



**SPECIALTY CERTIFICATION AND RESIDENCY TRAINING MANUAL: LARGE
ANIMAL INTERNAL MEDICINE (LAIM)**

UPDATED: May 21, 2025

Effective July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026

The ACVIM certifies specialists in large animal internal medicine (LAIM). Large animal internists focus on treating diseases of the internal systems in horses, cattle, sheep, goats, camelids, and pigs.

This specialty-specific Certification and Residency Training Manual is intended as a resource for residents, candidates, sponsoring institutions, training sites, program directors, residency advisors, supervising Diplomates, secondary supervising Diplomates, and other institutional officials and personnel involved in the certification processes of the LAIM specialty of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine and ACVIM-accredited LAIM residency training programs.

This specialty-specific Manual represents the current policies, procedures, requirements and standards for an individual seeking certification as an ACVIM Diplomate (LAIM) and those involved in ACVIM-approved LAIM residency training programs.

Common policies, procedures, requirements and standards, applicable to all ACVIM specialties, exist. These are required of all ACVIM Candidates and all ACVIM residency training programs. These are not detailed in this specialty-specific Manual, but rather established in the [ACVIM Certification and Residency Training Manual](#).

Current implementational information, specifying deadlines, fees, form / document versions, registration procedures, credentials submission, and examination content and procedures, is maintained on the [ACVIM website](#), and not in this Manual. Candidates should regularly check the [ACVIM website](#) for any updates and/or changes to deadlines, fees, form / document versions, registration procedures, credentials submission, examination content and procedures, and other matters that may impact the successful completion of the certification process. It is the responsibility of Candidates and mentors to verify and maintain access to the [ACVIM website](#), [Candidate dashboard](#), and all relevant [ACVIM listservs](#). The [ACVIM office](#) does not send out individual notices to Candidates and/or mentors regarding approaching deadline dates, as that information is maintained and kept current on the [ACVIM website](#).

ACVIM policies, procedures, requirements and standards are subject to review and change. If referring to a previously downloaded or printed version of this Manual, the [ACVIM website](#) should be periodically checked for updates.

While a concerted effort has been made to ensure the comprehensive nature and accuracy of this Manual, if there are any questions for clarification, feedback or comments, interested parties should contact the ACVIM certification and accreditation staff at the [ACVIM office](#), preferably by email at certification@acvim.org, or by mail or phone, as referenced on the following page.

American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine

116 Inverness Drive East, Suite 375

Englewood, CO 80112

Tel: (303) 231-9933

Fax: (303) 231-0880

Website: www.ACVIM.org

Email: Certification@ACVIM.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SPECIALTY CERTIFICATION AND RESIDENCY TRAINING MANUAL:	
LARGE ANIMAL INTERNAL MEDICINE (LAIM)	I
1 LAIM DOCUMENTS AND FORMS	1
2 DEFINITIONS FOR LAIM CANDIDACY AND RESIDENCY TRAINING PROGRAMS	2
3 LARGE ANIMAL INTERNAL MEDICINE RESIDENCY TRAINING PROGRAM (RTP)	5
3.A ACCEPTABLE LAIM RTPS	5
3.B LAIM RTP REGISTRATION AND EVALUATION	5
3.C LAIM CANDIDATE REGISTRATION	5
3.D GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF THE LAIM RTP	5
3.D.1 PATIENT CARE AND TECHNICAL SKILLS	5
3.D.2 KNOWLEDGE OF LARGE ANIMAL INTERNAL MEDICINE	6
3.D.3 TEACHING SKILLS AND LIFELONG LEARNING	7
3.D.4 INTERPERSONAL AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS	7
3.D.5 RESEARCH AND CREATIVE SCHOLARLY ACTIVITY	7
3.D.6 PROFESSIONALISM	8
3.E SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE LAIM RTP	8
3.E.1 DURATION OF A LAIM RTP	8
3.E.2 INTENSIVE CLINICAL TRAINING IN LAIM	8
3.E.3 INTENSIVE CLINICAL TRAINING IN SECONDARY ACVIM SPECIALTIES	9
3.E.4 TRAINING IN SECONDARY NON-ACVIM SPECIALTIES	9
3.E.4.a DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING	9
3.E.4.b PATHOLOGY	9
3.E.5 RESEARCH AND CREATIVE SCHOLARLY ACTIVITY	10
3.E.6 PUBLICATION REQUIREMENT	11
3.E.7 LAIM JOURNAL CLUB	11
3.E.8 DIDACTIC LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES	11

3.E.8.a FORMAL TOPIC REVIEW AND EXAMINATION PREPARATION SESSIONS	12
3.E.8.b FORMAL CONFERENCES	12
3.E.8.c FORAML PRESENTATION(S)	12
3.E.8.d CONTINUING EDUCATION CONFERENCE(S)	12
3.E.9 CLINICAL WRITING ASSESSMENTS (CWAS)	13
3.E.10 STUDY TIME	13
3.E.11 UNSUPERVISED, VACATION AND PERSONAL TIME	13
3.E.12 RTP INTERRUPTION	14
3.E.13 RTP VARIANCES	14
3.E.14 ONLINE EXIT INTERVIEW SURVEY	15
4 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES ASSOCIATED WITH LAIM	16
4.A ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SPONSORING INSTITUTION (SI)	16
4.A.1 DOCUMENTATION AND VERIFICATION	16
4.A.2 LAIM SUPERVISION	16
4.A.3 SUPPORTING DISCIPLINES REQUIRED	16
4.A.4 FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT	16
4.A.5 DIDACTIC LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES	17
4.B ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF SECONDARY TRAINING SITES	17
4.C ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE LAIM PROGRAM DIRECTOR (PD)	17
4.D ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE LAIM RESIDENT ADVISOR (RA)	18
4.E ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE LAIM SUPERVISING DIPLOMATE (SD)	18
4.F RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE LAIM RESIDENT	19
4.G RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE LAIM CANDIDATE	19
5 CLINICAL MILESTONES FOR LAIM RESIDENTS	20
5.A CLINICAL MILESTONES FOR FIRST-YEAR LAIM RESIDENTS	20

5.B CLINICAL MILESTONES FOR SECOND-YEAR LAIM RESIDENTS	20
5.C CLINICAL MILESTONES FOR THIRD-YEAR LAIM RESIDENTS	20
6 RESIDENT EVALUATION	21
6.A RESIDENT CASE LOGS	21
6.B RESIDENT PROCEDURE LOGS	21
6.C EDUCATION LOGS	21
7 PUBLICATION REQUIREMENT	22
8 THE ACVIM GENERAL EXAMINATION	24
9 LAIM CREDENTIALS	25
9.A LAIM CREDENTIALS ELIGIBILITY, PROCEDURES AND SUBMISSION	25
9.B LAIM CREDENTIALS ITEMS TO SUBMIT	26
9.C EVALUATION OF CREDENTIALS FOR LAIM SPECIALTY EXAMINATION	27
10 THE LAIM SPECIALTY EXAMINATION	28
10.A LAIM SPECIALTY EXAMINATION REGISTRATION AND FEE	28
10.B THE LAIM SPECIALTY EXAMINATION CONTENT AND FORMAT	28
11 MAINTENANCE OF CREDENTIALS (MOC)	29
12 CORRESPONDENCE, INQUIRES, ISSUES AND COMPLAINTS	30

1 LAIM DOCUMENTS AND FORMS

The following may not be an exhaustive list of all applicable documents and forms. Please navigate the [ACVIM website](#) for additional documentation and forms.

