2022.