OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

FORENSIC PATHOLOGY FELLOWSHIP TRAINING GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
SAMPLE CURRICULUM

OVERVIEW

Last updated: Jul 1, 2026

This is a condensed version of the Fellow Training Goals and Objectives outlined in the Fellowship Manual. The complete Fellowship Manual will be provided on your first week of employment and thoroughly reviewed with you by the Program Director.

A. PATIENT CARE

The fellows must demonstrate a satisfactory level of diagnostic competence and the ability to provide appropriate and effective consultation in the context of forensic pathology services. The forensic pathology fellowship curriculum is structured to optimize fellows' educational experiences through a balanced combination of supervised postmortem examinations, medicolegal scene investigations, clinical teaching, and didactic sessions. Rotations are organized to promote supervisory continuity and progressive responsibility while ensuring longitudinal exposure to the full spectrum of forensic pathology practice. This structured approach supports the fellows' development across all core competencies through direct faculty supervision, structured feedback, and integration of educational and service activities.

1. AUTOPSY PERFORMANCE

The fellows will perform postmortem examinations under supervision in the autopsy suite until they reach a minimum of 200 cases, the number required to sit for the American Board of Pathology forensic pathology certifying exam. In July, fellows will be assigned to the autopsy suite daily, with a target of one autopsy per day to allow for orientation, progressive skill development, and focused faculty supervision. Fellows are expected to progress toward performing two autopsies per autopsy day as soon as they are comfortable and able, with the goal of reaching this level routinely by early August, preferably near the beginning of the month, depending on case complexity and individual readiness. Protected office/paperwork

days will not be routinely scheduled at the beginning of the year. Beginning in October, the standard schedule will include one protected office day per week for case follow-up, report completion, review of ancillary testing, and other case-related documentation. During the winter, typically in December or January, the standard schedule will transition to two protected office days per week, depending on fellow progress, case volume, case complexity, and program workflow. These protected days ensure a balance between clinical responsibilities and the educational activities necessary to meet accreditation standards and support professional development. NAME accreditation standards requiring case finalization within 90 days are upheld, and office days are respected as dedicated time for documentation, not for routine reassignment to new autopsies. Additional cases may be undertaken on office days if the fellows are current on casework. Supervision is intentionally structured to support a graduated increase in responsibility, enabling fellows to progress toward independent practice under appropriate oversight by the end of the training year.

2. AUTOPSY SKILLS CHECKLIST

The fellows will perform postmortem examinations under supervision in the autopsy suite until they reach a minimum of 200 cases, the number required to sit for the American Board of Pathology forensic pathology certifying exam. In July, fellows will be assigned to the autopsy suite daily, with a target of one autopsy per day to allow for orientation, progressive skill development, and focused faculty supervision. Fellows are expected to progress toward performing two autopsies per autopsy day as soon as they are comfortable and able, with the goal of reaching this level routinely by early August, preferably near the beginning of the month, depending on case complexity and individual readiness. Protected office/paperwork days will not be routinely scheduled at the beginning of the year. Beginning in October, the standard schedule will include one protected office day per week for case follow-up, report completion, review of ancillary testing, and other case-related documentation. During the winter, typically in December or January, the standard schedule will transition to two protected office days per week, depending on fellow progress, case volume, case complexity, and program workflow. These protected days ensure a balance between clinical responsibilities and the educational activities necessary to meet accreditation standards and support professional development. NAME accreditation standards requiring case finalization within 90 days are upheld, and office days are respected as dedicated time for documentation, not for routine reassignment to new autopsies. Additional cases may be undertaken on office days if the fellows are current on casework. Supervision is intentionally structured to support a graduated increase in responsibility, enabling fellows to progress toward independent practice under appropriate oversight by the end of the training year.

3. QUALITY ASSURANCE REVIEW OF AUTOPSY REPORTS

A review of autopsy reports is done regularly. The fellows will actively participate (sharing case histories, scene photos, radiology, exam photos, etc.) in a review of cases ready for finalization with their faculty pathologists. The review will be in regard to completeness, accuracy, and timeliness. Additionally, the fellows will actively participate in a review of their in-progress interesting cases, difficult cases, homicides, and/or child deaths by presenting them during biweekly (Tuesday and Thursday) noon (quality assurance/quality control) meeting teleconferences that involve at least the faculty pathologists from both offices of the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME). As the year progresses, these case presentations will evolve from explaining preliminary findings and discussing difficult cases to reviewing microscopic slides and confirming final opinions. Discussions are held in a teaching environment with at least the fellows and faculty. Pathology residents, medical students, and/or other interested parties may be present for the discussions. Discussions will be held via video conferencing and locally. The faculty will be able to evaluate thought processes in case resolution and the fellows' decision-making processes. Attendance at noon meeting teleconferences is mandatory when they are held; the fellows will document attendance at this conference using Microsoft Forms accessed through the Fellow SharePoint. Attendance will be periodically reviewed by the PD and PC.

