

**AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE  
OF COSMETIC SURGERY  
AND MEDICINE**

**RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING  
COSMETIC SURGERY TRAINING  
PROGRAM**

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) refers to the acceptance and assessment of evidence of relevant knowledge, skills and competencies attained through experience or education and training in another medical education program or jurisdiction. (Committee of Presidents of Medical Colleges, 2009).

## 2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to avoid unnecessary duplication of training and experiences, which are equivalent to those delivered in the ACCSM Cosmetic Surgery Training Program. The policy aims to provide the criteria and method by which the ACCSM Board of Censors recognises and credits trainees for their existing knowledge, skills, and experience, allowing them to gain exemptions or credits towards the completion of the ACCSM Cosmetic Surgery Training Program curriculum requirements.

## 3. SCOPE

This policy provides a framework for Recognition of Prior Learning only for prospective trainees seeking to obtain credit towards components of the ACCSM Cosmetic Surgery Training Program. The scope of this policy concerns learning outcomes and curriculum components and does not extend to examinations.

## 4. ASSESSMENT PRINCIPLES

Prior learning will be assessed against the following principles:

**Validity** – the evidence must be relevant to the learning outcomes in the ACCSM training program curriculum.

**Authenticity** – The evidence must be verifiably that of the applicant.

**Currency** – Prior learning must occur within five years of the date of application to be considered contemporary.

**Reliability** – Assessment tools used to provide evidence of a skill, knowledge or competency should be consistent with those of the ACCSM training program.

**Equivalence** – the applicant must demonstrate that the prior learning is equivalent to the learning outcomes of the ACCSM training program.

**Timeliness** – applications must be made at the time of enrolling in the ACCSM Cosmetic Surgery Training Program.

## **5. RPL FOR TRAINING PROGRAM CREDIT**

### **5.1 GOVERNANCE**

Assessment of applications for RPL and notification of outcomes are the responsibility of the ACCSM Board of Censors.

The Board of Censors will assess each application on a case by case basis, and the outcome will be dependent on whether the evidence provided by the applicant can substantiate the achievement of competence comparable to those required for the ACCSM Cosmetic Surgery Training Program.

### **5.2 ELIGIBILITY**

Candidates seeking RPL must be made at the time of accepting enrolment into the ACCSM Cosmetic Surgery Training Program. Applicants must demonstrate evidence of prior learning and experience that aligns with the learning outcomes of the curriculum.

### **5.3 INELIGIBLE APPLICATIONS**

RPL will not be granted if:

- The application is incomplete
- The application is not made within the required timeframe
- Any relevant fee is not paid
- Key information or supporting evidence cannot be verified. In these cases, the ACCSM may either:
  - request more information from the applicant
  - refuse the application

### **5.4 TIMELINES**

Applications must be made at the time of accepting enrolment into ACCSM Cosmetic Surgery Training Program. It must be made prior to the commencement of the specific scheduled training rotation to which the RPL application applies.

## **5.5 ASSESSMENT**

The Board of Censors will consider the applicant's prior learning and experience, substantiating evidence, and any other relevant information against the specific learning outcomes and competencies of the cosmetic surgery training program curriculum.

Assessment will consider:

- The completeness of the application
- The extent to which the evidence demonstrates comparability to the relevant competencies in the Surgical Training Program
- Whether the evidence meets the assessment principles
- The Board of Censors may contact the applicant to request more information, if substantiating evidence is unclear.

## **5.6 OUTCOME**

The Board of Censors may make one of the following decisions:

- RPL granted
- RPL partially granted – for example, where one or more competencies are assessed as valid but not all the RPL claimed, or where the Board of Censors imposes conditions on the application.
- RPL not granted

Applicants will be notified in writing within 6 weeks of the application being made and the training progression records will be updated to reflect the outcome.

## **5.7 FEES**

Applicants for RPL must pay the relevant fee prescribed on the ACCSM website before their application will be considered.

## 6. RECONSIDERATION, REVIEW AND APPEAL

An applicant may, in certain circumstances, seek reconsideration, review or appeal against any decisions or outcomes made in relation to RPL, under the *ACCSM Reconsideration, Review and Appeals Policy*. Contact the ACCSM for more details about the process and applicable fees.

## 7. EVALUATION

The ACCSM will include data about RPL applications and outcomes as part of its evaluation and monitoring framework for the ACCSM Cosmetic Surgery Training Program. Any adjustments to the policy or assessment process will be made if evidence suggests that it is not fit for purpose. Data may also be used to inform updates to the training program curriculum.

## 8. RELATED RESOURCES

- ACCSM Cosmetic Training Program Curriculum (Learning Outcomes)
- ACCSM Admission to Fellowship Policy
- ACCSM Reconsideration, Review and Appeal Policy
- ACCSM Trainee Selection and Admission Policy
- ACCSM Special Consideration Policy

## 9. CONTACT

For further information and advice about this policy please contact the ACCSM office.

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