

***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 has Tower Health taken to address the ACGME probationary status?***

Since January 2022, Tower Health has implemented a number of steps to improve the administration, governance, and management of our GME programs, including:

- Appointed 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. Dr. Du has a proven track record as a leader in graduate medical education, research, and clinical practice. He is a Professor of Psychiatry, Pharmacology and Physiology at Drexel University College of Medicine.

- Hired a new GME System Director, Francisco Hernandez, responsible for improved management of our GME programs, including improving communications among program directors, residents, and fellows.
- Reaffirmed the commitment through the Tower Health Board of Directors to the graduate medical education mission.

In addition, GME Office and DIO have made a great stride in improving the communication with Residents/Fellows, Faculty, and department leadership.

***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 completed the follow-up Institutional Site Visit on August 2, 2022. At this time, we are waiting for the decision from the ACGME.