

2.3 The Curriculum

2.3.1 Structure and Duration of Training

2.3.1.1 *Duration of the Training Program*

The ACD training program is of five years duration. Trainees who pass the Fellowship Examination and complete all the requirements of the training program by the end of their fourth year of training, receive a one year training credit and are not required to complete the fifth year of training. Trainees who choose to defer sitting the Fellowship Examination in their fourth year of training, sit the Fellowship Examination in their fourth year of training and fail it, or who do not complete the requirements of the training program by the end of their fourth year of training, are required to undertake and satisfactorily complete one additional year of training (in its entirety).

The College commenced a review of the duration of the training program in 2000. The process and outcomes of this review are explained in Attachment 2.

2.3.1.2 *Structure of the Training Program*

The training program is divided into:

- Two years of basic training
- Two years of advanced training
- A fifth year of training for trainees who do not complete all training requirements by the end of year four

2.3.1.2.1 *Basic Training*

The aim of basic training (years 1 and 2) is for a trainee to develop a broad knowledge of the theory and practice of dermatological medicine and the basic sciences underpinning this knowledge. Achieving the aims of basic training provides a strong foundation for the development of advanced clinical skills and scientific learning during advanced training.

A trainee demonstrates that he or she has attained the required standard of knowledge for the basic sciences and mastered basic clinical skills by:

- Passing the Clinical Sciences Examination during the first 18 months of training;
- Passing the Pharmacology Examination during the first 18 months of training;
- Achieving satisfactory Summative In-training Assessments (SITAs) in June and December of both year 1 and year 2 of training;

A trainee must pass the Clinical Sciences and Pharmacology Examinations, and attain satisfactory SITAs to be eligible to enter advanced training.

2.3.1.2.2 Advanced Training

The aims of advanced training (years 3 and 4) are for a trainee to develop skills in the treatment of more complex dermatological conditions and to take increased responsibility for patient management.

A trainee demonstrates they have attained the standard of knowledge required for advanced dermatological practice and mastered advanced clinical skills by:

- Passing both the written and clinical components of the Fellowship Examination;
- Achieving satisfactory Summative In-training Assessments (SITAs) in June and December of year 3 and year 4 of training;
- Attaining competence at performing the essential procedures listed in the *Training Program Record Book* (Attachment 7).

A trainee who completes these requirements exits the program at the end of year 4.

2.3.1.2.3 Fifth Year

Trainees who choose to defer sitting the Fellowship Examination in their fourth year of training, sit the Fellowship Examination in their fourth year of training and fail it, or who do not complete the requirements of the training program by the end of their fourth year of training, undergo one additional year of training (in its entirety). This may be undertaken in teaching hospitals or private practices, or a combination of both. There is provision for the Board of Censors to prospectively accredit an individual training program for each trainee required to undertake a fifth year of training. The training program is developed by the trainee, their DOT, state Faculty and their supervisor/s of training for the fifth year.

2.3.1.3 Trainer/Trainee Ratio

The College does not have a documented policy for the trainer/trainee ratio. However, when the College receives an application from a training institution for the accreditation of a new training position, the Board of Censors considers whether there is a sufficient number of supervisors to provide quality training and assessment.

2.3.1.4 Ensuring Trainees Receive Training in an Appropriate Range of Locations

Rotations for all trainees are organized by their state Director of Training and are explained in Section 2.8 of this submission.

2.3.2 Review of the Training Program

The College reviews training innovations and the implications of changes in the medical workforce by:

- Establishing College committees and task forces such as the Training Committee and Curriculum sub-committee. The Training Committee is currently reviewing the College selection policies and processes and more information on this is in Section 2.9 of this submission. The Curriculum sub-committee is currently undertaking a major review of the College curriculum and information about this is in Section 2.4 on the Curriculum;
- Using external consultants to conduct reviews of components of the training program, for example, the examination systems;
- Conducting surveys of trainees and recent graduates of the program;
- Obtaining information from members of the Board of Directors and members of the Board of Censors;
- Obtaining information from State Directors of Training through meetings and teleconferences;
- Obtaining information from Supervisors of Training and Heads of Dermatology Departments about specific training issues
- Obtaining feedback from trainees through the Trainee Representative Committee and the trainee representatives who attend the Board of Censors and Board of Directors meetings as observers.

