

*These training requirements apply to those who begin training on or after July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018.*

## **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS TO BEGIN TRAINING**

Royal College certification in Psychiatry

**OR**

Eligibility for the Royal College certification examination in Psychiatry

**OR**

Registration in a Royal College-accredited residency program in Psychiatry (see requirements for these qualifications)

## **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR EXAMINATION/CERTIFICATION<sup>1</sup>**

All candidates must be Royal College certified in Psychiatry in order to be eligible to write the Royal College certification examination in Geriatric Psychiatry.

## **MINIMUM TRAINING REQUIREMENTS**

Twenty-four (24) months of approved residency in Geriatric Psychiatry. This period must include:

1. Eighteen (18) to twenty-one (21) months of clinical training

The clinical component of the residency training is outlined in the *Objectives of Training in Geriatric Psychiatry*. This clinical training period will be comprised of

- 1.1. A minimum of twelve (12) months or longitudinal equivalent of clinical training in Geriatric Psychiatry, with a minimum of two (2) months or equivalent in each of the settings listed below. Each of these components must allow the resident to provide both consultations and ongoing care.
  - 1.1.1. Inpatient, including inpatient work on psychiatric units or consultation to other inpatient settings
  - 1.1.2. Ambulatory care, including outpatient clinics or day hospital settings

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<sup>1</sup> *These eligibility requirements are not applicable to Subspecialty Examination Affiliate Program (SEAP) candidates. Please contact the Royal College for information about SEAP.*

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## SUBSPECIALTY TRAINING REQUIREMENTS IN GERIATRIC PSYCHIATRY (2018)

- 1.1.3. Visits to patients' places of residence, including a long-term care facility component
  - 1.2. A minimum of three (3) months devoted to the development of expertise in medical care of the elderly
    - 1.2.1. A minimum of one (1) month in Geriatric Medicine; Geriatric Medicine training may be done in inpatient, outpatient, day hospital, community, and/or long-term care settings, and may include care of the elderly provided by family physicians
  - 1.3. A maximum of three (3) months of clinical electives related to the practice of Geriatric Psychiatry
2. Three (3) to six (6) months devoted to scholarly activity in one or more of the areas below. This training may be completed in distinct blocks or integrated longitudinally over the course of subspecialty training. In addition to developing competency across the CanMEDS Roles sufficient to meet the objectives of training, each subspecialty trainee will be expected to develop skills in one of the following areas in greater depth, to at least advanced level competency (as defined in the *Objectives of Training in Geriatric Psychiatry*).
  - 2.1. *Education*: Educational skills are crucial to day-to-day work in Geriatric Psychiatry. Trainees will be encouraged to develop these skills with patients and caregivers, other mental health professionals, and community care providers, and in collaboration with agencies such as the Alzheimer Society of Canada. A substantial education component is required for effective collaboration with primary care physicians and general psychiatrists, which will be explicitly taught during subspecialty training. As expertise grows, the training Geriatric Psychiatrist will be involved in both undergraduate and postgraduate teaching in preparation for his/her future role as content expert in this area. Advanced level competency may include the development and evaluation of a new educational program, or formal graduate studies in health professional education.
  - 2.2. *Research*: Subspecialist Geriatric Psychiatrists will generally become resources to their colleagues on the interpretation and clinical impact of new research findings, and will therefore contribute to the propagation of best, evidence-based medical practice. A smaller group will choose to become key researchers in the field of geriatric psychiatry. While all trainees will gain expertise in the critical appraisal of the literature specific to Geriatric Psychiatry, those choosing to develop advanced level of competency in this area will undertake a research project, and the training program will be expected to assist the resident in acquiring the necessary skills.
  - 2.3. *Leadership and/or Administration*: Subspecialty trainees will be exposed to situations requiring the development of administrative skills. Over the course of training, residents will be offered increasing responsibility in this regard, and will be expected to integrate these functions along with other day-to-day activities as would occur in independent practice. Advanced level competency may include a critical evaluation and review of an existing model of service delivery, undertaking

and documenting a new service development or capacity enhancement project, or graduate-level studies in health administration.

- 2.4. *Other:* Trainees may elect to develop advanced level competency in other areas, such as advocacy, according to individual career goals and subject to approval by the program director.

**NOTES:**

1. The nature of geriatric mental health is such that many problems are slow to resolve and require longer therapeutic trials than with younger patients. An 18-month training duration in section 1 is required to ensure adequate clinical experience across a range of geriatric mental health problems at the level of complexity required of a subspecialist. During this period, the trainee will develop the advanced integrative skills required to adequately identify, formulate, and address the potentially large number of clinical factors relevant to the most complex cases. Over the course of training, subspecialty residents will be expected to assume gradually increasing levels of responsibility as independent consultants.
2. Up to twelve (12) months of the training requirements listed in sections 1 and 2, if completed during fulfilment of the primary certification requirements in a Royal College-accredited program in Psychiatry, may be credited toward subspecialty training. Residents are strongly encouraged to consult with the program director of their prospective geriatric psychiatry subspecialty program to determine whether specific rotations would be eligible for consideration of credit toward subspecialty requirements.
3. To be eligible, rotations must have been completed at the PGY4 level or higher.
4. A minimum of six (6) months of dedicated geriatric psychiatry clinical training (described in 1.1.) must be completed in PGY6 or higher to ensure that subspecialty residents receive sufficient experience working and supervising others at a subspecialty level.
5. The 6-month mandatory core experience in Geriatric Psychiatry completed during Psychiatry training would not be eligible for credit toward subspecialty training, as it is structured to develop foundational skills rather than subspecialty expertise.

**REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATION**

Royal College certification in Geriatric Psychiatry requires all of the following:

1. Royal College certification in Psychiatry;
2. Successful completion of a 2-year Royal College-accredited program in Geriatric Psychiatry;
3. Successful completion of scholarly activities relevant to Geriatric Psychiatry, as attested by the program director; and
4. Successful completion of the Royal College certification examination in Geriatric Psychiatry.

The 2-year program outlined above is to be regarded as the minimum training requirement. Additional training may be required by the program director to ensure that clinical competence has been achieved.

### **CREDIT FOR TRAINING IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

1. All candidates for the Royal College Geriatric Psychiatry certification examination must have Royal College certification in Psychiatry.
2. Graduates of a 5-year Royal College program in Psychiatry and a 1- or 2-year Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) program in Geriatric Psychiatry will be eligible for the Royal College Geriatric Psychiatry certification examination.
3. Graduates of a 4-year ACGME program in Psychiatry and a 2-year ACGME program in Geriatric Psychiatry will be eligible for the Royal College Geriatric Psychiatry certification examination.
4. Graduates of a 4-year ACGME program in Psychiatry and a 1-year ACGME program in Geriatric Psychiatry who have completed a minimum of one year of geriatric psychiatry practice in the United States or Canada will be eligible for the Royal College Geriatric Psychiatry certification examination. The one year of geriatric psychiatry practice must meet the scope of practice and percentage of practice requirements for the Royal College *Practice Eligibility Route for Subspecialists* (PER-sub) in Geriatric Psychiatry.

*Revised – 2011*

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*Revised – Specialty Committee – May 2017*

*Approved – Specialty Standards Review Committee – January 2018*