- [Online Candidate Registration Form](#) (via the [Candidate dashboard](#)).
- [Registration to take the General Examination](#) (via the [Candidate dashboard](#)).
- [General Examination blueprint, reading list & study resources](#) (available a minimum of 60 days prior to the examination date).
- [LAIM Credentials packet](#) (prerequisite for the LAIM Specialty Examination).
- [Registration to take the LAIM Specialty Examination](#) (via the [Candidate dashboard](#)).
- [LAIM Specialty Examination blueprint, reading list & study resources](#) (available a minimum of 60 days prior to the examination date).

2 DEFINITIONS FOR LAIM CANDIDACY AND RESIDENCY TRAINING PROGRAMS

Review important definitions related to the specialty of LAIM. These definitions expand upon those common definitions provided in the [ACVIM Certification and Residency Training Manual](#) as they pertain specifically to the specialty of LAIM.

LAIM CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE (CC)

The LAIM CCs primary task is to review and determine the status of the candidates' Credentials submissions to determine eligibility for the LAIM Specialty Examination.

LAIM OMBUDSPERSON

The specialty of LAIM has an ombudsperson, appointed by the LAIM specialty president, who is available to Candidates to provide advice and serve as a liaison during conflicts involving a Candidate, a RTP, and/or the ACVIM, or representative thereof. The ombudsperson provides guidance in resolving concerns, conflicts, or complaints in a confidential and informal manner. These concerns may be regarding the RTP and/or training officer (i.e., PD, RA or SD) or with the ACVIM Board-certification process (i.e., change in status, communications with the Central Office). All communications are held in strict confidence. The role of the ombudsperson is to liaise, advise, and offer options toward resolution of a problem, as the ombudsperson deems appropriate. The ombudsperson cannot offer legal advice, does not actively engage in any formal arbitration process, and does not impose sanctions on individual Candidates or RTPs. The scope of the ombudsperson's role excludes matters relating to examinations and/or denial of credentials, which are addressed by the ACVIM appeals committee. If an ombudsperson is personally involved in a dispute with a Candidate, RTP, the ACVIM, or representative thereof, the ombudsperson must recuse themselves. In such a case, the ACVIM certification liaison or another specialty ombudsperson may serve as ombudsperson during that dispute.

The LAIM ombudsperson may be contacted at LAIMombuds@ACVIM.org.

LAIM PROGRAM DIRECTOR (PD)

The LAIM PD is the individual at the SI who assumes overall responsibility for the conduct and integrity of that institution's LAIM RTP(s). The specialty of LAIM requires that a LAIM PD must be an ACVIM LAIM Diplomate and member in good standing. When an SI has more than 1 LAIM RTP, a single PD may be responsible for all the LAIM RTPs of the SI, or there may be a different PD for each RTP; this might be most relevant for a SI that has both food animal and equine RTPs.

LAIM RESIDENCY TRAINING COMMITTEE (RTC)

The LAIM RTC specifies the residency training criteria that must be met for ACVIM-approval of a LAIM RTP. The LAIM RTC reviews and approves all new LAIM RTPs and reviews and

approves for renewal each registered LAIM RTP annually. The LAIM RTC also reviews any significant changes in a LAIM RTP (e.g., change in PD or RA, a resident or Candidate's early termination or failure to complete an RTP, alterations in program duration or content, and locations of secondary training sites) and notifies the LAIM CC of the approved changes. These reviews are typically based on documents submitted by the RTP's PD. However, if questions arise, the LAIM RTC may solicit supplemental documentation from other individuals who have knowledge of a particular RTP. The LAIM RTC also handles questions from LAIM residents, Candidates, PDs, RA, SDs, SSSDs and SNDs, regarding the interpretation of the neurology RTP requirements and standards as established in this SM.

LAIM RESIDENT ADVISOR (RA)

The LAIM RA is the individual at the SI who is primarily responsible for overseeing the resident's progress during the LAIM RTP. A LAIM RA must be actively participating in the field of large animal internal medicine, maintaining clinical competency in the field, substantially engaged as a SD for assigned residents, and significantly involved in the clinical supervision and didactic education of assigned residents. A LAIM RA may not perform this role on behalf of multiple SIs. A LAIM RA must be an ACVIM LAIM Diplomate and member in good standing. A LAIM RA may not advise more than 3 residents at any one time.

LAIM SECONDARY-SPECIALTY SUPERVISING DIPLOMATES (SSSDS)

A LAIM SSSD for a LAIM RTP must be a Board-Certified veterinary specialist in any specialty other than LAIM or equine internal medicine, who is contributing to the clinical training and didactic education of the LAIM resident in any specialty other than LAIM or equine internal medicine. Here Board-Certified may refer to any veterinary specialist(s) certified by an ABVS or EBVS registered veterinary specialty. The Board-Certified veterinary specialist must be a Diplomate, and where relevant, member in good standing with the relevant ABVS or EBVS registered veterinary specialty. A LAIM SSSD must be actively involved in their area of specialty, maintain competency in the field, and be substantially involved in the training of the assigned residents.

LAIM SUPERVISING DIPLOMATE (SD)

A LAIM SD is the individual at the SI, or a secondary RTP clinical training site, who is actively contributing to the clinical training and didactic education of the resident in the field of large animal internal medicine. A LAIM SD must be actively participating in the field of large animal internal medicine, maintaining clinical competency in the field, and be substantially involved in the clinical supervision and didactic education of assigned residents. A LAIM supervising diplomate (SD) must be either an ACVIM LAIM Diplomate and member in good standing, and/or an ECVEIM Diplomate.

LAIM TRAINING HOURS

For the specialty of LAIM, it is recognized that certain clinical training requirements, specifically clinical pathology, anatomic pathology and imaging, may be suited to time being accrued in training hours rather than training weeks. The ACVIM defines a training hour as 1 continuous hour (60 minutes) of contact time with a SD or SSSD while actively engaged in meeting a clinical training requirement.

LAIM TRAINING WEEKS

The LAIM specialty requires all RTP training be accrued in training weeks, excepting training in clinical pathology, anatomic pathology and imaging. The ACVIM defines a residency training week as a minimum of 40 hours accrued within a contiguous 7-day period.

NON-TRADITIONAL RESIDENCY TRAINING PROGRAM IN LAIM

For the specialty of LAIM, it is possible to achieve certification in a non-traditional RTP. The SI must provide thorough justification for a non-traditional RTP to the LAIM RTC, including the following:

- Details of how all training requirements of a traditional RTP will be satisfied, including training that may occur at multiple sites.
- Documentation that training will occur in blocks of no less than two consecutive weeks per block.
- Documentation by the PD, RAs, and SDs that training occurred as specified in the RTP proposal.
- Requests for approval of a non-traditional RTP must be submitted to the RTC at least 90 days in advance of a resident's start date. The LAIM RTC must approve the program before a Candidate can receive credit for time spent in a non-traditional RTP.

If a resident is unable to participate in the RTP continuously, then the time in training must be arranged in blocks of time of no less than 2 weeks each with a minimum of 12 weeks of training in any residency year (a residency year is the 12-month period which immediately follows a resident resuming their training program). The maximum duration of an RTP is 5 years.

For all RTPs, the maximum length of the training period is 5 years and the total time to achieve Diplomate status after completion of all RTPs may not exceed 5 years.

