

# COMPETENCE

## ACCME's definition as it relates to the Accreditation Criteria

**ACCME Criterion 1 says,**

**"Expected results are articulated in terms of changes in competence, performance, or patient outcomes that will be the result of the program."**

**What definition of "COMPETENCE" is the ACCME using?**

**Does it mean knowledge and skill, or**

**does it mean the application of knowledge or skill in practice?**

**If the latter is true, how does competence differ from performance?**

**In the ACCME context, we use Miller's (1990) definition of COMPETENCE:**

**"knowing how" to do something."**

**Knowledge, in the presence of experience and judgment,**

**is translated into ability called COMPETENCE –**

**which has not yet been used in professional practice.**

**COMPETENCE is what a professional would do in practice,  
if given the opportunity.**

**The skills, abilities and strategies one implements in practice  
are PERFORMANCE.**

**Re: Miller GE. The assessment of clinical skills/competence/performance. Acad Med. 1990; 65(9 Suppl):S63-7.**