2.3.3 Opportunities for Part-time and Interrupted Training

The ACD has established provision to allow a trainee to undertake shared or part-time training, or to interrupt their training. These requirements are explained on page 39 of the *2006 Training Program Handbook* as follows:

2.3.3.1 Shared Training

The College allows trainees to participate in 'shared' training provided the following criteria, as approved by the Board of Censors and the Council¹, are met:

- There must be no compromise of patient care;
- There must be no disruption to the orderly running of the Department of Dermatology in the institute where the "shared" program is undertaken;
- There must be suitable overlap of time for the transfer of responsibilities from one "shared" trainee to the other;
- Each "shared" trainee has to perform at least 50% of the workload, ie there is no provision for variable split eg 70%/30% (or similar);

¹ The College adopted new governance structures in 2006 and the Council is now the Board of Directors (see Attachment 1 for more information). The Board of Directors now undertakes the responsibilities described in this section of the submission that were previously undertaken by the College Council.

- “Shared” training is not available to first year trainees;
- “Shared” training is only available for a period of two years, which translates to one year of full-time training;
- Where “shared” training occurs in the fourth year, neither of the trainees is eligible to sit for the Fellowship Examination until the second year of the two year “shared” period;
- During the “shared” year trainees involved in the “shared” program are expected to attend at least 50% of tutorials, clinical meetings and other educational meetings held at their training institutions or organized by their State Faculty.

2.3.3.2 *Interrupted Training*

Trainees may be allowed 12 months leave-of-absence from the training program at discretion of Council². If Council approves such leave then the trainee is entitled to return to the training program the following year. The year of leave is not counted as accredited training.

If more than one year of continuous leave is taken then the trainee will need to re-apply to the training program and compete in the selection process along with new applicants.

2.3.3.3 *Part-time Training*

The College allows trainees to participate in part-time training provided the following criteria, as approved by the Board of Censors and the Council³, are met:

- There must be no compromise of patient care;
- There must be no disruption to the orderly running of the Department of Dermatology in the institute where the part-time program is undertaken;
- There must be suitable overlap of time for the transfer of responsibilities from the part-time trainee to a full-time trainee;
- A part-time trainee has to perform at least 50% of full-time workload;
- Part-time training is not available to first year trainees;
- Part-time training is only available for a period of two years, which translates to one year of full-time training;
- Where part-time training occurs in the fourth year, that trainee is not eligible to sit for the Fellowship Examination until the trainee is in the second “half” of the fourth year;
- Part-time trainees are expected to attend at least 50% of tutorials, clinical meetings and other educational meetings held at their training institutions or organized by their State Faculty.

² The Education Committee, which reports to the College Board of Directors, is now responsible for this.

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2.3.4 Number of Trainees Who Have Sought and Been Granted Part-time or Interrupted Training in the Last Three Years

The number of trainees who have sought and been granted part-time or interrupted training in the last three years are summarized in Table 4 below.

Table 4
Part Time and Interrupted Training

Year	Sought Shared Training	Granted Shared Training	Sought Interrupted Training	Granted Interrupted Training
2004	2	2	3	3
2005	2	2	1	1 ¹
2006	2	2	2	2 ²

1 One trainee took approved leave for six months.

2 One trainee took approved leave for twelve months.

2.3.5 Research

Trainees are required to undertake research and present their findings in publications and at scientific meetings. The 2006 *Training Program Handbook* (p 36) explains these requirements as follows:

Presentations/Publications/Research

Trainees must, during the course of their training, prepare and have published (or at least accepted for publication) two papers of a significant nature on a dermatological subject. Trainees must conduct this research either during their period of training or in the 2 years immediately preceding commencing training. At least one of these papers must be published in *The Australasian Journal of Dermatology (AJD)* and the other may be published in a peer reviewed journal acceptable to the Board of Censors. If one of the two required papers is published in a journal other than the *AJD* then the paper submitted to the *AJD* must be of a similar standard to the one published in the alternate journal. If the trainee is uncertain whether their dermatological subject is significant and whether the journal is acceptable to the Board of Censors then they should formally approach their local Censor for advice.