3 LARGE ANIMAL INTERNAL MEDICINE RESIDENCY TRAINING PROGRAM (RTP)

An ACVIM-approved LAIM RTP is the foundation for the education and training of ACVIM Candidates seeking certification as ACVIM Diplomates in the specialty of LAIM.

The common requirements and standards for certification and residency training established in the [ACVIM Certification and Residency Training Manual](#) must be met. In addition, there are specialty-specific policies, procedures, requirements and standards for certification and residency training specific to the specialty of LAIM as established in this SM. The policies, procedures, requirements and standards established in this SM are the minimum for certification and residency training in the specialty of LAIM. A LAIM RTP may choose to include additional educational and training requirements above the minimum established in this SM. Additional educational and training requirements outlined in the RTP's approval and annual renewal documentation are part of that RTP. A resident registered in that RTP must fulfill not only the minimum requirements established in this Manual, but also fulfill the additional requirements of that RTP, in order to become an ACVIM Diplomate in the specialty of LAIM, as the additional requirements are necessary for that resident to complete the RTP and obtain a residency certificate of completion.

3.A ACCEPTABLE LAIM RTPS

A registry of current ACVIM-approved LAIM RTPs, as evaluated by the LAIM RTC, is available via the [ACVIM website](#), and upon request from the [ACVIM office](#).

3.B LAIM RTP REGISTRATION AND EVALUATION

The ACVIM's policies, procedures and criteria for RTP registration, annual re-approval, probation and termination are standardized across all ACVIM specialties and are described in the [ACVIM Certification and Residency Training Manual](#) (4.C.4-6).

3.C LAIM CANDIDATE REGISTRATION

The ACVIM's policies, procedures and criteria for resident registration as an ACVIM Candidate in an ACVIM-approved RTP are standardized across all ACVIM specialties and are described in the [ACVIM Certification and Residency Training Manual](#) (3.C.3).

3.D GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF THE LAIM RTP

3.D.1 PATIENT CARE AND TECHNICAL SKILLS

The LAIM RTP will provide intensive training in clinical large animal internal medicine. It is expected that residents will assume primary responsibility for the care of large animal patients, to the extent to which they are capable, based on their level of training.

LAIM residents will manage LAIM cases spanning the breadth of veterinary internal medicine, including, but not limited, to cardiology, endocrinology, gastroenterology, hematology, immunology, infectious disease, nephrology, neurology, oncology, pulmonology, musculoskeletal disorders, and reproductive medicine, while employing diagnostic modalities including clinical pathology, anatomic pathology, radiology, ultrasonography, endoscopy and advanced imaging.

A LAIM RTP will meet objectives related to large animal internal medicine case management, in order that, upon completion of the RTP, residents will have acquired the knowledge base, clinical acumen and skills to be able to do the following:

- Design and implement a comprehensive diagnostic and treatment plan for one animal, or for a group of animals, as appropriate for the circumstances.
- Design and implement a plan to relieve the pain and suffering of an animal, or group of animals, as appropriate for the circumstances.
- Provide emergency and intensive care for an animal, or group of animals, as appropriate for the circumstances.
- Appropriately and competently employ all medical, diagnostic, and therapeutic procedures considered essential in the LAIM job task analysis.

3.D.2 KNOWLEDGE OF LARGE ANIMAL INTERNAL MEDICINE

A LAIM RTP will meet objectives related to large animal internal medicine, in order that, upon completion of the RTP, residents will have acquired the knowledge base, clinical acumen and skills to be able to do the following:

- Demonstrate and in-depth knowledge of large animal internal medicine diseases, etiology, epidemiology, pathophysiology, immunology, pathology, and therapy.
- Demonstrate competency in the problem-oriented approach to case management that includes the following:
 - Obtaining and insightfully interpret the patient's signalment and history.
 - Conduct a thorough physical examination.
 - Develop an appropriate and prioritized problem list.
 - Develop a list of differential diagnoses for each of the problems.
 - Suggest appropriate diagnostic tests or procedures to confirm, or rule-out, each differential diagnosis.

- Perform, where relevant, and interpret the results of diagnostic tests or procedures.
- Knowing which follow-up diagnostic tests or procedures are required to confirm, or rule-out, each of the differential diagnoses.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the disposition of drugs used to treat a food animal, including the potential for adulteration of the food supply, and know how to mitigate the potential for residues in meat and milk.
- Demonstrate a working knowledge of the Animal Medicinal Drug Use Clarification Act.
- Design and implement disease prevention and biosecurity protocols.

3.D.3 TEACHING SKILLS AND LIFELONG LEARNING

A LAIM RTP will meet objectives related to teaching skills and lifelong learning, in order that, upon completion of the RTP, residents will be able to do the following:

- Demonstrate effective clinical teaching and instructional skills that result from participating regularly in ward rounds; giving seminars to veterinary students, supervisors, or resident peers; and being involved in other educational endeavors.
- Evaluate and assimilate scientific evidence as a lifelong learner to continually improve patient care.

3.D.4 INTERPERSONAL AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS

A LAIM RTP will meet objectives related to interpersonal and communication skills so that upon completion of the RTP, residents will be able to do the following:

- Use skills for clearly communicating with clients, students, colleagues, staff, and the public.
- Articulate findings clearly in writing as demonstrated by medical recordkeeping, patient discharge summaries, and peer-reviewed publications.

3.D.5 RESEARCH AND CREATIVE SCHOLARLY ACTIVITY

A LAIM RTP will meet objectives related to research and creative scholarly activities so that upon completion of the RTP, residents will be able to do the following:

- Extend their knowledge of the basic principles of research for testing hypotheses and answering clinically important questions.
- Understand the principles of evidence-based medicine.
- Participate regularly in critical review of the LAIM literature (journal club).

- Participate in scholarly activities, such as research projects and peer-reviewed publication.
- Present their findings at scientific meetings.

3.D.6 PROFESSIONALISM

A LAIM RTP will meet objectives related to professionalism so that upon completion of the RTP, residents will be able to do the following:

- Demonstrate professionalism including tact and diplomacy, composure under pressure, initiative, organization, and receptiveness toward guidance.
- Demonstrate compassion and practice excellent patient care while adhering to ethical principles.

3.E SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE LAIM RTP

It is incumbent upon the SI, PD, RAs, SDs, SSSDs, residents and Candidates, as well as relevant ACVIM staff and committee members, to be aware of these RTP requirements, and to collectively work towards ensuring they are being fulfilled.

3.E.1 DURATION OF A LAIM RTP

An ACVIM-approved LAIM RTP must be a minimum duration of 104 weeks.

3.E.2 INTENSIVE CLINICAL TRAINING IN LAIM

A minimum of 52 weeks of the 104 weeks of a LAIM RTP must consist of intensive clinical training in LAIM. Additional weeks spent in intensive clinical training in LAIM are desirable. During this time, the resident must be under the direct supervision of 1, or more, LAIM SDs.

Residents must actively participate in patient management, including initial evaluation, diagnostic test selection and interpretation, case management and decision-making, client (owner) communication, appropriate follow-up, and prompt professional communication with referring veterinarians. An ACVIM LAIM SD must directly supervise and review the resident's case management.

Residents must maintain complete medical records for all patients.

During LAIM clinical training involving patient management, residents must attend and participate in daily (weekday) clinical rounds with at least one LAIM SD present. In an RTP where veterinary students are integral to and participating in hospital activities, residents should lead rounds discussions at least once weekly with an SD present.

