

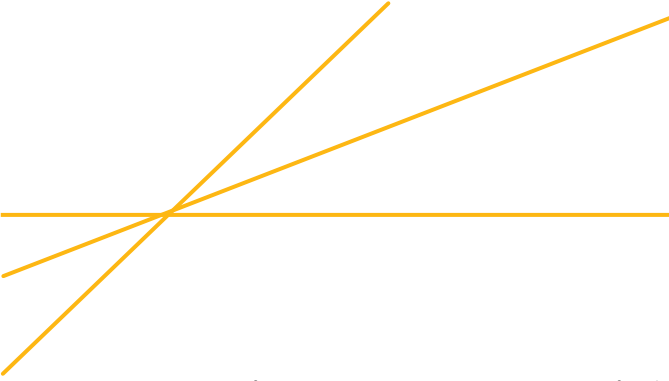
2024

Complex Family Planning Fellowship Applicant Question Guide

The Complex Family Planning Fellowship currently has 33 sites in Ob-Gyn departments in the United States. Each program meets the ACGME requirements of the Fellowship (research training, clinical training, and teaching opportunities). However, each site is unique with different strengths and opportunities. Below are some questions the Society of Family Planning recommends for consideration before and during your interviews. This list is not exhaustive, and we encourage you to ask your own questions.

First, it is helpful to evaluate what you bring to the Fellowship and what you would like to gain from your Fellowship training.

- What has your previous clinical experience been in abortion and contraception? What gestational age limit do you feel competent to? What procedures do you want to get more exposure to?
- Do you want to continue to work as a generalist? Do you want to continue working in obstetrics? Do you want exposure to majors?
- What is your experience with research and publication? How much research guidance will you need? Would you prefer a site with a more established research infrastructure?
- Are you interested in qualitative, quantitative, or mixed methods research?
- Would you prefer a well-established site, or are you comfortable helping define a new or recently established Fellowship program?
- Do you prefer a hands-on or hands-off approach to mentorship? Do you prefer to work independently, and seek out advice when necessary, or would you like to have regularly scheduled check-ins?
- How important is policy and advocacy training to you? Do you want a site with faculty who are vocal, active advocates? How important is connection with ACOG, either nationally or locally?

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- What are your career goals (eg, work for the CDC, start a Fellowship, medical director of Planned Parenthood, travel abortions) and which sites will help you reach them?
 - Are there specialized skills you would like to become an expert in (eg, moderate sedation, feticidal injection, deep implant removal)?

Advocacy/policy

- What are the policy connections/opportunities in the department?
- Do fellows and faculty participate in the [American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists \(ACOG\) Congressional Leadership Conference](#)?
- Have faculty and past fellows participated in [Physicians for Reproductive Health's Leadership Training Academy](#)?
- Are faculty active in policy issues or research?
- What advocacy training opportunities are available to fellows?
- Will there be opportunities for advocacy (eg, testifying on a bill, media interviews, op-ed writing) during fellowship?
- Is the institution supportive of faculty and fellows sharing their opinions publicly (eg, media interviews, op-eds, etc)?

Clinical training

- What is the abortion volume, particularly late second trimester cases?
- Are all the abortions done in-hospital, or will you train at an outside clinic?
- Do fellows have the opportunity to learn feticidal injection?
- Do fellows have the opportunity to learn in office hysteroscopy for IUD removals and difficult Nexplanon removals?
- What is the typical patient population at the sites? Are there opportunities to work at an adolescent clinic or within the carceral system?
- What is your exposure to other gyn surgeries?
- Is there an expectation to cover other generalist duties such as L&D day coverage?
- What does complicated contraception training look like?
- Is OB call an expectation? If not, is there the opportunity to do OB?
- Up to what gestational age do residents get trained? As a result, will fellows have to compete for D&E cases?
- How have recent state policy changes impacted clinical training? Are there any anticipated policy changes that may impact family planning provision? If so, what is the fellowship site doing to ensure adequate clinical training?
- What does call look like at your program?



Didactics

- Is there a set didactic schedule and curriculum?
- How often do other didactic opportunities occur (eg, journal club, Grand Rounds, resident lectures, M&M)?
- What are the site's teaching opportunities with residents and medical students?

Diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI)

- What does DEI mean at this site?
- Is the institution's commitment to DEI reflected in their current faculty, residents, and fellows?
- How is DEI integrated into the culture of the site (eg, DEI committee, a leadership position in DEI, annual training in DEI, public statement)?
- Does this site utilize a [holistic review approach](#) in reviewing fellow applications and interviewing candidates?
- What does mentorship and sponsorship of BIPOC fellows look like?
 - If there is no appropriate mentorship of BIPOC fellows available within the institution, are you committed in helping a fellow be matched with one outside the institution?
- If a fellow wishes to prioritize anti-racism and DEI work during fellowship, is there a mechanism to integrate protected time and/or compensation?

Faculty/fellows

- How many Fellowship-trained faculty are in the department?
- Is Family Planning coverage within the department dependent on the fellows?
- What is the Director's leadership style?
- How often do fellows cover Family Planning call or hold the pager?
- How are fellows integrated into the department?
- How many fellows have been trained through this site, and what are they doing now?

Lifestyle

- What is the cost of living like?
- What is this fellowship site's parental leave policy?



Mentorship

- How often do the Directors and fellows meet? Individually? As a group?
- How are fellows matched with mentors?
- Are there other mentors available, either within or outside the department?
- What does career mentorship look like at your site?

Professional development

- Do fellows receive funding to attend conferences (eg, NAF, SFP, ACOG, SisterSong)?
- Do fellows receive funding to complete an elective rotation outside of the institution?
- Does the institution reimburse for oral boards and/or a board review course?
- Which professional societies will the fellowship site pay for (eg, NAF, ACOG, SFP, SASGOG)?

Research training

- What are their research interests?
- Do the research strengths of the department (eg, basic science, qualitative research) match your interests? What are the current research projects in the division/section?
- What are the existing research studies or projects fellows could get involved in?
- How much flexibility will you have in designing your research project?
- How many residents do family planning related research projects?
- Have previous fellows at the site been successful in publishing their research projects?
- Are there opportunities for multi-disciplinary collaboration?
- Is there protected research time? Do many fellows publish their findings? Is there support for research such as stats support, assistants, grants?