4. MORNING REPORT

A daily videoconference is held at 8:00 AM between the Oklahoma City and Tulsa offices every morning during the work week. Attendance is mandatory, and fellow participation will be documented through Microsoft Forms and maintained in the Fellow SharePoint. Attendance will be periodically reviewed by the PD and PC. While this meeting primarily serves as a system-wide check-in and opportunity for collegial interaction, the functional and educational components of Morning Report occur locally at each office immediately following the call and may vary based on site workflow, staffing, and operational needs. When assigned to the autopsy suite, fellows are expected to review the day's case list and select their case(s) for examination, with faculty guidance as needed to ensure appropriate educational value, case complexity, and workflow. Fellows are expected to actively participate in discussion of their assigned or selected cases and, as appropriate based on training site workflow and fellow readiness, lead those discussions. This includes review and discussion of the investigative history, scene information and photographs when applicable, x-ray and/or CT findings, preliminary impressions or anticipated findings, planned examination approach, examination type, and any planned ancillary testing. Fellows are also expected to help assess the day's case list and determine which cases warrant external examination, limited autopsy, or full/complete autopsy, in consultation with the day's supervising faculty. Regardless of the local format, fellows are expected to be familiar with the investigative history and available case materials, explain their reasoning, respond to questions, and incorporate faculty and interdisciplinary feedback into the examination plan. Morning Report also serves as an opportunity for interdisciplinary collaboration with death investigators, forensic

anthropologists, forensic toxicologists, and other team members as needed. To support effective case review and faculty engagement, fellows are encouraged to arrive by 7:30 AM to review the case census, select appropriate cases for their training needs, and meet briefly with the attending physician. As fellows gain experience and efficiency, they may adjust this arrival time accordingly, so long as they are adequately prepared for the day's responsibilities and discussions.

5. AT-HOME CALL

Midway through a fellow's training, after performing approximately 50 to 100 autopsies at the latest, the fellows will assist with at-home call. During this time, the fellows will answer investigator questions, including questions related to jurisdiction, organ donation, and other case-specific issues, and may potentially attend scenes with investigators. When feasible, on-call discussions will occur as three-way calls between the investigator, fellow, and on-call faculty pathologist. The fellow will be expected to formulate and communicate preliminary decisions and opinions during these calls, with the on-call faculty pathologist providing real-time critique, approval, feedback, and discussion of additional considerations. This process is intended to support graduated responsibility while allowing faculty to assess the fellow's reasoning, decision-making, and readiness for increasing independence. This responsibility will occur for one week a month to coincide with the monthly weekend that the fellows have in-house examination responsibilities. Any time spent actively participating in at-home call must be documented and counted toward the 80-hour maximum weekly hour limit. If scenes are attended during at-home call, the fellows will document attendance using Microsoft Forms accessed through the Fellow SharePoint. Additionally, during this same period, fellows will actively participate with faculty pathologists as they review and certify jurisdiction waive (JW), cremation permit, and out-of-state transportation permit cases in the OCME database. When reviewing JWs, fellows may be asked to document their review in the database, such as by marking the appropriate "confirmed JW" field or using a similar process, before attending physician review and certification. Faculty pathologists will review the fellow's preliminary decisions, make any necessary modifications, and provide feedback regarding changes, corrections, and additional considerations throughout the call week.

6. AUTOPSY CASE LOG

All autopsies must be logged in the ACGME ADS Case Log System for official documentation of procedural experiences. Logging activity will be periodically reviewed by the PD and PC to ensure accuracy and adequate case volume. In addition, fellows are strongly encouraged to maintain a personal case log using an Excel spreadsheet or something similar, both for fellowship purposes and as a long-term professional tool for board preparation and future career reference. Example templates will be provided. These logs must be kept current and

available for review by the PD at any time, including during formal mid-year and year-end evaluations.

7. GLOBAL RATINGS BY FACULTY

The faculty pathologists and PD will give the fellows informal feedback throughout the fellowship after autopsies, microscope sessions, and report reviews. The fellows are provided with a formal written evaluation at the mid and year-end periods of training, in addition to other evaluations that occur throughout the academic year. These evaluations utilize feedback provided by faculty pathologists and other OCME staff.

B. MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE

Fellows must demonstrate knowledge about established and evolving biomedical, clinical, epidemiologic, and social-behavioral sciences and the application of this knowledge to pathology. The fellows must show a knowledge base not only in forensic science, but also in medicine and pathology in general. This knowledge should include understanding the pathophysiology behind diseases and injuries, formulation of differential diagnoses based on circumstantial, clinical, and anatomic information, and understanding proper death certification. This foundation includes core medico-legal competencies such as biosafety in autopsy performance, medicolegal documentation, evidence handling, and statutory frameworks for death investigation systems. This knowledge base is augmented throughout the fellowship by casework, structured didactics, one-on-one tutorial-style instruction, self-directed review of forensic literature, and curated in-house teaching/study sets, especially in rare or complex cases. Being able to translate findings into expert testimony in a court of law is also emphasized. Forensic topics vary widely and include:

1. History of forensic medicine and pathology.
2. Crime scenes.
3. Thanatology, to include the time of death and postmortem changes (decomposition) in a body.
4. Identification of human remains.
5. Forensic anthropology and odontology.
6. Sudden and unexpected deaths.
7. Fetal, infantile, and childhood deaths.
8. Blunt force injury.
9. Sharp force injury.
10. Injury by gunfire.
11. Thermal injuries.
12. Asphyxia.
13. Investigations of bodies in water.