3.E.3 INTENSIVE CLINICAL TRAINING IN SECONDARY ACVIM SPECIALTIES

A minimum of 16 weeks of the remaining minimum of 52 weeks of a LAIM RTP must consist of weeks of intensive clinical training under the direct supervision of 1, or more, SDs and/or SSSDs who are ACVIM Diplomates or ECEIM Diplomates. which might include ACVIM Diplomates in cardiology, neurology, nutrition, oncology and/or SAIM, or additional ACVIM LAIM Diplomates or ECEIM Diplomates

At least 6 of these 16 weeks must not be under the supervision of the primary SDs. Specifically, these 6 weeks cannot be directly supervised by the SDs supervising the aforementioned 52 weeks of intensive clinical training in LAIM at the SI, if the RTP has fewer than 2 ACVIM LAIM Diplomates at either the primary or secondary sites. which might include ACVIM Diplomates in cardiology, neurology, nutrition, oncology and/or SAIM, or additional ACVIM LAIM Diplomates or ECEIM Diplomates.

3.E.4 TRAINING IN SECONDARY NON-ACVIM SPECIALTIES

The remaining minimum of 36 weeks of a LAIM RTP, should consist predominantly of additional LAIM training or training in related fields. This may include rotations in related clinical fields, such as dermatology, ophthalmology, surgery, theriogenology, emergency medicine and critical care, clinical pharmacology, and/or anesthesiology.

The following required experiences in radiology and pathology can also be counted within these 36 weeks.

3.E.4.a DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING

The LAIM RTP must include two weeks (80 hours) training in diagnostic imaging. A minimum of one week (40 hours) must be in direct, one-on-one contact with a board-certified veterinary radiologist interpreting radiograph, learning, and evaluating the results of special imaging techniques, and attending radiology rounds and/or seminars. The second week (40 hours) of diagnostic imaging must be spent training in ultrasonography, under the direct supervision of a ABVS or EBVS Board-Certified radiologist and/or under the direct supervision of an ACVIM LAIM Diplomate with advanced skills in ultrasonography. The diagnostic imaging training may be accrued in training hours rather than training weeks.

3.E.4.b PATHOLOGY

The LAIM RTP must also include one week (40 hours) in direct, one-on-one contact with a board-certified veterinary clinical pathologist or anatomic pathologist; remote training is acceptable when necessary. The training includes evaluating clinical pathologic findings, performing necropsy examinations, reviewing cytology preparations and biopsies, and attending clinical pathologic conferences or seminars. The pathology training may be accrued in training hours rather than training weeks.

Some of the 36 weeks may also include nonclinical responsibilities, such as writing, research and creative scholarly activity, teaching, attendance at scientific meetings, study time for examinations, and vacation. However, no more than 2 weeks (10 business days) of vacation per year can be counted toward these 36 weeks.

Residents may participate in external rotations during LAIM clinical training that are not specified in the RTP registration document. However, the PD or the RA must request approval for these rotations from the LAIM RTC before the resident starts the rotation for the rotation to count toward the 104 weeks of a LAIM RTP.

3.E.5 RESEARCH AND CREATIVE SCHOLARLY ACTIVITY

At least 12 weeks of the remaining 36 weeks of a LAIM RTP must be allocated for research and scholarly activity in the pursuit of publication. Residents are encouraged to participate in clinical or laboratory research projects, including the design, execution, evaluation, presentation of an abstract at the annual ACVIM Forum, and publication.

Documentation of the completion of at least one of the above activities is required as part of the completion of the residency training overview form submitted as a component of the LAIM credentials packet.

Proof of completion of this research and scholarly activity requirement can take the form of 1 or more the following:

- Copy of a first author research paper published in a peer-reviewed journal, documenting original work undertaken predominantly during the RTP, or an unconditional letter of acceptance for a first-author research paper from a peer-reviewed journal, documenting the same.
- Evidence of presentation of an abstract (e.g., proceedings), oral or poster, at a scientific meeting, documenting original work undertaken predominantly during the RTP.
- Undersigned letter from the RA documenting completion of a prospective, or retrospective, research project, undertaken predominantly during the RTP, that is unpublished (e.g., thesis).
- Undersigned letter from the RA documenting submission of a prospective research grant/project, formulated predominantly during the RTP, pertinent to the specialty of cardiology.
- Academic transcript, or undersigned letter from the RA, documenting completion of 3 credits, or the equivalent, graduate course work in research methods, biostatistics, and/or research ethics.
- Certificate, or undersigned letter from the RA, documenting completion of a minimum of 25 hours of research-focused seminars and/or classes at an

appropriately advanced level. These may be offered by the ACVIM, through online programs, or by other institutions. Prior approval by the LAIM RTC and CC is recommended. These seminars or classes will cover subjects such as the following:

- Critical evaluation of the veterinary medical/biomedical literature.
- Grant writing.
- Study design, including clinical trials.
- Biostatistics.
- Research ethics.

3.E.6 PUBLICATION REQUIREMENT

A publication is a requirement for Board-Certification in LAIM, i.e., to become a Diplomate of the ACVIM in LAIM. However, a publication is *not* a mandatory requirement of an ACVIM-approved LAIM RTP. Despite this clarification, the ACVIM expects the SI, PD, RA and SDs to provide adequate support in the Candidate's work towards a publication. Moreover, if an ACVIM-approved LAIM RTP decides to specifically require a publication, a certificate of RTP completion cannot be presented to the Candidate until the publication requirement is fulfilled. The research and scholarly activity requirement of an ACVIM-approved LAIM RTP may be fulfilled by an approved publication, or alternative means.

3.E.7 LAIM JOURNAL CLUB

Large animal internal medicine residents must participate in at least 80 hours of journal club throughout the RTP as stated in the [ACVIM Certification and Residency Training Manual \(4.C.13\)](#). The objective of the journal club is to foster critical thinking and improve the resident's understanding of and ability to interpret scientific and clinical data, including statistical analysis. Journal club typically consists of 1 hour of protected time at which at least 1 SD must be in attendance, unless extenuating circumstances develop. SSSDs and experts in other disciplines, including statistics, should also be invited to attend. This Manual allows for remote journal club and joint journal clubs between SIs or training sites.

Large animal internal medicine residents are required to keep a log of journal club activities that includes the date, journal articles discussed, and those in attendance.

3.E.8 DIDACTIC LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

LAIM residents must participate in the following didactic learning opportunities, facilitated by the SI: LAIM topic review sessions, formal conferences, continuing education conferences, and formal examination preparation sessions.

Residents are required to keep a log of all seminars and didactic lectures they attend for presentation to their RAs and other SDs during a progress review. Each log entry should include the seminar or lecture date, topic, and presenter.

This Manual allows for remote participation in such didactic learning opportunities, specifically [Registry of Approved Continuing Education \(RACE\)](#) programs.

3.E.8.a FORMAL TOPIC REVIEW AND EXAMINATION PREPARATION SESSIONS

A LAIM RTP must provide intensive review sessions or courses for residents on topics covered in the General Examination and LAIM Specialty Examination. The resident must attend or participate in at least 80 hours of such review sessions or courses during the RTP.

Attending daily clinical rounds does not fulfill this requirement, although structured courses and seminars may.

This requirement can be met in part by attending or participating remotely in an ACVIM advanced continuing education (ACE) course, the ACVIM Forum, or other high-quality continuing education conferences or meetings, although the latter require prior approval by the LAIM RTC.

