

ECU Research Year Policy

Last Updated January 2018

One year of research is built into the residency program at ECU and offered to all categorical residents entering this program and in good standing after completing at least one clinical year of training. The research year will be scheduled to be taken starting in July after completion of the R3 year. However, some flexibility may be provided in this start date, deferring the research year entirely, and extension of research time beyond one year, but not exceeding two years of research may be provided on a case by case basis.

All decisions concerning the timing, duration, location, and clinical responsibilities for the research year are at the program director. Considerations used in making these decisions include:

- Maintaining clinical patient coverage
- Anticipated ACGME approved graduation numbers per year
- Educational needs of the specific resident based on prior performance evaluations, anticipated choice of fellowship pursuit, and future career plans
- Timing of medical and personal events impacting individual residents and the program, such as illness, pregnancy, family emergency, etc.
- Split years are suboptimal but may be considered if both to the benefit of the program and the resident.

Residents are expected to complete their research year at Vidant/ECU. Full salary and benefits are provided for the research year for residents performing their research at Vidant/ECU and with the expectation that the resident remains a member of the clinical coverage team, providing a minimum number calls per month as determined by the program director (not to exceed 1 in 3 call) and participates in clinical coverage at times of limited resident coverage. This includes coverage in June and July of each year, during the December/January holidays, other holidays as needed, and potentially other times as needed due to clinical needs as the discretion of the program director. of beginning/end of year/holidays will be required.

Residents at Vidant/ECU with the may choose to complete an MBA, MPH, education degree or similar advanced certification in place of a full-time research program. The resident is expected to demonstrate acceptance to the program at least 3 months prior to the start of the program for approval. However, the tuition and any/all expenses for these programs are the sole responsibility of resident without reimbursement the institution or program. Additionally, to collect a salary and benefits during the year of degree pursuit, the resident is still expected to provide call coverage as describes above and participate in one or more quality or research projects with a faculty member at Vidant/ECU during that year, resulting in at least one abstract, poster presentation or oral presentation accepted to the

ECU/Vidant Resident Research Day and/or and approved local, regional, or national meeting. This requirement exists to emphasize the importance of learning these skills for all practice types.

Residents may request the opportunity to pursue one or two-year research or other educational positions at institutions other than Vidant/ECU. However, neither salary support nor benefits will be provided to residents spending less than 75% of their time and effort on projects outside the ECU/Vidant campus and not available for clinical patient care responsibilities as required by the program director (not to exceed 1 in 3 call coverage.) Residents approved for research and educational pursuits outside the Vidant/ECU system will be guaranteed a continued residency position in the program for up to two years from the start of their departure, so long as the leave was approved in advance, the resident was in good standing at the time of departure (ie – not on academic probation and in compliance with other residency requirements), remains eligible for full licensing and credentialing in our program, and did not encounter major clinical or legal events at their alternative program. This program reserves the right to not accept a resident back for cause such as legal conviction or failure to follow policy and procedures at their alternative institution.

Residents may choose to forgo the research year on a space available basis at the discretion of the program director, if:

- A research portfolio is not needed to be competitive in their chosen specialty.
- The resident is participating in one or more approved projects resulting in acceptance of an abstract, poster presentation, or oral presentation to the ECU/Vidant Graduate Medical Education Day, and/or and approved local, regional, or national conference without the dedicated full year of research prior to initiation of their Chief year.
- The program feels that they have sufficient clinical, professional, and personal maturity to complete the program in 5 years.

Research year schedule

Program director and or associate program director will meet with the R2 and R3 residents approximately 3 months into the year to determine schedule requests of each resident. The program director will determine, based on class numbers and program needs, the optimal timing and duration of research time for each resident.

The residents assigned to research for the next academic year will meet with the residency research team (ie - economist, current research residents, research faculty, etc) to determine their research goals and plans. Beginning in February, after taking ABSITE exam, the current and impending research residents will meet bimonthly for planning and education lectures (statistics, study design, manuscript writing, etc). Residents are highly encouraged to identify grant funding opportunities and apply for independent funding for their research efforts in the months prior to start of their research effort.

All residents are expected to take the ABSITE exam each year, either at ECU or a nearby surgery residency program unless there are extenuating circumstances preventing taking the examination and written permission has been provided by the program director.

During the research year(s), whether here or away, the resident will keep the PC/PD updated on production of manuscripts and presentations at least every 6 months. Travel to podium presentation within the contiguous 48 states for Vidant/ECU funded residents will be provided by the department. Poster and/or non-48 state presentations will be evaluated on a case by case basis, with priority funding provided to those with independent grant funding for travel and those performing research at ECU/Vidant. All research residents are expected to participate during research year and the year after in the local Graduate Medical Research Day.