Policy Title: Effects of Leaves of Absence

Original Date: February 2009
GMEC Endorsed: August 2019
Next Revision Date: August 2022

PURPOSE
This policy provides residents with information regarding the effects of leaves of absence on completion of residency programs and on eligibility for certification by the relevant certifying board(s).

PROCEDURE
Residents should be aware that graduation from residency and Board certification depends on the completion of a specified amount of training. Each UT Southwestern program must provide information regarding the specific training requirements for the resident’s particular program.

Extended absences from the program may require additional time and training. In general, cumulative annual leave exceeding that allowed by the Paid Time Off Utilization policy (i.e., approximately 30 days) will result in an extension of the resident’s training. The program must provide the resident with written notice in the event their training will be extended because of a leave of absence.

Certifying Boards vary in their requirements regarding the effect of leaves of absence taken—for any reason—during residents’ training on their eligibility and timing for board certification. Residents and fellows should access the specific relevant information from their certifying boards, available from the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) website.