3.E.8.b FORMAL CONFERENCES

LAIM residents are expected to attend formal conferences in LAIM and related disciplines throughout the RTP. Examples may include conferences or seminars in clinicopathology, anatomic pathology, internal medicine and/or other LAIM-related disciplines. Conferences or seminars given within a veterinary practice or hospital, or at a medical school or medical teaching hospital, are acceptable. Remote participation/attendance is acceptable.

3.E.8.c FORAML PRESENTATION(S)

The LAIM resident must give 1 formal presentation at a formal conference a minimum of once per residency year. A presentation at a regional, state, or national meeting may also fulfill this requirement. Remote presentations at approved conferences and meetings are acceptable. Documentation of these presentations, for example a copy of the program from the regional, state, or national meeting, must be included in the LAIM credentials packet.

3.E.8.d CONTINUING EDUCATION CONFERENCE(S)

Large animal internal medicine residents must attend or participate in at least 1 major state, regional, national, or international veterinary medical or human medical continuing education conference during the RTP. Documentation of attendance at the conference must be included in the Candidate's credentials packet.

LAIM residents are strongly encouraged to give a scientific presentation at a regional, state, or national meeting at least once during the RTP. This may fulfill the aforementioned requirement for a formal presentation.

3.E.9 CLINICAL WRITING ASSESSMENTS (CWAS)

Effective July 1, 2025, CWAs have been removed as a requirement of Board-Certification for LAIM Candidates. This change also applies to residents who were currently enrolled in a LAIM RTP at the time of formal announcement. Note that this change does not apply to LAIM Candidates who have previously completed their LAIM RTP but have yet to meet all Board-Certification requirements. These Candidates are still required to complete the CWA as part of the credentialing process.

3.E.10 STUDY TIME

A minimum of 4 weeks, preferably without emergency duty, of study time must be allocated to the resident to prepare for the ACVIM General Examination. Study time should be scheduled to immediately precede the examination date, as much as is deemed practical.

An additional minimum of 4 weeks, preferably without emergency duty, of study time must be allocated to the resident to prepare for the LAIM Specialty Examination. Study time should be scheduled to immediately precede the examination date, as much as is deemed practical.

3.E.11 UNSUPERVISED, VACATION AND PERSONAL TIME

UNSUPERVISED TIME

Please refer to section 4.C.17. b of the [ACVIM Certification and Residency Training Manual](#).

The LAIM specialty currently has no stipulations or allowances regarding unsupervised time.

VACATION

Please refer to section 4.C.17. b of the [ACVIM Certification and Residency Training Manual](#).

The specialty of LAIM stipulates that the LAIM resident should take vacation during the LAIM RTP that is separate and independent of all other RTP requirements and activities.

The LAIM specialty stipulates that no more than 6 weeks in total can count towards the 36 weeks of a 3-year RTPs, and no more than 4 weeks in total can count towards 36 weeks of a 2-year RTPs. Additional vacation and personal time may be granted to a resident, just not counted towards RTP training time.

PERSONAL LEAVE

Please refer to section 4.C.17.c of the [ACVIM Certification and Residency Training Manual](#).

The LAIM RTP is expected to provide reasonable and practicable accommodation for a resident's medical and personal needs (e.g., healthcare appointments, medical leave, carer's leave, jury duty, etc.).

3.E.12 RTP INTERRUPTION

Training interruptions may be unavoidable in circumstances where a resident must switch from one RTP to another to fulfill all RTP, credentials and certification requirements. In such cases, the following steps must be taken:

- A new training program must be identified.
- The LAIM RTC must approve the new RTP before clinical training begins.
- The resident must re-register with the ACVIM in the new RTP.
- The resident must complete training in continuous blocks of time once training resumes.

In some circumstances, a resident may need to take a leave of absence that would prevent them from completing the RTP in the initially planned 2 or 3 years. The PD and resident must petition the RTC for an extension. Written approval of leave / extension must be granted and documentation included with credentials packet.

When a leave of absence is necessary and approved by the RTC, the resident has a maximum of 5 years from the end of the RTP to achieve board-certification in LAIM.

However, when actively engaged in the residency, the resident must attend full time. The residency must be completed in contiguous blocks of a minimum of 2 weeks, and complete at least 12 weeks of training in any residency year (a residency year is the 12-month period beginning on the date when the residency is resumed).

3.E.13 RTP VARIANCES

Variances to LAIM RTPs may be permitted by the LAIM RTC, but a request for a variance will require a detailed explanation from the PD to the LAIM RTC, and written approval

from the RTC must be granted. In general, such approval will relate to combined residency-graduate degree programs or RTPs that include significant resident research commitments. Variances must be approved by the RTC before the resident includes them as part of the RTP. Documentation relating to approved RTP variances must be maintained by RTP and also the Candidate as part of their essential documentation to be submitted with the Candidate's credentials packet.

3.E.14 ONLINE EXIT INTERVIEW SURVEY

Within 90 days of completing an RTP, residents are strongly encouraged to fill out an online survey regarding the quality of their residency training experience.

Responses are shared with the appropriate PD to provide important feedback regarding their RTP. Data, held strictly confidential, will be published as the 5-year rolling average score per surveyed category calculated for each RTP, and will be released every 3 years to ensure the anonymity of Candidates who completed smaller programs.

4 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES ASSOCIATED WITH LAIM

These descriptions and criteria expand upon those provided in the [ACVIM Certification and Residency Training Manual](#), as they pertain specifically to the specialty of LAIM.

4.A ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SPONSORING INSTITUTION (SI)

The SI for a LAIM RTP, in partnership with the PD, RA, SD and SSSDs, must ensure a healthy and safe learning and working environment that promotes resident professional advancement, as well as psychological, emotional, and physical well-being. The SI must ensure the availability of all necessary professional, technical, and clerical personnel to best support the cardiology RTP.

4.A.1 DOCUMENTATION AND VERIFICATION

Described under registration of the RTP. Failure to respond to LAIM RTC requests for information may result in RTP probation or in RTP termination.

4.A.2 LAIM SUPERVISION

To host a LAIM RTP, the SI must have a minimum of 2 full-time, or equivalent, ACVIM Diplomates, at least 1 of whom must be an ACVIM Diplomate in the specialty of LAIM.

4.A.3 SUPPORTING DISCIPLINES REQUIRED

To host a LAIM RTP, the SI must ensure at least 1 board-certified radiologist, 1 board-certified clinical pathologist, 1 board-certified anatomic pathologist, 1 board-certified neurologist, and 1 board-certified cardiologist are available for direct and/or remote supervision, where specifically permitted, of residents.

The 40 hours of required training with a board-certified radiologist and the 40 hours of required training with a board-certified pathologist, may be under the direct supervision and/or remote supervision, as defined by the ACVIM, spent in one-on-one consultation (face-to-face or remotely) either in defined blocks of time or during the course of case management. For these requirements, the definition of training hours, rather than training weeks, may apply.

4.A.4 FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

The SI must provide the following facilities and equipment:

- Standard radiographic, ultrasonographic, electrocardiographic, and endoscopic equipment.

- The ability to facilitate and ensure residents participate in instruction in ultrasonography, endoscopy, blood pressure measurement, and electrodiagnostics by appropriate board-certified specialists.
- Ready access to clinical pathology services, including haematology, serum chemistries, blood gases, urinalysis, cytology, parasitology, microbiology, and endocrinology. If these services are not available on-site at the SI, the SI must have arrangements with local and/or regional and/or national laboratories that provide these services.
- A 24-hour emergency and intensive care facility, with adequate staffing, as allowed by state practice acts.
- Access to MRI, CT, and nuclear medicine is highly recommended, but is not required.

