

East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN

East Tennessee State University  
Department of Surgery  
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The East Tennessee State University (ETSU) Department of Surgery Residency Program at the Quillen College of Medicine prides itself on helping high-quality individuals develop into skilled surgical practitioners. The department believes that there is need for “old school” general surgeons who have the ability to provide a wide variety for a solid knowledge base and a technical skill set that allows residents to enter a diverse practice immediately upon completion of their residencies. While many residents do decide to undertake fellowship training, we do not want our general surgery training to simply prepare someone for fellowship. We expect our graduates to be well-situated and ready for practice upon completion of their training.

Our program operates out of three health care systems and four hospitals. Each of these facilities provides unique and diverse educational opportunities. The Johnson City Medical Center is a 488-bed tertiary referral hospital. It is a flagship hospital for Mountain State Health Alliance—a 13 hospital comprehensive health care system. The 114-bed Quillen Veterans Affairs hospital provides excellent general surgery experience for our residents. Wellmont Health Systems is an eight-hospital system from which we use Holston Valley Hospital (505 beds) and Bristol Regional Medical Center (348 beds) to train our residents. Residents work with a wide variety of faculty, from highly specialized individuals to those who practice a wide variety of general and vascular surgery. Rotations offer experience with university and private groups, allowing residents significant exposure to a wide variety of practice types. An optional year after the third or fourth year of residency is available to residents wishing to prepare for rural community practice; the year involves in-depth experience in orthopedics, urology, ENT, and gynecological surgery.

In recent years, approximately half of our graduates have entered the practice of general surgery and have gone on to additional training. Our residents have obtained competitive fellowships in cardiothoracic, minimally invasive, colon-rectal, trauma/critical care, plastics, breast, endocrine, and vascular surgery. Additionally, our residents who are interested in research have the opportunity to work in a well-funded department with six full-time faculty and many post-docs.

Our residency is always trying to identify and attract high-value individuals who care for their patients. We provide excellent educational opportunities across a wide spectrum of general surgery practice, and we train general surgeons in a manner that equips each graduate to provide the highest possible care for his or her patients.

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