2026-2027

APGO ACADEMIC SCHOLARS AND LEADERS

Educational Application Project (EAP)

Rationale:

People learn best when they have the opportunity to actively *apply* and/or *extend* the content or skills addressed in a course. The EAP requirement was planned so participants could tailor their project according to the scope, need, prior experience, and interest of each learner thus making the project personally relevant and of local value or beyond.

The first step is to identify an education related interest, problem, weakness, or need that each scholar would like to pursue as part of their EAP. It is often advantageous to brainstorm several ideas as backup since some early projects may not prove to be appropriate for the available time and resources. Your ASL advisor and home mentor can assist with choosing your project. Please note that any EAP can be publishable if planned and completed according to publication standards. And although it is advisable to pursue a project that may result in a scholarly publication, it is not an ASL requirement. Your ASL project will fall into one of three categories as described below.

1. **Evidence-based Education Project**

Aims to implement an intervention *using existing evidence* to address a practical educational problem. Demonstrating the scope of the problem and developing an intervention are key components of this type of project. The intervention may be a curricular resource, pedagogic approach, assessment method, or evaluation tool. Examples include a new "resident readiness" curriculum for 4th year students; a simulation activity for teaching specific technical skill; a program for teaching faculty how to ask questions that promote critical thinking; an on-line curriculum for honing resident's ability to read simple to complex ultrasounds; videotapes designed to teach clerkship students how to present patients in the clinic or do basic physical exams; tailoring of an already existing evaluation tool for assessing the quality of M & M conferences in Obstetrics and Gynecology. This is not an exhaustive list of examples, but hopefully enough to clarify what constitutes an acceptable Evidence-based Education Project.

2. Research Project

Aims to *add new knowledge using established research methodologies*. As with any educational research project, quantitative or qualitative methods (or a combination) can be employed. Survey research is also an option. It is recommended that only those with previous research experience pursue this option given the ASL program is not designed to teach educational or behavioral science research skills. Therefore, prior research knowledge and experience is recommended to increase the likelihood of successfully completing and publishing the project.

3. **Literature Review Project**

Aims to *produce an evaluative report of information found in the literature* related to your selected area of study. The review should describe, summarize, evaluate, and clarify this literature. It should give a theoretical base, identify

questions a body of research does not answer, and make a case for why further study of research questions is important to the field of study. There are subtypes of literature reviews, a few of which include traditional or narrative reviews, systematic reviews, meta-analysis reviews, scoping reviews, and meta-synthesis reviews. During the ASL program, we will teach learners how to do a traditional review, but those with experience or interest in learning the latter four types should feel free to pursue. Prior examples of literature review topics include resident selection methods, methods for managing difficult students, longitudinal follow up methods used to evaluate resident graduates, barriers, and solutions to teaching in the operating room.

All projects require a literature review, and everyone will need to identify what is already known about their selected area of study, but those pursuing a literature review as their EAP will do a much more thorough and robust review with the aims described above.

Any project that you plan to publish needs to be reviewed by your IRB and either approved or deemed exempt. Check with your IRB as some also require IRB approval for presentations outside your institution. Following appropriate reporting guidelines (e.g., PRISMA) and registering as appropriate is also recommended (e.g., PROSPERO for systematic reviews, Open Science Framework for SCOPING reviews). Please identify resources within your department or institution for assistance with the IRB approval process for educational projects if needed.

Each EAP will be presented at the 2027 CREOG & APGO Annual Meeting during a special poster session.

It is critical that participants carefully think about the scope as well as the time and resources available to complete their project. Completion of an EAP is a requirement to complete the ASL program. It is possible that some participants may only partially complete their project by the time of graduation. Though less desirable, it better to do the project well then to rush to premature completion especially if publication is the ultimate goal. Your ASL advisor will help you determine if the project meets requirements for graduation or whether a deferral should be requested.

Your advisor and local mentor will work with you on your EAP, and both need to sign your final proposal indicating their approval of the project.

Those pursuing an Evidence-Based Education EAP should review the guidelines for submitting to the Association of American Medical College's MedEd Portal. (see link below) The website lists the submission standards and requirements.

Please plan to bring a few clearly identified ideas to the January meeting. You, your ASL advisor and the other Scholars in your group will work together to refine your ideas so you emerge from the January meeting with your project clearly defined.

Please read the EAP Timeline document and mark your calendars for deadline dates for each phase of your EAP from idea identification to final approval.

Helpful Resources:

Mededportal Author Resources

How to Write a Scoping review