

STATEMENT ON THE ROLE OF THE JUNIOR ASSOCIATE AS PRACTICING SURGEON

The ACS Division of Education launched the Mastery in General Surgery Program (formerly the Transition to Practice Program) in response to the identified need for additional autonomous experience for general surgeons leaving residency. As determined by each institution, Junior Associates are responsible for their own patients, operate independently, and are in the practice of surgery during the Mastery in General Surgery Program. Junior Associates experience increased autonomy through one year in a broad-based clinical setting, building their competence and confidence in general surgery, developing practice management skills, and gaining practical experience to launch their careers. Working closely with experienced surgeons, Junior Associates concentrate on specific areas within general surgery to refine operative skills based on their career goals.

The Mastery GS Program provides newly-trained surgeons with practical, hands-on, individualized experience in general surgery at the outset of their professional careers. This foundation of increased autonomy, decision-making, and independence strengthens the skills of new surgeons. While mentoring and guidance are abundant, the Mastery GS Program is not a training or fellowship program. The Mastery GS Program instills a sense of self-reflection, lifelong learning, and continuous professional development.

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