

How to Succeed in Academics Without a Fellowship

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Not fellowship trained? Worried that you won't make it in academics? Have no fear! It is absolutely possible to be successful in academia without formal fellowship certification. Although completing a fellowship has its benefits, there are many other avenues by which you can attain competency in medical education without the loss of time and income incurred by a fellowship.

General Considerations:

- 1) Identify your professional goals
- 2) Ensure you understand your department's/chair's expectation
- 3) Self-assess: Where are your gaps?
- 4) Identify mentors and community of practice

It is important that if you choose not to pursue a fellowship, that you still obtain formal education in the field of medical education so that you can be a competent medical educator. There are many opportunities out there, here is a list of suggestions to get started:

- Academic Life in Emergency Medicine (ALiEM) Faculty Incubator - this is a longitudinal, year-long course in medical education targeted towards junior faculty members. Learners will learn about medical education theory, research, bedside teaching skills and many other topics in this incredible course. Applications are due towards the end of the calendar year and new classes start each April. For more information, visit <https://www.aliem.com/faculty-incubator/>
- The Medical Education Research Certification (MERC) at CORD - this is a year-long course that trains you to become a medical education researcher. Participants will take 6 half-day sessions and complete a medical education research project. For more information, visit <https://www.cordem.org/events/merc-at-cord/>
- ACEP Teaching Fellowship - this course provides an intensive exposure to the fundamentals of medical education. Fellows will learn the skills and knowledge to become effective and productive medical educators. For more information, visit <https://www.acep.org/education/meetings/acep--teaching-fellowship/>
- A Masters in Medical Education (MEd) or in Health Professions Education (MHPE) may be a great option! Many of these programs can be completed without having to travel. In some cases, your department may help defray the cost of tuition.



- Join communities of practice! There are many medical education committees offered through CORD, ACEP and SAEM that you can join. Consider your professional goals and get involved with AAMC, AMA, ACGME, ABEM. This will help with medical education opportunities and to network with your peers (and to meet mentors). Get involved!
- Offer to be a reviewer for medical education journals. WestJEM and AEM Education and Training are great medical education journals to review for. Reviewing journal articles is a great way to stay on top of the latest medical education trends and you will learn a lot in the process!
- Be sure to explore local opportunities at your hospital/medical school. There are often teaching courses, leadership courses, and faculty development courses offered at the local level that can be very helpful. A specific course that may be offered locally is the Stanford Faculty Development in Medical Education course, which trains educators to be exceptional teachers; look for this at your institution.

Independent teaching courses:

Medutopia

The Teaching Coop