4.A.5 DIDACTIC LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

The SI for a LAIM RTP must commit to facilitating ready access to and resident attendance of the required journal club and structural educational opportunities.

4.B ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF SECONDARY TRAINING SITES

If the SI is unable to provide personnel and/or facilities all required resident educational training experiences, at a secondary training location(s) to fulfill all RTP requirements. The PD and SI are responsible for these arrangements. The LAIM RTC must approve all secondary educational and training experiences before residents participate in external rotations that contribute to the minimum training requirements of the LAIM RTP.

4.C ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE LAIM PROGRAM DIRECTOR (PD)

The LAIM PD is the individual at the SI who assumes overall responsibility for the conduct and integrity of that institution's RTP(s). Unlike some specialties, the specialty of LAIM requires that a LAIM PD must be an ACVIM Diplomate in the specialty of LAIM. When an SI has more than 1 LAIM RTP, 1 PD can be responsible for all RTPs at the SI. However, there can also be different PDs for each RTP (e.g., perhaps 1 PD for a food animal track RTP and another PD for an equine track RTP), providing each PD is an ACVIM Diplomate in the specialty of LAIM.

Examples of information that a PD must report to the LAIM RTC:

- Changes (addition or deletion) in supervisory personnel such as having too few RAs or SDs for the number of residents in the RTP; no program may have more than three residents for each RA that is listed in the RTP description.
- For programs placed on probation, the PD must provide the LAIM RTC with an updated plan for what will happen to any current residents if no resolution occurs

within a 12-month probation period. During that period, the PD provides written updates every 3 months to the LAIM RTC on what is being done to correct the program deficiencies. If the deficiencies are not resolved within the 12-month probation period, the LAIM RTC may terminate the program.

- Alteration of program duration (any proposed alteration must be approved by the RTC before implementation).
- A resident transferring from 1 RTP to another (any proposed transfer requires prior review and approval by the RTC).
- A resident either being placed on probation or being dismissed from the program.
- A resident beginning another RTP.
- A resident enrolling in an institutional graduate program.

At the time of annual RTP renewal, PDs and RAs may be asked to verify resident activities.

If the PD, regardless of RTP standing, fails to acknowledge the LAIM RTC's request for documentation regarding the RTP within 14 days of the request or fails to provide the requested documentation within 30 days of the request, the LAIM RTC will place the RTP on probation. Failure to comply with the LAIM RTC's requests or recommendations in a timely manner while on probation may lead to program termination.

4.D ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE LAIM RESIDENT ADVISOR (RA)

The LAIM RA is the primary individual who monitors the LAIM resident's progress during residency training. A LAIM RA must be an ACVIM Diplomate in the specialty of LAIM. Each LAIM RA may not advise more than 3 residents at any one time. A LAIM RA must also be actively involved as an SD for the assigned residents and be substantially involved in the clinical supervision of assigned residents.

The RA monitors the progress of residents encourages achievement of clinical milestones in a timely manner. The RA must provide each resident with at least two comprehensive written performance evaluations per year, and the results of these evaluations must be shared in person with the resident. Residents should also receive a copy of the written evaluations, and the resident is to sign the RA's copy of the evaluation to document that the resident has received the assessment. If needed to reconcile discrepancies, the LAIM RTC may request copies of these evaluations.

4.E ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE LAIM SUPERVISING DIPLOMATE (SD)

The LAIM SD must be a board-certified specialist in the specialty of LAIM. Here, for LAIM SDs, Board-Certified refers to both ACVIM LAIM Diplomates and ECEIM Diplomates. A LAIM SD

must be actively involved in the practice of LAIM, maintain clinical competency in the field, and be substantially involved in the clinical supervision of assigned residents.

For the specialty of LAIM, the SD regularly reviews, generally daily, the medical care of patients assigned to a resident. The SD conducts these reviews face-to-face with the resident. If necessary for public health reasons, these reviews may be conducted remotely.

Consultation with other qualified individuals is encouraged; however, it does not replace the regular reviews with a LAIM SD. During after-hours periods (evenings and weekends) the SD should also be available for electronic discussion and consultation, such as telephonic or video conversations, on the care of patients assigned to a resident.

4.F RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE LAIM RESIDENT

It is the responsibility of the LAIM resident to reasonably work towards fulfilling the requirements of the LAIM RTP in which they are registered, participating in and contributing to their own education, clinical training and professional development, as well as psychological, emotional, and physical well-being, while also demonstrating the highest professional and ethical behavior, adhering to the [ACVIM's Code of Conduct](#), and upholding the [vision, mission and values](#) of the ACVIM.

The ACVIM's policies, procedures, criteria and specific responsibilities for residents are standardised across all ACVIM specialties and are described in the [ACVIM Certification and Residency Training Manual](#) (4.C.16.g), and are elaborated upon throughout this Manual as they pertain to LAIM residents.

4.G RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE LAIM CANDIDATE

It is the responsibility of the Candidate to fulfill the requirements of the specialty's certification process as outlined in this Manual, while adhering to the highest professional standards and the ACVIM's Code of Conduct, in order to become a Diplomate of the ACVIM in the specialty of cardiology. The certification process includes, but is not limited to, fulfilling all the requirements of the specialty's RTP as outlined in this Manual.

Candidates can access this Manual, other relevant information, all relevant forms, and deadlines on the ACVIM website, or request said information from the ACVIM office.

It is the Candidate's responsibility to be aware of all certification and RTP requirements, other relevant information and deadlines. It is the Candidate's responsibility to maintain a record of all communications, receipts and essential documentation.

5 CLINICAL MILESTONES FOR LAIM RESIDENTS

5.A CLINICAL MILESTONES FOR FIRST-YEAR LAIM RESIDENTS

By the end of the first year, residents should strive to meet the following clinical milestones:

- Register with the ACVIM within 90 days of beginning the RTP.
- Complete online learning objectives or a webinar series on understanding the credentialing process.
- Submit the Residency Training Oversight (RTO) form by the posted deadline. Candidates who began their RTP off-cycle and have not completed 4 months of RTP by the submission deadline are exempt from this requirement.

5.B CLINICAL MILESTONES FOR SECOND-YEAR LAIM RESIDENTS

By the end of the second year, residents should strive to meet the following clinical milestones:

- Complete at least 1 training week equivalent to 40 training hours of the diagnostic imaging requirements.
- Complete one training week equivalent to 40 training hours of the pathology requirement.
- Take the ACVIM General Examination (strongly recommended).
- Submit their credentials packet after completing at least 20 months of the RTP. For credentials to be reviewed, the Candidate must first pay the credentials fee.

5.C CLINICAL MILESTONES FOR THIRD-YEAR LAIM RESIDENTS

By the end of the third year, residents should strive to meet the following clinical milestones:

- Complete the remaining training week equivalent of 40 training hours of the diagnostic imaging requirements.
- Submit a manuscript (strongly recommended) to a peer-reviewed journal for consideration as a publication.
- Take the LAIM Specialty Examination (strongly recommended).
- Submit their credentials final documentation, if applicable.

6 RESIDENT EVALUATION

RTPs are responsible for conducting performance evaluations (verbal and written) of each resident every 6 months, preferably including feedback from all SDs and other SSSDs, who have overseen training in the preceding 6 months.