14. Electrical/lightning injuries.
15. Road traffic injuries.
16. Mass disasters
17. Forensic neuropathology
18. Forensic histopathology
19. Forensic radiology
20. Forensic toxicology
21. Causes and manners of death
22. Suspected child and elder abuse

1. WRITTEN EXAMINATIONS

Twice during the academic year (late summer/early fall and spring), the fellows will take the American Society of Clinical Pathology (ASCP) Fellows Forensic In-Service Examination (FISE). At the end of the fellowship year, a final written examination created by the faculty pathologists will be administered to evaluate the medical knowledge of the fellows. The performance on these examinations will provide feedback to the fellows and the OCME Graduate Medical Education and Program Evaluation Committees (GMEC/PEC) when evaluating the effectiveness of the program. At no time will the scores from this exam be used as part of a formal evaluation of the fellows.

2. QUALITY ASSURANCE REVIEW OF AUTOPSY REPORT

See the previous description in section A(3).

3. MORNING REPORT

The fellows will gain medical knowledge during Morning Report case discussions with faculty and staff. Direct questioning of fellows during Morning Report will aid in the evaluation of the fellows' medical and pathology knowledge, including their ability to discuss case triage, examination planning, radiologic findings, ancillary testing, and preliminary opinions. See the previous description in section A(4).

4. DIDACTIC CONFERENCES

The fellows will be expected to attend the in-house didactic conference (usually scheduled for Fridays, at least the last Friday of every month). Active participation in these conferences,

including the potential for presenting, is encouraged. The fellows must document attendance and/or participation using Microsoft Forms accessed through the Fellow SharePoint. This will be periodically reviewed by the PD and PC. If a session is missed, recordings can be accessed at: I:\Dept\Tulsa\Fellowship\Didactic Lecture Records or SharePoint\ Didactic Library. Please note, only live attendance should be documented using the applicable Microsoft Form accessed through the Fellow SharePoint.

5. JOURNAL CLUB

Each fellow is expected to present three (3) pertinent and current journal articles throughout the academic year about a forensic topic. When there are two fellows, Journal Club will generally be conducted as a joint session, with each fellow presenting one article during the same session. The presentations will typically occur on a Wednesday or Friday that is not reserved for an in-house didactic conference. The fellows must document their presentations using Microsoft Forms accessed through the Fellow SharePoint and provide the journal articles to the PC and PD. This will be periodically reviewed by the PD and PC.

6. ADDITIONAL STATE CONFERENCES

The OCME, given Eastern and Central office locations in Tulsa and Oklahoma City, respectively, has a variety of medical and pathology conferences available for the fellows' participation. This is encouraged as time and availability allow. Sources include the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine/Department of Pathology (medical conferences, pathology conferences, brain-cutting sessions, lectures, autopsy conferences), the University of Central Oklahoma Forensic Science Center, and Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences (health and forensic sciences). The fellows must document attendance and/or participation using Microsoft Forms accessed through the Fellow SharePoint. This will be periodically reviewed by the PD and PC.

7. ROTATION WITH OCME FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGISTS

The fellows will complete at least one week of dedicated training with the agency's in-house forensic anthropologists. This rotation is designed to enhance the fellows' knowledge of the role forensic anthropology plays in medicolegal death investigations. Topics in forensic odontology and dental identification will also be addressed during this time. The rotation may involve work at both the Oklahoma City and Tulsa offices, regardless of one's primary training location. In addition to this dedicated week, fellows will have opportunities throughout the

year to interact with forensic anthropologists. When not actively engaged in postmortem examinations, office-based responsibilities (e.g., paperwork, case review), or other dedicated rotations (e.g., radiology, toxicology), fellows are expected to accompany the anthropologists to relevant scene investigations. These experiences reinforce the interdisciplinary nature of forensic pathology and offer exposure to field-based anthropological methods. Documentation of the scenes will be logged using Microsoft Forms accessed through the Fellow SharePoint. The log will be periodically reviewed by the PD and PC. When possible, fellows are encouraged to assist the forensic anthropologists in performing the postmortem examinations on cases they have attended in the field to reinforce continuity of care and strengthen case correlation throughout the fellowship year.

8. ROTATION WITH OCME TOXICOLOGY

The fellows will complete at least one week of dedicated rotation with the OCME's in-house forensic toxicologists and forensic chemists to gain foundational knowledge of the role of toxicology in postmortem investigations. This includes principles of specimen collection, analytical techniques, and interpretation of toxicologic results in the medicolegal context. Through active participation in case-based discussions, the fellows will develop an understanding of the challenges inherent in interpreting toxicological findings. Additional training occurs throughout the year via regularly scheduled noon didactic sessions, commonly referred to as "Tox Talks," which provide focused instruction on forensic toxicology topics. If laboratory quality assurance activities or external inspections (e.g., NAME, ISO/ABFT accreditation processes) occur during the fellowship year, fellows may be involved to gain exposure to laboratory standards and certification procedures.

