

Engage program leaders and constituents in a discussion of program aims

The first task of the self-study group is a discussion of program aims. Aims are program and institutional leaders' views of key expectations for the program, and how it differentiates itself from other programs in the same specialty/subspecialty. Aims may focus on the types of trainees recruited into the program, training for particular careers (clinical practice, academics, research, primary/generalist care), and other objectives, such as care for underserved patients, health policy or advocacy, population health, or generating new knowledge.

Program aims should generally take a longer-term strategic view, but they also may change over time, in response to factors such as local or national demand for a resident workforce with certain capabilities, or new opportunities to train residents and fellows in a different setting.