Evaluations should include a rubric that measures various aspects of clinical performance, teaching ability (when applicable), communication skills, and scholarly activity as well as progress toward clinical milestones.

The resident must sign the RA's copy of the written evaluation to document that the RA has reviewed the evaluation with the resident and provided the resident with their own copy of the evaluation. The LAIM RTC may request copies of these evaluations during a program review.

RAs must also ensure that residents who have completed 6 months or more of their program and have not or are not submitting their credentials submit annual progress reports to the ACVIM by the required deadline.

6.A RESIDENT CASE LOGS

Residents are required to keep a log of their cases for presentation to their RAs and to other SDs during a progress review.

6.B RESIDENT PROCEDURE LOGS

Residents are required to keep a log of all procedures they complete for presentation to their RAs and other SDs during a progress review.

6.C EDUCATION LOGS

Residents are required to keep a log of all seminars and didactic lectures they attend for presentation to their RAs and other SDs during a progress review. Each log entry should include the seminar or lecture date, topic, and presenter.

7 PUBLICATION REQUIREMENT

While it is not a requirement of the LAIM RTP, a publication is required for a Candidate to become a Diplomate of the ACVIM (LAIM). The Candidate must publish at least one first-author scientific manuscript relevant to LAIM in a refereed scientific, medical, or veterinary medical journal. The purpose of the publication requirement is to ensure that Candidates demonstrate skill in written scientific medical communication, in particular that they display the ability to organize scientific data, communicate these data accurately in writing, and are capable of discussing the scientific findings in the context of the current medical literature. Ideally, the manuscript documents a completed laboratory or clinical investigative research project undertaken during the RTP. Retrospective studies and comprehensive reviews may also be acceptable. The resident must submit an electronic copy of the published or accepted manuscript, with the resident as first author, relevant to the discipline of LAIM that demonstrates critical thinking and expertise in LAIM as part of credentials submission. Manuscripts that were published within the 3 years before the resident's start date may also be submitted to the LAIM CC for consideration toward fulfillment of the publication requirement. The resident must submit to the LAIM CC chair in writing any questions concerning the acceptability of a publication before submitting the publication as part of the LAIM credentials packet.

The manuscript must be written in English and published in a refereed journal. A refereed journal is one governed by policies and procedures established and maintained by an active editorial board that requires critical review and approval of papers submitted by at least one recognized authority on the manuscript's subject. Mainstream journals of major disciplines are acceptable, provided that they adhere to the principles of peer review, and providing the manuscript's subject is in the field of LAIM.

Due to variability in editorial quality and process and due to the proliferation of online journals, the LAIM CC must approve all journals not listed on the acceptable journal list used to meet the publication requirement by a resident, preferably before the resident submits the manuscript for publication. The LAIM publication requirement guidelines contain details on the LAIM CC journal review process and a list of acceptable journals. Residents seeking approval of a journal not on the acceptable journal list must provide documentation as described in the publication requirement guidelines to the CC. The LAIM CC reviews and may update the acceptable journal list annually based on changes in journal availability, editorial process, and impact factor.

The LAIM CC determines the relevance of the manuscript to the topic of LAIM by assessing whether it meaningfully impacts the scientific understanding of a subject relevant to LAIM or the diagnosis or management of a clinical condition by a specialist in LAIM. The manuscript should demonstrate the proficiency of the resident in understanding the scientific method and study design, including statistics and conducting a comprehensive literature review. The LAIM CC publication requirement guidelines contain current information on factors the LAIM CC considers in assessing the quality of a manuscript. As publication requirement guidelines are

certification policies, not residency training requirements, they may change during a residency. As such, every resident and RA should check the most current publication requirement guidelines before submitting a paper for publication to ensure that it will be acceptable to the LAIM CC. A publication is subject to the guidelines in effect at the time the article was submitted to the journal. If guidelines changed after the submission of the manuscript, the Candidate can provide proof of the submission date to ensure that the original guidelines will be used in evaluating their submission.

A resident may submit a published scientific manuscript or a copy of the final acceptance notification from the journal editor to the ACVIM office at any time after the resident successfully registers and enrolls in an approved LAIM RTP. An accepted manuscript is not required before the resident takes the LAIM Specialty Examination. However, the resident is strongly encouraged to meet this requirement before taking the Specialty Examination. The manuscript must be accepted for publication no more than 5 years after the resident completes their RTP.

If the manuscript has not been published, then the resident must submit an electronic copy of the accepted manuscript and acceptance notification. Otherwise, the publication will not be considered by the LAIM CC. The ACVIM Board of Regents (BOR) adopted a standard definition of a manuscript accepted for publication. A manuscript is deemed as accepted for publication when the corresponding author receives one of the following:

- An email from the official email address of the journal or a letter on the journal's letterhead from the editor stating that the manuscript has been accepted for publication.
- An email from the official email address of the journal or a letter on the journal's letterhead from the editor stating that all reviewers have approved the manuscript for publication and the manuscript awaits editing before publication.
- A galley proof of the manuscript with an email from the official email address of the journal or a cover letter from the editor on the journal's letterhead stating that the manuscript is scheduled for publication.

A notice from an editor that states the corresponding author must address reviewer comments, no matter how minor, is considered unacceptable for credentialing purposes. Such a notice implies that the final review of the manuscript is incomplete and that it has not yet been accepted. If a resident is unsure whether a response from a journal is final acceptance, then that individual should petition the LAIM CC chair in writing for a determination.

Book chapters and conference proceedings are not acceptable to fulfill the publication requirement. Case reports, clinical vignettes, short communications, brief communications, and serial features (E.g., ECG of the month or drug topic of the month) are also not acceptable.

8 THE ACVIM GENERAL EXAMINATION

All ACVIM LAIM Candidates must pass the ACVIM General Examination(s), in order to be eligible to attain Diplomate status. Information about the ACVIM General Examination(s) is outlined in the [ACVIM Certification and Residency Training Manual](#) (4.F.6).

9 LAIM CREDENTIALS

Credentials approval, or conditional approval of credentials, is a prerequisite for taking the LAIM Specialty Examination(s).

Credentials approval is a requirement, in order to be eligible to attain ACVIM Diplomate status in the specialty of LAIM.

9.A LAIM CREDENTIALS ELIGIBILITY, PROCEDURES AND SUBMISSION

*****Always check the ACVIM website for the most up-to-date information before submission; this process is subject to change.*****

The information listed in this section provides an overview of the eligibility requirements and procedures for submitting credentials. Specific instructions are provided in the applicable [LAIM credentials information packet](#). Because application requirements change periodically, Candidates must be certain that they are using the most current application and credentials packet. Applicant instructions for meeting the credentials requirements are available on the [ACVIM website](#), or by request in writing from the [ACVIM office](#). If a Candidate has any questions regarding the credentials process, the Candidate should request clarification in writing from the [LAIM CC chair](#) or the [ACVIM office](#) well before the submission deadline.

Large animal internal medicine Candidates may submit the completed credentials packet and credentials fee online to the ACVIM office following the completion of 20 months of the RTP.

A Candidate who intends to take the LAIM Specialty Examination must submit credentials for the LAIM Specialty Examination so that the [ACVIM office](#) receives the credentials packet no later than the deadline date specified on the [ACVIM website](#) in the year preceding the planned examination date.

Payment of the credentials fee is also required at the time of credentials packet submission. Please maintain the record and receipt associated with payment.

THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THE CREDENTIALS DEADLINE. LATE SUBMISSIONS WILL NOT BE REVIEWED. CREDENTIALS PACKETS MUST BE SUBMITTED ON, OR BEFORE, THE DEADLINE DATE, TO ALLOW ADEQUATE TIME FOR REVIEW BY THE LAIM CC.

CREDENTIALS PACKETS WILL NOT BE REVIEWED IF THE CREDENTIALS FEE HAS NOT BEEN PAID BEFORE, OR AT THE TIME OF, CREDENTIALS PACKET SUBMISSION.

The LAIM CC only evaluates credentials packets for Candidates who have paid the credentials fee by the deadline date. Payment of the fee triggers a review of the submitted credentials packets for completeness and accuracy.

Each resident or Candidate is notified no later than 60 days after the submission deadline regarding the acceptability of the credentials packet as a prerequisite for the LAIM Specialty Examination. All Candidates must submit the current standard LAIM application form along with the other required documents.

Candidates must carefully follow the instructions provided in the LAIM credentials packet. Inadequate attention to detail may cause the Candidate's entire credentials packet to be rejected.

Documentation of receipt of the Candidate's credentials application, receipt of the paid fee, and documentation of credentials approval, with the Candidate's unique identification number, must be maintained by the Candidate as part of their essential documentation.

Separate receipts for each ACVIM fee paid and application acknowledgement will be provided by the ACVIM and must be maintained by the Candidate as part of their essential documentation.

9.B LAIM CREDENTIALS ITEMS TO SUBMIT

*****Always check the ACVIM website for the most up-to-date information before submission; this list is subject to change.*****

Candidates must include the following items in their credentials packets and submit them online to the [ACVIM office](#) by the date specified on the [ACVIM website](#) in the year preceding the date of the special examination:

- The completed [LAIM Specialty Examination credentials packet](#) as described in the [LAIM credentials information packet](#).
- The completed current LAIM credentials application form.
- One peer-reviewed published manuscript, manuscript and acceptance letter from a journal, or a signed [letter of understanding](#) stating that a publication and documentation of its acceptance will be submitted upon acceptance of a publication by a journal.
- [Reference forms or letters](#). Candidates must have 3 references that meet the criteria specified on the [Candidates' pages](#) of the [ACVIM website](#) for acceptable referees and submission format.

It is the Candidate's responsibility to submit all credential items before the deadline, as late applications will not be reviewed.

9.C EVALUATION OF CREDENTIALS FOR LAIM SPECIALTY EXAMINATION

The [ACVIM office](#) evaluates the credentials packets for completeness.

Complete credentials packets are forwarded to the LAIM CC for further review. A reviewer assigned by the LAIM CC evaluates and rates a Candidate's credentials as approved, conditionally approved or unacceptable. The reviewer records the evaluation results on a standard form, which the [ACVIM office](#) retains. The LAIM CC chair compiles the reviewer's comments about whether a Candidate's credentials packet is complete and acceptable. The [ACVIM office](#) will notify the Candidate of the approval or denial of their credentials within 60 days of the deadline for submission of credentials.

Conditional acceptance of credentials may be attained if a Candidate has not met the publication requirement. With conditional acceptance, the Candidate may take the LAIM Specialty Examination. However, the Candidate cannot achieve Diplomate status or receive a Diplomate certificate until that individual completes the approved RTP and fulfills the pending publication requirement.

During the credentials review period, the LAIM CC reviews a resident's credentials, after which the chair will notify individuals of any deficiencies in any area and indicate which action(s) the resident must take to remedy the deficiencies (via a credentials results letter). After correcting and completing all deficiencies, the resident submits a final RTO for the LAIM CC to review. Once verified, the LAIM CC chair notifies the ACVIM office that the resident completed all requirements. No Candidate can become a Diplomate, even if the Candidate passes the General Examination and LAIM Specialty Examination until the Candidate has completed all requirements, including their RTP.

10 THE LAIM SPECIALTY EXAMINATION

All ACVIM LAIM Candidates must pass the LAIM Specialty Examination(s), in order to be eligible to attain Diplomate status. Common information regarding the ACVIM Specialty Examination(s) is outlined in the [ACVIM Certification and Residency Training Manual](#) (4.F.7). Further specialty-specific information is outlined below.

10.A LAIM SPECIALTY EXAMINATION REGISTRATION AND FEE

Once credentials are approved or conditionally approved, Candidates may register to take the LAIM Specialty Examination. An additional fee is required. Candidates must register and pay the associated fee online by the deadline date specified on the [ACVIM website](#) in the year before they intend to take the LAIM Specialty Examination. Late registration and/or late fee payment will result in the Candidate being ineligible to sit for the specialty examination that year.

Documentation of receipt of the Candidate's LAIM Specialty Examination registration, receipt of the paid fee, and documentation of credentials approval, with the Candidate's unique identification number, must be maintained by the Candidate as part of their essential documentation.

Separate receipts for each ACVIM fee paid and registration acknowledgement will be provided by the ACVIM and must be maintained by the Candidate as part of their essential documentation.

10.B THE LAIM SPECIALTY EXAMINATION CONTENT AND FORMAT

*****Always check the Candidates' exam webpage(s) on the ACVIM website for the most up-to-date information pertaining to ACVIM Examinations. Examination format/design, item types and standard setting/cut score determination method(s) are subject to change, as necessary to continue to align the examination with best practice and accreditation industry standards. Any changes will be reflected in the current examination blueprint and/or information provided to Candidates. *****

An updated blueprint for the LAIM Specialty Examination, reading list and relevant examination preparation documents are posted on the [ACVIM website](#) a minimum of 60 days prior to the LAIM Specialty Examination date each year.

11 MAINTENANCE OF CREDENTIALS (MOC)

As discussed in the [ACVIM Certification and Residency Training Manual](#), every ACVIM Diplomate who completed credentials and became a Diplomate on, or after, January 1, 2016, is awarded a Diplomate certificate that is valid for 10 years. These ACVIM LAIM Diplomates are subject to MOC. The MOC policies, procedures, requirements and standards are posted on the [ACVIM website](#). The [LAIM maintenance of credentials \(MOC\) committee](#) maintains a [list of acceptable continuing education experiences](#) and their associated points that count toward renewal of LAIM credentials by the ACVIM. This information is available on the [ACVIM website](#), or by request from the [ACVIM office](#). It is the responsibility of each ACVIM LAIM Diplomate to maintain a record of these activities and submit documentation as required to meet MOC requirements and standards.

12 CORRESPONDENCE, INQUIRES, ISSUES AND COMPLAINTS

Residents, Candidates, SI(s), training site(s), PD(s), RA(s), SD(s), SSSD(s), other institutional officials and personnel involved in the certification processes of the LAIM specialty, and members of the public with comments, queries, issues and/or complaints regarding the ACVIM certification process and/or LAIM residency training programs (RTPs), especially issues of LAIM RTP noncompliance not sufficiently resolved by the RTP's PD, should direct communication in writing to the LAIM ombudsperson and/or to the relevant committee chair and/or the [ACVIM office](#). Interested parties can obtain the names and contact information for these individuals from the [ACVIM office](#) or [ACVIM website](#). A response to the communication can be expected within 4 weeks.

The ACVIM, and representatives thereof, can only address matters related to policies, procedures, requirements and standards established in the [ACVIM Certification and Residency Training Manual](#), specialty-specific manuals, and guiding documents of the organization. Personnel matters are unique to each SI and training site and their Human Resources policies and procedures and are not subject to ACVIM review.