



St. Luke's University Healthcare Network Emergency Medicine Residency *Frequently Asked Questions*

- **What are the strengths of your program?**
 - **Critical care experience:** 6 months of critical care in pediatric, medical and surgical ICUs. EM/Critical Care attendings staff our ED and ICU. As a busy level 1 Trauma Center our residents have extensive experience caring for critically injured trauma patients. Residents can also use any of their 3 months of elective time to do additional critical rotations should they choose.
 - **Relationship with trauma:** We have a great relationship with our trauma service and they heavily rely upon our residents to care for patients in the trauma bay, on the trauma service and in the SICU.
 - **Ultrasound training:** We've been training residents in ED US since 1994, a year before the first EM US textbook was written (by our 1st Program Director)! US is used extensively by residents in all ED applications. All EM attendings credentialed in ultrasound.
 - **Procedural experience:** See question about resident performance of procedures below.
 - **High acuity / diverse patient mix:** More than 25% of our patients require hospitalization. We see a diverse group of patients from rural, suburban and urban areas. More than 20% of our patients are pediatric & residents treat children every day, throughout the year.
 - **Relationships within the residency and within the hospital:** We enjoy fantastic, supportive relationships between our residents and faculty. EM residents support each other & we work extremely well with the other services in the hospital.
 - **Great area to live:** This area has been named one of the best places to live in the country and has a low cost of living. See final question below.
- **Do your residents have to compete with residents from other programs for procedures?**
 - No! Our residents gain extensive experience with every procedure required of emergency physicians.
 - While we have 18 residencies and fellowships at St. Luke's, we don't have anesthesia residents so our residents do virtually every emergent intubation in our department, trauma bay and hospital! Anesthesia attendings do not respond to our trauma bay. The responsibility for airway management of trauma patients rests solely with our residents.
 - EM Residents respond to every rapid response and code blue in the hospital with an airway bag with the responsibility of managing the airway of these patients should intervention be necessary. The ACGME's goal for the number of intubations a resident should have completed by the time of graduation is 35. Our 1st year residents all complete 35 intubations by the end of their first year (often sooner) and all graduate with well more than 100 intubations documented.
 - Regarding dislocation reductions, the only time we consult orthopedics is on Thursday mornings while our residents are participating in our weekly conference. Emergency medicine residents therefore perform every other dislocation reduction.
 - There truly aren't any procedures in the ED that we need to consult for. Whether it be central lines, chest tubes or any of the other procedures we perform in EM, our residents perform any needed procedures on their patients.



- **Can you tell me about your residency educational activities?**
 - We have 5 hours of conference every Thursday from 8am to 1pm. Our conferences are a mix of hands-on interactive workshops, resident case presentations, and topical presentations by experienced faculty from within our program as well as experts from other specialties & invited outside speakers.
 - We also commit 4 hours on the first Wednesday of every month to a dedicated review of the medical literature in our Journal Club. We meet over lunch at the home of one of our faculty members.
 - No residents are scheduled to work in the ED during any of our educational activities.
- **What is the board pass rate of your residents?**
 - Our 5 year board pass rate for both the written and oral boards is greater than 98%.
 - Every year for the last decade our residents collectively performed well above the national average on the ABEM In-Training Examination.
- **Do your residents have graduated responsibility?**
 - Yes! From the 1st day of their residency, residents can care for critically ill patients. As their experience grows, residents will treat more patients simultaneously while taking on greater responsibility for teaching students and junior residents.
 - Residents may intubate trauma bay patients once they have completed 35 intubations (always occurs within the 1st year) and respond to Rapid Responses and Code Blue's to manage airways beginning in their 2nd year (see above).
- **What's it like to live in the Lehigh Valley?**
 - Super! The Lehigh Valley is located approximately 60 miles north of Philadelphia (our nation's 5th largest city) and 80 miles west of New York City (our nation's largest city) and with a population of 850,000 is the fastest growing region in PA.
 - Nine colleges and universities in the region including 2 Division 1 schools.
 - While there are multiple major league teams in nearby Philadelphia and NY, there are a number of local minor league teams that play within the Lehigh Valley. The Lehigh Valley Iron Pigs are a Phillies franchise that plays at Coca-Cola Park in Allentown. The Lehigh Valley Phantoms are an affiliate of the Flyers and they play in PPL Center in downtown Allentown. The Lehigh Valley Steelhawks, in the Professional Indoor Football League, also play at the PPL Center.
 - Numerous concert venues, recreational sites, arts & culture (symphony, art museum, civic theater, state theater, Shakespeare Festival, etc.), Wind Creek Casino, amusement parks, Musikfest (largest non-gated music festival in nation) and an annual Celtic festival. We even have an annual Bacon Fest!
 - The area has tons of great hiking and running trails along with numerous river activities (both the Lehigh and Delaware rivers). The Appalachian Trail runs through the Lehigh Valley as well as the Blue and South Mountain ranges.
 - Skiing / snowboarding: 7 ski slopes within 1 hour.
 - Numerous fantastic dining options in the area.