Roles, Responsibilities and Duties of General Surgery Residents

First year residents (R-1)

Complete Education and Training for Internship Skills:
- Take Pre-test on emergent or important clinical topics and scenarios commonly encountered during residency (see skills log checklist topics)
- Attend all lectures on common or emergent clinical topics and scenarios
- Take and pass post-test to demonstrate appropriate knowledge base and skill in managing various clinical scenarios by completion of internship
- ACLS certification
- Participate in skills labs and resident conferences with satisfactory performance
- Take annual In-Training (ABSITE) exam and achieve a minimum level of 60% correct
- Complete checklist (listed below) of skills log, signed off by supervising residents or attendings as competent to manage
  - hypotension
  - hypertension
  - oliguria
  - anuria
  - cardiac arrhythmia
  - hypoxemia
  - change in respiratory rate
  - change in neurologic status
  - compartment syndrome

Clinical Duties (supervised by higher level residents and/or staff until deemed competent. Expectation is achievement of competency in each by end of R-1 year):
- Complete Histories & Physicals and Daily Progress notes
- Complete Discharge Summaries
- Write orders/prescriptions for ward or out patients
- Write DNR orders after communication with staff and team
- Interact and communicate with ancillary/multidisciplinary providers to facilitate patient care
- Respond to ward pages and patient care issues in a prompt, professional manner and handle the problem appropriately
- Recognize and coordinate transfer of unstable ward patients to ICU with help of RRT or seniors
- Follow up on laboratories and studies and communicate results to team
- Obtain informed consent for procedures
- Demonstrate complete sign out of patients to team member when going off duty

Procedures (under supervision until deemed competent by senior/chief resident, attending, or Program Director; achieve basic competency in each by end of R-1 year):
- Nasogastric tube placement
- Foley/bladder catheterization
- Venous puncture
- Chest tube removal or placement
- Incision and drainage of simple abscesses
- Uncomplicated Dressing changes
- Central line placement
- Simple laceration closures or excisions
- Arterial lines

**Operative procedures (always under attending supervision).**
- Complete case logs for all procedures performed
- Demonstrate basic skill level for breast biopsy, repair of uncomplicated hernia, intern index procedures, D&D abscess, wound vac change)

**Administrative duties:**
- Record and monitor own duty hours

**Teach and supervise medical students in clinical duties and knowledge base**

**Second year residents (R-2)**

**Successful completion of internship and all of above activities**

**Complete Education and Training for increased level of care, including intensive care unit**
- ATLS
- Participate in resident conference and skills labs
- Take Annual In-Training (ABSITE) exam and achieve a minimum level of 66% correct

**Clinical Duties (supervised by higher level residents and or staff until deemed competent):**
- Run codes or coordinate care of unstable ICU patients
- Complete Histories & Physicals and Daily Progress notes in ICU and/or ambulatory and ward settings
- Assess consults, perform thorough and accurate evaluation, and communicate effectively with seniors, attendings, and referring providers
- Write orders/prescriptions for outpatients accurately
- Interact and communicate with ancillary/multidisciplinary providers to facilitate patient care
- Respond to pages and patient care issues effectively and professionally
- Follow up on laboratories and studies with communication of results to team
- Obtain informed consent for procedures
- Demonstrate complete sign out of patients to team members when going off duty

**Procedures (under supervision until deemed competent. Expectation is that resident will have achieved basic competency by end of R-2 year):**
- Central lines
- Arterial lines
- Intubations
- Chest tube placement and removal
- Complicated and uncomplicated dressing changes (including wound vac)
- Incision and drainage of abscesses
- Endoscopy/ bronchoscopy

**Operative procedures (always under attending supervision of key element)**
- Complete operative case logs for all procedures performed
Demonstrate basic skill level for R-2 index procedures (laparoscopic appendectomy, laparoscopic cholecystectomy, uncomplicated incisional, umbilical, groin hernias, partial mastectomy)

**Administrative duties:**
- Record and monitor own duty hours and be cognizant of other residents’ duty hours

**Teach and supervise R-1’s and medical students**

**Third year residents (R-3)**

**All of above**
- Take senior ABSITE exam and achieve minimum score of 67% correct

**Clinical Duties (all of above):**
- Coordinate care of ward and ICU patients with team
- Assume a leadership role in management of ward and ICU patients and supervise intern patient care

**Procedures:**
- All of above with supervision of lower levels.

**Operative procedures (always under attending supervision of key element)**
- Complete operative case logs for all procedures performed
- Demonstrate competence for all R-1 and R-2 procedures and basic level of performance of R-3 index procedures (thyroidectomy, vascular access procedures, small bowel and R colon resections, EGD, PEG, colonoscopy, renal transplant)

**Administrative duties:**
- Record own duty hours accurately

**Teach and supervise all levels below**

**Fourth year residents (R-4)**

**All of above**
- Take senior ABSITE exam and achieve minimum score of 70% correct

**Clinical Duties (all of above):**
- Coordinate care of ward and ICU patients with team
- Assume a leadership role in management of ward and ICU patients and supervise intern patient care

**Procedures:**
- All of above with supervision of lower levels.

**Operative procedures (always under attending supervision of key element)**
- Complete operative case logs for all procedures performed
- Demonstrate competence for all R-1 through R-3 procedures and basic level for laparoscopic Nissen fundoplication, left colectomy, laparoscopic incisional hernia, pulmonary lobectomy
Administrative duties:
● Record own duty hours accurately and monitor duty hours of more junior residents to assure compliance
● Monitor physical well-being and alertness of self and team members and demonstrate how to solve any problems encountered.

Teach and supervise all levels below

Chief Residents (R-5)

All of above with teaching and supervision of lower levels in all categories above.
● Take senior ABSITE exam and achieve minimum score of 73% correct

Clinical Duties (all of above):
● Coordinate care of ward and ICU patients with team
● Assume a leadership role in management of ward and ICU patients and supervise intern patient care

Procedures:
● All of above with supervision of lower levels.

Operative procedures (always under attending supervision of key element)
● Complete operative case logs for all procedures performed
● Demonstrate competence for all R-1 to R-4 procedures and basic competence for R-5 index procedures (low anterior resection, abdominoperineal resection, aortofemoral bypass, partial hepatic resection)

Administrative duties:
● Record own duty hours accurately

Teach and supervise all levels below

Administrative duties:
● Monitor team and own duty hours
● Monitor or make call schedules (on some services)
● Call or schedule operative cases