

Questions for Nephrology Training Program Self-Assessment

Nephrology training programs focus on attracting the best candidates and providing them the high-quality educational experience that will prepare them for one of the most challenging, and satisfying, professions in healthcare. The ASN Nephrology Match Task Force developed nine self-assessment questions (below), adapted in part from a much longer fellowship program analysis created by Jeffrey Berns, MD, FASN, and Stuart Linus, MD, FASN (also available at https://www.asn-online.org/education/training/match/Assessing_Nephrology_Training_Programs.pdf).

ASN encourages you to use these questions to help assess the educational experience your program is providing to future nephrologists. If you have suggestions to improve this list, please send them to nephrologymatch@asn-online.org

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1. Is the size of the fellowship program justified more by clinical service workload or by the educational opportunities provided by the program?
2. Does the fellowship support local, regional or national efforts to enhance nephrology workforce diversity and/or reduce health care disparities?
3. Does the fellowship serve local or regional needs for access to care, and/or participate in unique offerings such as Urban Service or Rural Service tracks with the parent specialty program or the school?
4. Are the physician investigator graduates of the program successful in obtaining independent research funding and do they sustain careers in investigation?
5. Are most graduating fellows from the program able to find jobs that are consistent with their career and personal objectives?
6. Does the program have adequate diversity and quantity of clinical experiences (including kidney transplantation, peritoneal and home hemodialysis, and opportunity for invasive and non-invasive procedures) to provide optimal training for all fellows?
7. Does the program have adequate institutional support and sufficient numbers of quality clinical and research faculty to provide optimal training for all fellows?
8. What percentage of the program matriculates in the last five years passed their Internal Medicine boards on the first attempt, and subsequently passed Nephrology boards on the first attempt?
9. Has your program filled all of its positions that were allocated in the Match for each of the last three years?

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