

RACS Foundation Skills for Surgical Educators & Comparable Training

The Foundation Skills for Surgical Educators (FSSE) Course is an introductory course to expand knowledge and skills in surgical teaching and education. The aim of the course is to establish a basic standard expected of Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) surgical educators and will further knowledge in teaching and learning concepts.

The FSSE course has been mandated for all surgeons involved in training and education as part of the Building Respect, Improving Patient Safety Action Plan

FSSE Learning Objectives

Participants will be provided an opportunity to:

- Understand principles of adult learning and related educational theory
- Apply these principles when in the role as a teacher, especially engaging the learners in the clinical workplace
- Demonstrate the teacher role, including planning teaching and making good use of the environment where teaching occurs
- Apply appropriate questioning techniques, to work with the learners current knowledge, skills and attitudes
- Understand the importance of respectful effective feedback, its relationship to the learner in the workplace and assessment
- Practise giving instructions about a task and provide feedback around this process, using Pendleton's model
- Describe why assessment is required, including concepts of summative assessment, validity, reliability and feedback
- Apply suitable approaches and tools for assessment across the RACS competencies

Exemptions

The above learning objectives are broadly covered by faculty training for some RACS courses (EMST, CCrISP, TIPS), as well as attending the Surgical Teachers' Course.

Enrolment in the Graduate Programs in Surgical Education, the co-badged University of Melbourne courses, means that surgeons have covered the Objectives often to quite a high level. Surgeons who have completed these RACS courses since January 2013, whilst encouraged to attend the FSSE course, may be exempted.

Should similar courses in clinical/health professions education come forward from providers, they should be assessed through the usual RACS accreditation process.

Surgeons may have done similar educator training, for example, overseas. Should they wish to claim exemption for the mandated FSSE course, they should contact Amanda Christie on fsse@surgeons.org or +61 3 9276 7491 and forward the relevant information. Discussions with the Dean of Education could follow.

Completion date

The FSSE or comparable program must be completed by 31 December 2018. Any program that is deemed comparable must have been attended five years prior to this cut off, or after the 31 January 2013, in order to be an acceptable alternative. Preference will be given to Supervisors of Training, IMG Clinical Assessors and RACS Educational Committee or Board members.