9. ROTATION WITH CRIMINALISTICS

The fellows will have at most one week of dedicated rotation with the Tulsa Police Department Forensic Laboratory (local/city) and, at most, one week of dedicated rotation with the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI) Laboratory (state) in Edmond, Oklahoma. The fellows will gain exposure to components of the crime scene laboratories, such as firearms, firearm ballistics, explosives, trace evidence, and serology.

10. ROTATION WITH OCME INVESTIGATIONS

The fellows are expected to accompany death scene investigators to scenes when not actively engaged in postmortem examinations, office-based responsibilities (e.g., paperwork, case review), or assigned to other dedicated rotations (e.g., radiology, toxicology). Fellows may opt out of attending certain scenes on a case-by-case basis if they have already had

sufficient exposure to that scene type (e.g., drug overdose deaths). This flexibility is intended to balance scene experience with the educational value of case diversity. Participation in scene investigations allows fellows to develop skills in evaluating death scenes and contributes to their understanding of the investigative process. Fellows may also assist in the preparation of investigative documentation. Documentation of the scenes will be logged using Microsoft Forms accessed through the Fellow SharePoint. The log will be periodically reviewed by the PD and PC. When possible, fellows are encouraged to perform postmortem examinations on cases they have attended in the field to reinforce continuity of care and strengthen case correlation throughout the fellowship year.

11. ROTATION WITH FAMILY ASSISTANCE, RECORDS, AND CREMATION PERMITS

The fellows will have, at most, a one-week rotation alongside the OCME family assistance coordinators (assist in contact and responding to family concerns), records assistants (understanding what happens after cases are turned in for finalization), and investigative assistants (screening and approving of filed cremation permits from funeral homes).

12. ROTATION WITH OCME RADIOLOGY

Every postmortem examination performed by the fellows will be accompanied by x-ray and computed tomography (CT) images for interpretation. The fellows will gain proficiency in the interpretation of these images. Additionally, early in training, the fellows will have at least one week of dedicated rotation with faculty members and other OCME staff at the Central Division office in Oklahoma City using in-house radiology equipment (LODOX x-ray and CT scanners) to augment daily training. The fellows will gain proficiency in the performance and interpretation of postmortem radiology using those systems.

13. ROTATION WITH FORENSIC NEUROPATHOLOGY

The fellows will participate in mandatory brain-cutting sessions at both the Eastern and Central OCME offices, assisting in the gross dissection and examination of formalin-fixed brain tissue under the supervision of forensic neuropathologists. These sessions emphasize neuroanatomic orientation, histologic sampling, and correlation of neuropathologic findings with medicolegal contexts. Fellows may be assigned select cases, ideally those they submitted for consultation, for independent histologic review and report generation. In addition, fellows will attend a monthly Neuropathology Consensus Conference, where CNS

consultation cases are reviewed to reinforce diagnostic principles, highlight best practices, and encourage collaborative forensic interpretation. Attendance at brain-cutting will be documented using the applicable Microsoft Form accessed through the Fellow SharePoint, with QR code access available at each site when applicable. Attendance at the Consensus Conferences will also be documented using the applicable Microsoft Form accessed through the Fellow SharePoint. The logs will be periodically reviewed by the PD and PC.

14. CORE MEDICOLEGAL COMPETENCIES:

The fellows will receive structured training in foundational medico-legal topics necessary for forensic pathology practice. This includes principles of biosafety in autopsy settings; proper documentation of autopsy findings and associated evidence; and the recognition, collection, preservation, transport, storage, and chain-of-custody procedures for physical evidence. Fellows will also gain a working understanding of the statutory basis of U.S. medicolegal death investigation systems, including the qualifications and jurisdictional requirements for serving as medical examiners or coroners. Throughout the year, fellows will participate in one-on-one tutorial-style instruction, didactic sessions, and practical case-based learning. They will have the opportunity to present case findings and opinions during meetings with attorneys and law enforcement, which are attended by supervising faculty who will provide feedback on communication style and content. In addition, fellows will observe courtroom testimony delivered by experienced faculty members to better understand the structure, expectations, and variable styles of expert witness presentation in legal settings. Documentation of attorney meetings and courtroom observations will be recorded using Microsoft Forms accessed through the Fellow SharePoint and periodically reviewed by the PD and PC.

15. GLOBAL RATINGS BY FACULTY

See the previous description in section A(7).

C. PRACTICE-BASED LEARNING AND IMPROVEMENT

The fellows must be able to demonstrate the ability to investigate and evaluate their diagnostic and consultative practices, appraise and assimilate scientific evidence, and improve their patient care practices. Direction and participation in lifelong learning will be established through the consultation of medical literature, continuing medical education

activities, structured self-assessment, and retrospective analysis. An individualized learning plan will be completed by each fellow during orientation week and referred to throughout the fellowship year to help guide personal development and targeted growth. Fellows are expected to demonstrate commitment to life-long learning and self-directed improvement.

1. WEEKLY/MONTHLY CONFERENCES

See the previous descriptions in Section B(4-6).

2. CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION (CME) ACTIVITIES

Participation in materials published by the College of American Pathologists (CAP) and the American Society of Clinical Pathologists (ASCP) for continuing education allows for both instruction and evaluation through review of case materials and analysis of key forensic pathology topics. These materials will be made available to the fellows and are encouraged as time and availability allow.

3. NATIONAL MEETINGS

Fellows are required to attend one national meeting during their training year. The OCME will fund each fellow's participation and travel for one agency-approved annual meeting/conference per academic year, usually either the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) or the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS). Travel arrangements will be coordinated through the PC and the OCME Travel Coordinator. If presenting a poster at the approved agency-funded meeting, the OCME will also fund its printing. Fellows are encouraged to become members of NAME, AAFS, or both, as membership fees are subsidized by the OCME. After returning from the national meeting, fellows are required to participate in a teaching conference to discuss major themes and important developments for the benefit of other OCME staff unable to attend.

4. SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES

Fellows are expected to participate in scholarly activities during their fellowship year. These may include participation in an ongoing faculty research project, initiating a new research endeavor, writing a case study or case series, or preparing abstracts for presentation at

national or regional conferences. Fellows must participate in at least one of the following during the training year:

- Delivery of an evidence-based presentation at a journal club, local, regional, or national meeting
- Submission of original work for peer-reviewed publication
- Active involvement in research with the intent to present or publish findings

5. GLOBAL RATINGS BY FACULTY

See the previous description in Section A(7).

D. INTERPERSONAL AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS

The fellows must be able to demonstrate interpersonal and communication skills that result in the effective exchange of information and collaboration with other health care providers, medical professionals, legal professionals, social service agencies, law enforcement, decedent families, and the general public. These skills are essential for ensuring clarity, professionalism, and compassion across a wide range of medicolegal contexts.

1. ATTORNEY MEETINGS AND TESTIMONIES

See the previous description in Section B(14). The fellows will have the opportunity to present their findings and opinions of their cases to law enforcement and attorneys. Supervising faculty members will attend these meetings and provide feedback to the fellows. The fellows will watch courtroom testimony by experienced faculty to observe different styles used in expert testimony. Documentation of these experiences will be logged using Microsoft Forms accessed through the Fellow SharePoint. The log will be periodically reviewed by the PD and PC.

2. ROTATION WITH OCME TOXICOLOGY

See the previous description in Section B(8). During the rotation, the fellows will experience interactions with and between bench chemists and our forensic toxicologists. The fellows will

form relationships with the laboratory personnel that allow for effective communication and information exchange. The fellows will receive direct feedback from laboratory staff.

3. ROTATION WITH CRIMINALISTICS

See the previous description in Section B(9). The fellows will have the opportunity to interact with law enforcement on a one-to-one basis with exposure to the crime scene, homicide, and care center units. The fellows will form relationships and gain greater insight into law enforcement expectations of a forensic pathologist. Law enforcement will provide feedback to the fellows and the PD.

4. ROTATION WITH OCME INVESTIGATIONS

See the previous description in Section B(10). The fellows will interact with death investigators daily. The fellows will form relationships with death investigators by sharing preliminary case information and requests for follow-up information.

5. ROTATION WITH FAMILY ASSISTANCE, RECORDS, AND CREMATION PERMITS

See the previous description in Section B(11). The fellows will interact regularly with our on-site family assistance coordinators utilizing their services for assistance with decedent and relative matters. The fellows will gain an appreciation for the grieving process, fators will provide feedback to the fellows and PD. The fellows will also interact regularly with investigative (cremation permits) assistants and will gain greater insight into interactions between the OCME and various funeral homes, medical facilities, and decedent families.

6. WEEKLY/MONTHLY CONFERENCES

See the previous descriptions in section B(4-6).

7. 360 DEGREE EVALUATIONS

Employees/staff of the office who are not faculty members will have an opportunity to evaluate the fellows. These evaluations will be given at the approximate 3-month and 9-

month points in the training year. The fellows will meet with the PD and will receive a confidential summary of the evaluations with suggestions for improvement.

8. GLOBAL RATINGS BY FACULTY

See the previous description in section A(7).

E. PROFESSIONALISM

The fellows will demonstrate a commitment to carrying out professional responsibilities, adherence to ethical principles, and sensitivity to a diverse patient population. The fellows will show competence in interacting with medical and legal professionals, families, and the public in a professional, courteous, and sensitive manner.

1. ATTORNEY MEETINGS AND TESTIMONIES

See the previous description in Section D(1).

2. ROTATION WITH OCME TOXICOLOGY

See the previous description in Section B(8) and D(2).

3. ROTATION WITH FAMILY ASSISTANCE, RECORDS, AND CREMATION PERMITS

See the previous description in Section B(11) and D(5).

4. WEEKLY/MONTHLY CONFERENCES

See the previous descriptions in section B(4-6).

5. GLOBAL RATINGS BY FACULTY

See the previous description in section A(7).

F. SYSTEMS-BASED PRACTICE

The fellows must demonstrate an awareness of and responsiveness to the larger context and system of health care, including the ability to effectively call on other resources—such as public health departments, legal systems, and laboratory networks—to provide forensic services of the highest value. The fellows will develop an appreciation for the role of forensic pathology in the broader health and legal communities, as well as the function of partner agencies and organizations in daily OCME operations.

1. STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND LABCORP/REGIONAL MEDICAL LABORATORY

See the previous description in Section B(14). The OCME has a longstanding relationship with these laboratories, including bioterrorism surveillance, reporting of infectious disease(s), electronic death registration system (Registering Oklahoma Vital Event Records (ROVER)), public health statistics, and death certificate quality control. The fellows are expected to participate in these activities as they become available and are required to contact the Health Department when reportable cases are uncovered.

2. BOARD OF MEDICOLEGAL DEATH INVESTIGATIONS

The OCME is responsible to the Board of Medicolegal Death Investigations. The Board consists of a unique arrangement of individuals representing the State Health Department, the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigations, the Funeral Directors' Association, the Bar Association, and other medical societies. This Board holds meetings that stress the ultimate direction of the OCME and allow a forum to address unique issues related to the above-interested parties. The fellows are expected to attend and observe these meetings as available. Attendance at these meetings will be logged using Microsoft Forms accessed through the Fellow SharePoint. The log will be periodically reviewed by the PD and PC.

3. MOCK COURT

See the previous description in Section B(14). If available, the fellows are to participate in mock court experiences with law students, regardless of whether it is held in Tulsa with the University of Tulsa or in Oklahoma City/Norman with the University of Oklahoma. The fellows would act as expert witnesses and would be examined by law students portraying defense and prosecuting attorneys. This activity strengthens the relationship between forensic pathology and the community. A similar training opportunity may be offered through the Tulsa District Attorney's Office.

4. SAFETY

See the previous description in Section B(14). Instructions on work-related exposures and injury protocols will be discussed with the fellows during orientation week at the beginning of the academic year. The fellows will also complete online safety training modules, typically during their first month of practice. Fellows are expected to attend and participate in Safety Committee meetings, required safety presentations, documented safety review activities, and/or other formal safety-related meetings when these occur during the academic year. As fresh sets of eyes for the agency, the fellows are to be on the lookout for any safety concerns, and, if anything is observed/noticed by them, these should be reported to their supervisors, or, at the very least, addressed at the quarterly GMEC meetings and/or through the applicable safety review process. Depending on the year, a mass casualty training exercise is performed at the Tulsa International Airport for the State of Oklahoma. If this occurs, the fellows would be encouraged to attend.

5. WEEKLY/MONTHLY CONFERENCES

See the previous descriptions in section B(4-6).

6. GLOBAL RATINGS BY FACULTY

See the previous description in section A(7).

SPECIFIC GOALS

1. The Fellows will learn a basic approach and technique in the completion of competent medicolegal investigations from start to finish, including cases of natural death, homicide (gunshot, sharp force injury, poisoning, asphyxia, child maltreatment syndrome, blunt force injury, sexual assaults), suicide, and related to accidental injuries. Specific activities to accomplish these objectives are as follows:

a. Experience in management and disposition of first calls received by this office whether from the public, police, fire authorities, or attorneys. This would include proper documentation and disposition of the call and whether or not jurisdiction is taken.
b. Proper on-scene investigation techniques. This includes examinations of the body before it has been disturbed.
c. Dispatch of a body or bodies from the scene to the forensic facility as showing the proper chain of evidence.
d. Examination of the body and clothing at the forensic facility including procedures of proper identification and documentation.
e. Photography of the body.
f. Radiological analyses of the body.
g. Medicolegal autopsy.
h. Accountability for personal effects, valuables, and pertinent medicolegal evidence and specimens.
i. Selection and accomplishment of the proper medicolegal chain of evidence for toxicology specimens, serology specimens, microbiology specimens, ballistics, and other relevant evidentiary items.
j. Formulation of case protocols and gross autopsy protocols.
k. Formulation of microscopic examinations and histopathological protocols.
l. Interpretation of anatomic, toxicologic, serologic, odontologic, anthropologic, microbiologic, and scene investigation results.
m. Correlation of all factors in the case with a subsequent formulation of the final summary, conclusions, and decisions as to the cause and manner of death; proper death certificate execution.
n. Participation in conferences with police, attorneys, families of decedents, and insurance companies.
o. Exposure and instruction in proper conduct and presentation of evidence in criminal cases (courtroom testimony) and civil cases (interrogatories, depositions, and courtroom testimony).
p. Familiarity with proper procedures for dispositions of Medicolegal records, exhibits, evidence, and personal effects.
q. Techniques for responding to medicolegal inquiries from the media, public, and other laypersons.
r. Experience in counseling families of individuals whose deaths have been investigated by this agency.
s. Timely and accurate completion of all case-related reports.

2. Managerial skills will be taught through participation in in-house management conferences and by the occasional assignment of managerial tasks.
3. The fellows will develop a thorough understanding of Oklahoma Statutes as they pertain to the operation of this agency.
4. After 12 months of training, the fellows should demonstrate a good understanding of the proper disposition of a medicolegal investigation and should be aware of his or her capabilities and limitations within this field. Competence in pathological, toxicological, and administrative techniques will be judged by the Chief Medical Examiner and his staff in consultation with outside affected agencies.

