

Academic Month – Goals & Objectives

- **Participating Site(s):** Independent study; outpatient and academic settings as applicable
- **Duration:** 2-4 weeks
- **Required or Elective:** Elective

Rotation Overview

The Academic Month rotation provides residents with protected time to focus on scholarly development, board preparation, quality improvement, career planning, and professional growth. Residents use this time to advance individualized learning goals, complete academic and programmatic requirements, and prepare for future career pathways while maintaining engagement with structured educational activities.

Overall Rotation Goal

The goal of this rotation is for residents to develop effective habits for lifelong learning, scholarly inquiry, and career preparation through self-directed, goal-oriented academic work supported by faculty mentorship.

Educational Objectives (Aligned with ACGME Competencies)

Patient Care

Residents will be able to:

- Apply evidence-based knowledge gained during academic activities to future clinical practice
- Reflect on prior clinical experiences to identify areas for improvement in patient care
- Develop clinical decision-making strategies informed by literature review and guideline appraisal

Medical Knowledge

Residents will be able to:

- Strengthen core internal medicine knowledge through structured board preparation and review
- Integrate current clinical guidelines and evidence into knowledge synthesis
- Demonstrate improved understanding of subspecialty interests relevant to career goals

Practice-Based Learning and Improvement

Residents will be able to:

- Identify personal knowledge gaps using self-assessment tools and feedback
- Develop and execute individualized learning plans
- Engage in scholarly activities such as:
 - Quality improvement projects
 - Case reports or research
 - Curriculum development or teaching materials
- Use data, feedback, and reflection to improve learning strategies

Interpersonal and Communication Skills

Residents will be able to:

- Communicate effectively with faculty mentors regarding academic progress and career goals
- Develop teaching and presentation skills through scholarly or educational activities
- Prepare professional application materials, including CVs, personal statements, and presentations

Professionalism

Residents will be able to:

- Demonstrate accountability and self-discipline in managing protected academic time
- Meet deadlines for academic deliverables and program requirements
- Uphold ethical standards in scholarly work, including appropriate citation and data integrity

Systems-Based Practice

Residents will be able to:

- Navigate institutional academic resources effectively
- Understand pathways for academic, hospitalist, and subspecialty careers
- Utilize mentorship and advising systems to support professional development

PGY-Level Expectations

PGY-1:

- Focus on foundational board preparation and core knowledge review
- Begin development of individualized learning strategies
- Complete required program academic assignments

PGY-2:

- Advance scholarly projects or quality improvement initiatives
- Engage in focused preparation for career decision-making
- Develop teaching materials or lead educational sessions when applicable

PGY-3:

- Complete and refine scholarly work or academic projects
- Prepare fellowship, job, or hospitalist applications
- Demonstrate readiness for independent practice and lifelong learning

Teaching and Learning Activities

- Structured board review and self-study
- Scholarly project development (QI, research, case reports)
- Career planning meetings with faculty mentors
- CV, interview, and application preparation
- Independent reading and guideline review
- Educational content creation or teaching sessions

Evaluation and Feedback

Resident performance is evaluated through:

- Completion of individualized academic goals
- Faculty mentor feedback
- Review of scholarly and professional deliverables
- End-of-rotation evaluation mapped to ACGME milestones

Residents receive ongoing formative feedback and summative feedback at the conclusion of the rotation.

Supervision

Faculty mentorship and oversight are provided throughout the Academic Month in accordance with ACGME guidelines. Residents are expected to meet regularly with assigned mentors and communicate progress toward established goals.