The trainee must be the primary author and at least one of the papers must be peer reviewed. The minimum requirement is for a paper of a case report with a full literature review or equivalent. However papers with original work are encouraged.

Trainees are required, during the period of their training, to present at least one paper in the Registrars' Forum or other session or submit a

poster presentation at the Annual Scientific Meeting of the ACD⁴. The subject of this presentation can overlap with that of their publications. Any poster or presentation presented at the Annual Scientific Meeting will need to have an abstract, which is submitted to College before the meeting, to meet training requirements. In addition, trainees commencing from 2005 will also be required to present a second paper or poster once during their training at the Annual Scientific Meeting of the Australasian College of Dermatologists or the Australasian Dermatopathology Society conference or the Australasian Society of Dermatology Research meeting or another meeting of stature, subject to approval in advance from the Board of Censors.

For trainees who commence training in 2000 or thereafter, evidence that these requirements have been satisfied must be received by the College by the end of the year of training prior to the year the trainee plans to sit for the Fellowship Examination. Application for admission to the Fellowship Examination will not be accepted without evidence of compliance with the publication requirements of the College except at the discretion of Council.

The BOC, at its meeting held on 11 February 2006, agreed to recommend to the Board of Directors that the presentation and publication requirements be amended to allow one journal article published before a trainee commences training, to count towards meeting the publication requirements. The BOC also recommended that there be no limit on the time period in which background research may be conducted for articles published during training.

The Board of Directors accepted the BOC's recommendations. The Board agreed at their meeting held by teleconference on 11 April 2006, that trainees must meet the following publication requirements in order to be eligible to sit the Fellowship Examination:

- Trainees must have two papers (on a subject relevant to dermatology) of a minimum standard of a case report with literature review accepted for publication to be eligible to sit the Fellowship Written Examinations;
- One paper relevant to dermatology published in a peer reviewed journal prior to entering the training program may be accepted as fulfilling part of the publication requirement subject to application to and approval by the Board of Censors. Such application must occur in the first year of training. Such an article must be of a substantive nature and at a specialist standard;
- If two papers are published or accepted for publication during training there will be no restriction on the time when the research may occur for one of these papers. The second paper must be researched during the training period;

⁴ A trainee must present at least one paper in a Registrars' Training Conference or Registrars' Training Day, or at the Annual Scientific Meeting or Biennial Spring Meeting of the ACD, and make a second presentation or submit a poster at the ASM or Biennial Spring meeting, to be eligible to sit the Fellowship Examination. The wording of the *2007 Training Program Handbook* will be amended to clearly communicate this requirement.

- A minimum of one paper must be researched and published or accepted for publication during the training period to demonstrate currency of this competency;
- From 2007, Fellowship Examination applicants may count a paper published prior to commencing training subject to approval by the Board of Censors. For trainees in second year or later in 2006, the requirement to apply for such approval in the first year of training will be waived.

In addition, information in the 2006 *Training Program Handbook* regarding presentation requirements will be replaced with the following in the 2007 version of the *Training Program Handbook*:

A trainee must make two presentations in their training period to be eligible to sit the Fellowship Examination. One of these must be presentation of a paper, the second may be presentation of a paper or a poster. One presentation must be at the Annual Scientific Meeting of the Australasian College of Dermatologists. The other may be at the Annual Scientific Meeting of the Australasian College of Dermatologists, or the Australian Dermatopathology Society or the Australasian Society of Dermatology Research.

2.3.6 Post-Fellowship Diplomas

The ACD does not award any post-Fellowship diplomas.