IMPLEMENTATION

The fellows will serve under the direct supervision of the Chief Medical Examiner, staff pathologists, and forensic toxicologists. Time will be spent in the field with medicolegal investigators. The toxicology staff will orient the fellows to the laboratory and more extensive time may be spent in that area as dictated by the interests or needs of the individual fellows. Medicolegal autopsies, histologic examinations, case evaluations and summaries, and death certifications will be coordinated through attending staff pathologists on duty at the time the investigation occurs, as well as by the Chief Medical Examiner.

Weekly management and autopsy conferences will be conducted in the presence of attending staff pathologists and toxicologists. In-house journal clubs will be given by the fellows. Consultants will be used for teaching, including such aspects as police crime lab skills, forensic anthropology, forensic odontology, and forensic neuropathology.

Histopathologic technicians will be available to discuss special techniques. Professional consultants in different fields of medicine, in general, and forensic pathology, specifically, will be available.

The OCME administrative personnel will be available for consultation in managerial and statistical techniques.

Ample experience in the presentation of instructional materials and lectures in the field of forensic pathology will be readily available through in-house staff, through the University, and through consultants used for teaching. Opportunities exist for making instructional presentations to lay groups and police agencies.

Through quarterly written evaluations, periodic analysis of the training program by staff members and fellows will be conducted, including the evaluation of goals and objectives, instructional plans formulated to achieve these goals, the apparent effectiveness of the program in meeting its goals, and the availability and effectiveness of available resources.

CONFERENCES

In addition to the formal educational offerings above, on a case-to-case basis, the supervised fellows will be asked to participate in conferences with families of deceased individuals, district attorneys, or defense attorneys involved in litigation on criminal trial preparation. All formal conferences available through Universities will be available to the fellows. The fellows will also be urged to attend off-site educational offerings such as those of the NAME and the AAFS.

RESOURCES

The OCME libraries and staff-maintained private libraries are available to the fellows at all times. Additional resources not immediately available via these two sources can be requested as needed. The consultant crime laboratories are also available to the fellows in their pursuit of understanding and appreciation of scientific crime detection. Of interest, the OCME library in the central office (Oklahoma City) houses the anthropology teaching collection of Dr. Clyde C. Snow.

Block Diagram

July 1st through June 30th

Block	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Site	1 and 2	1 and 2	1 and 2	1 and 2	1 and 2	1 and 2	1 and 2	1 and 2	1 and 2	1, 2, 3, and 4	1 and 2	1 and 2
Rotation Name	Autopsy; Investigations; Neuropathology; Anthropathology	Autopsy and Case Sign Out; Investigations; Neuropathology; Anthropathology ; Clinical Rotation: Radiology	Autopsy and Case Sign Out; Investigations; Neuropathology; Anthropathology; Clinical Rotation: Toxicology, FAC, Records, Cremation, Permits	Autopsy and Case Sign Out; Investigations; Neuropathology; Anthropathology; Clinical Rotation: Anthropology	Autopsy and Case Sign Out; Investigations; Neuropathology; Anthropathology	Autopsy and Case Sign Out; Investigations; Neuropathology; Anthropathology	Autopsy and Case Sign Out; Investigations; Neuropathology; Anthropathology	Autopsy and Case Sign Out; Investigations; Neuropathology; Anthropathology; Research	Autopsy and Case Sign Out; Investigations; Neuropathology; Anthropathology; Research	Autopsy and Case Sign Out; Investigations; Neuropathology; Anthropathology; Clinical Rotation: Criminalistic; Research	Case Sign Out; Investigation; Neuropathology; Anthropathology; Research	Case Sign Out; Investigation; Neuropathology; Anthropathology
% Autopsy Suite	>50	>50	>50	>50	>50	>50	>50	>50	>50	>50	<10	<10
% Research	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<25	<25	<25	<15	<10

Graduate Medical Eduction

Forensic Pathology Fellowship Program Information

Thank you for your interest in the **Oklahoma Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) Forensic Pathology Fellowship Program**.

Mission, Vision, and Fellowship Program Statement

Vision	To be a premier program recognized for excellence in medicolegal education and research in training field-oriented physicians in all practical aspects of forensic pathology.
Mission	To develop, convey, and apply knowledge to further the science and practice of forensic pathology.
Educational	Educate and train health professionals in the disciplines of forensic pathology and promote lifelong learning and professional growth of faculty, staff, and learners.
Research	Foster innovation, creativity, and excellence in basic and applied research in forensic pathology.
Public Service	Provide public leadership through the creation of effective working relationships between educational institutions in the State, families, law enforcement agencies, and legal professionals.
Administrative	Provide leadership locally within the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME), as well as nationally and internationally in scientific and medical organizations.

General Information

The overall goal of our one-year forensic pathology training program is to foster the development of pathologists as medicolegal professionals who:

- Conduct accurate and reliable forensic investigations that culminate in scientifically sound opinions in regards to decedent causes and manners of death.

