The University of Tennessee College of Medicine Chattanooga General Surgery Residency Program is a six-year program consisting of five years in clinical training and one year in clinical research. Five categorical surgery positions are available each year. Residents completing this program are truly “general surgeons” in that the program provides a broad clinical experience enabling graduates to successfully enter surgical practice or a nationally recognized fellowship. The majority of clinical training takes place within the main Erlanger campus. This training is comprehensive, encompassing all areas of general surgery and related subspecialties. Surgery residents are involved in door-to-door care of approximately 90 percent of all patients admitted to the general surgery, thoracic, and vascular surgery services.

The program also provides a rotation in rural general surgery. Each PGY-3 level resident spends three consecutive months in the rural towns of Athens and Etowah, TN. Athens and Etowah are located within an hour of Chattanooga and have a combined population of 17,000. Each resident works one-on-one with three faculty members who are graduates of the University of Tennessee Chattanooga. This rotation offers residents a true private practice experience featuring the full breadth of general surgery and endoscopy numbers in the 90th percentile nationally. Housing is provided but the resident may commute when not on-call.