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The general surgery residency program at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) is a large academic program with 12 categorical residents per year. The program strives to train surgeons who have the expertise and confidence to directly enter into general surgery practice or to be competitive for the finest fellowship programs. A rural year is available for two categorical residents in lieu of their usual research year following the third clinical year of training. The experience counts for the fourth clinical year. Residents spend an entire year in Grants Pass, OR, a town of 34,533 located 3.5 hours south of Portland. The hospital at Grants Pass is a well-equipped, modern 125-bed general hospital. The surgical staff includes a large group of board-certified general surgeons and also board-certified obstetric-gynecologists, orthopedic surgeons, otolaryngologists, and a urologist. There are no specialty residents to compete with general surgery residents for specialty experience. There is also a rich experience in endoscopy. The site includes its own M&M, Journal Club, and county medical society meetings. The two general surgical residents become integral parts of the office practice of the general surgery group and of the small community of Grants Pass. Resident conferences held at OHSU are videotaped and residents in Grants Pass are sent a link to the video for viewing at their convenience. Residents perform 300–500 cases during their year in Grants Pass and return from their rural experience to become chief residents at OHSU.

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