

Finding the right program for you: A guide for graduating fellows

This resource was designed to provide graduating fellows with a sample of topics to consider when researching prospective da Vinci® programs that fit their individual needs.

Program background

- Does the hospital have a da Vinci surgical system?
- If so, how many and what types of systems are in place (e.g., da Vinci Xi®, da Vinci Si® system)? Do they align with the system used at your training institution?
- Is there an existing robotics program within your specialty?
- Which procedures are approved/ not approved to be performed with da Vinci surgical systems at the hospital?

Da Vinci team

- Is there an active Robotics Steering Committee which meets regularly to manage areas such as:
 - Establishing a shared vision, devoting resources, and monitoring progress?
 - Setting short-term and long-term goals for the program?
 - Managing privileging and credentialing requirements for robotics?
- Is there dedicated operative team personnel in place (e.g., surgical techs, circulating nurses, bedside assists, etc.) to support da Vinci cases
- How is the team’s efficiency and technical proficiency maintained?

Advanced instruments

- Below are advanced instruments that may be core to your procedural technique:
 - Da Vinci Vessel Sealer Extend
 - Firefly® Fluorescence Imaging
 - SureForm™ stapler 60
 - Da Vinci stapler 45
 - Da Vinci stapler 30
 - Da Vinci Xi® Integrated Table Motion

Da Vinci system privileging/ credentialing

- How often are da Vinci system access privilege meetings held to minimize the transition time between the start date and the first da Vinci case performed?
- Is proctoring required for incoming surgeons with training to operate the da Vinci surgical system?
 - If so, how many cases are needed in order to operate independently?
 - Can cases completed during your fellowship count towards this total?
 - Does the hospital or surgeon pay for any required proctoring?
- When can one apply for da Vinci system block time?

da Vinci system access

- How is block time structured? How much time per day/week/month would be allotted for you to consistently conduct da Vinci cases?
- Are all surgeons allotted equal block time, or are there certain conditions or considerations that contribute to more/less time?
- How often is block time scheduling revised to provide more time as patient volume increases?
- How is block time released for surgeons who do not use the allotted time?

Continued education support

- Is there a da Vinci Skills Simulator available to provide an opportunity to practice with Surgeon Console controls?
- Which types of continuing education resources are available to support the continued development of a da Vinci surgeon (e.g., CME, attending advanced courses at Intuitive, attending robotics conferences)?
- Is there a standardized training pathway to support new personnel with the most current and relevant training materials?

Showcase your da Vinci experience

Consider having the following materials available to support your da Vinci training and operative experience:

- Training certificates of completion from the institution, from surgical societies, or training equivalency certificates from Intuitive;
- Copies of da Vinci case logs demonstrating total bedside assisting and console cases;
- Letters from program directors attesting to da Vinci Surgery training and case experience;
- Preference Cards outlining the da Vinci training instruments and accessories needed to support each respective da Vinci procedure.

Searching for da Vinci program employers?

Searching for da Vinci program employers?

The da Vinci Job Board was created to connect graduating fellows and residents with da Vinci program Hiring Managers. Log on to the da Vinci Surgery Community at davincisurgerycommunity.com and get started today!

Please contact your local da Vinci Representative if you have any questions. You can also contact us at Academic.Programs@intusurg.com.

Intuitive does not vet candidates and is not involved in any part of the hiring process. This resource is provided only as a courtesy to hospitals, practices, and surgeons. Information in posted openings is the sole responsibility of the hiring organization.

Important Safety Information

For Important Safety Information, indications for use, risks, full cautions and warnings, please refer to www.davincisurgery.com/safety and www.intuitivesurgical.com/safety.

©2018 Intuitive Surgical, Inc. All rights reserved. Product names are trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective holders.