- Have the skills to recognize and interpret the significance of wide-ranging pathologic processes and ancillary testing results.
- Can address public health and safety concerns related to forensic investigations; help to inform public health policies and interventions aimed at preventing premature death and injury.
- Understand the role of research in decision-making, knowledge generation, professional development, and continuing education; understand the importance of staying current in a constantly evolving field.
- Are capable of effective teamwork and communication with all relevant stakeholders, including decedent families, coworkers, other professionals in various legal and medical fields, and the public at large.
- Uphold the highest standards of professional integrity and ethical practice by emphasizing the importance of objectivity, impartiality, and transparency in all aspects of their work.

Selection Criteria

Applicants must meet all applicable **ACGME eligibility requirements** in effect at the time of appointment and must participate in the **National Resident Matching Program (NRMP)** and the applicable fellowship Match process.

Eligible and qualified applicants are selected based on their academic credentials, abilities, aptitude, preparedness, communication skills, and personal qualities, including motivation, professionalism, and integrity.

OCME complies with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, disability, political beliefs, or veteran status in its policies, practices, or procedures. This includes, but is not limited to, recruitment, selection, employment, and educational opportunities.

Benefits

- Stipends & Fellowship program
- Health Insurance: Enrollment Guide line
- Wellness Programs
- Official State Holidays
- All benefit handbooks

The link above provides current information regarding fellowship benefits and may be updated as applicable.

Benefits Eligibility: Benefits become effective on **August 1** for fellows beginning training in July. Fellows will have the month of July to complete their benefit elections in accordance with applicable State of Oklahoma and OCME requirements.

Planning for Insurance Coverage Before Fellowship

For fellows beginning July 1, state employee health and disability insurance coverage is expected to become effective August 1, subject to enrollment and applicable plan requirements. Along with obtaining your Oklahoma medical license, please review your insurance arrangements before starting fellowship and consider coverage for any gap between the end of your residency benefits and the effective date of your OCME benefits.

Health insurance options

- **COBRA through your residency:** Contact your residency's Human Resources or benefits office about continuing your existing health coverage, including coverage for eligible dependents.
- **HealthCare.gov:** Compare individual and family health-insurance plans and obtain assistance with enrollment.
  - Website: www.healthcare.gov
  - Phone: **1-800-318-2596**
  - TTY: **1-855-889-4325**

Disability income insurance options

Ask your residency benefits office whether your existing disability coverage can continue after graduation. You may also explore individually purchased coverage through:

- **AMA Insurance:** Provides access to physician disability insurance, along with life insurance and other coverage resources.
  - Disability coverage: AMA Insurance—Disability Insurance
  - Health-insurance comparisons: AMA Insurance—Health Insurance
  - Phone: **1-888-627-5902**
  - Email: team@amainsure.com
  - Hours: Monday–Friday, **8 a.m.–5 p.m. Central**
- **Policygenius:** An insurance broker that helps applicants compare and purchase individual disability and life insurance.
  - Disability coverage: Policygenius—Disability Insurance
  - Phone: **1-855-695-2255**
  - Email: team@policygenius.com

If you choose to purchase coverage, apply sufficiently early to obtain the effective date you need. Tell the provider that you are seeking coverage beginning July 1 while awaiting employer benefits. Confirm premiums, eligibility, benefit waiting periods, and cancellation terms directly with the provider. Individual disability policies may continue beyond July; ask about monthly payments and how to cancel coverage once it is no longer needed.
COBRA and HealthCare.gov health plans do not provide disability income insurance. These resources are provided for your consideration, and purchasing interim coverage is optional.

The Fellowship Program Coordinator can connect you with OCME Human Resources for questions about your state benefits and their effective dates.

Professional Liability Insurance: Self-insured liability coverage provided by the State of Oklahoma through the Office of Management and Enterprise Services (OMES) State Risk Management, pursuant to 74 O.S. § 85.58A and subject to the Oklahoma Governmental Tort Claims Act (51 O.S. § 151 et seq.). Coverage is continuous unless otherwise notified.

The Fellowship Manual and applicable OCME policies and procedures will be provided during onboarding on the first week of fellowship training and reviewed with the fellow by the Program Director and Human Resources personnel.

Visa and Employment Eligibility

The Oklahoma Office of the Chief Medical Examiner is **not a visa-sponsoring institution** and does not sponsor visas for fellowship appointment.

Applicants must be either:

- a **United States citizen**, or
- a **U.S. lawful permanent resident (Green Card holder)** authorized to work in the United States.

Applicants who require visa sponsorship or who do not otherwise have permanent authorization to work in the United States are not eligible for appointment to the OCME Forensic Pathology Fellowship Program.

Oklahoma Medical License

Fellows are required to obtain and maintain an active **Oklahoma medical license no later than the first day of fellowship training (Day 1)**. The required license must be in place before the fellow may participate in the full scope of clinical and training activities of the fellowship program.

Onboarding Requirements

Any offer of fellowship appointment is contingent upon the applicant successfully completing all required pre-employment and onboarding requirements established by OCME and the State of Oklahoma. These requirements may include verification of credentials and eligibility, required background checks, employment documentation, Oklahoma medical licensure, and completion of required onboarding documentation.

Office Of The Chief Medical Examiner
921 NE 23rd St,
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Medical Examiner Office
1627 Southwest Blvd,
Tulsa, OK 74107

fellowship@ocme.ok
+(918)295-3400