ABMS Member Board Requirements for Initial Certification in a Specialty

Specialty certification is first awarded to candidates who meet the requirements in a specified field of medical practice. This table identifies the requirements by Member Board for initial certification in a specialty. Contact the Member Board to confirm all requirements. Footnotes can be found on page 3.

		Training Requirement [1] *(All boards require attestation by program director)*		Other Training Accepted [2]	Additional Requirements	Board Eligibility	Assessment	
Specialty Certificate	**Issuing Board: American Board of**	**Prerequisite Requirement**	**Specialty Training Requirement**		*All boards require current and unrestricted medical license*	**Board Eligible Period** *(plus additional practice requirement)*	**Traditional Secure Exam** *(computer-based)*	**Practical/ Oral**
Aerospace Medicine	Preventive Medicine	1 year general internship	2 years	RCPSC		7 years	x	
Allergy and Immunology	Allergy and Immunology	3 years training in Internal Medicine or Pediatrics	2 years	RCPSC	Certificate in Internal Medicine or Pediatrics	7 years	x	
Anesthesiology	Anesthesiology	1 year general internship	3 years	International		7 years	x	x
Clinical Biochemical Genetics	Medical Genetics and Genomics		2 years	CCMG	Patient log, recommendation letters, PD verification of training completion	6 years	2 exams: general, specialty-specific	
Clinical Genetics and Genomics		12 months of training in ACGME-accredited residency involving direct patient care	2 years	RCPSC, CCMG	Patient log, recommendation letters, PD verification of training completion	6 years	2 exams: general, specialty-specific	
Laboratory Genetics and Genomics [3]			2 years	CCMG	Patient log, recommendation letters, PD verification of training completion	6 years	2 exams: general, specialty-specific	
Colon and Rectal Surgery	Colon and Rectal Surgery	5 years training in General Surgery	1 year	RCPSC	Certificate in Surgery	7 years [4]	x	x
Dermatology	Dermatology	1 year general internship	3 years	RCPSC, international		5 years	x	
Diagnostic Medical Physics	Radiology	Masters degree minimum, with completed training from a CAMPEP program	2 years	International		6 years	2 exams: general, specialty-specific	x
Diagnostic Radiology		1 year general internship	4 years	RCPSC, international		6 years	2 exams: qualifying and certifying	
Emergency Medicine	Emergency Medicine		3–4 years	RCPSC, international, AOA		5 years	x	x
Family Medicine	Family Medicine		3 years	RCPSC, international, AOA	Completion of one approved self-assessment activity, one PI activity and additional activities from these two groups to equal a total of 50 points	7 years	x	
Internal Medicine	Internal Medicine		3 years	RCPSC, international, AOA	Attestation of ABIM initial certification eligibility criteria by an ABIM certified program director	7 years	x	
Interventional Radiology and Diagnostic Radiology	Radiology	1 year general internship	5 years	RCPSC, international		6 years	2 exams: qualifying and certifying	x
Neurological Surgery	Neurological Surgery		7 years		Patient log, hospital privileges, recommendation letters	6–7 years	x	x

ABMS Member Board Requirements for Initial Certification in a Specialty *(continued)*

Footnotes can be found on page 3.

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Specialty Certificate	**Issuing Board: American Board of**	**Prerequisite Requirement**	**Specialty Training Requirement**		*All boards require current and unrestricted medical license*	**Board Eligible Period** *(plus additional practice requirement)*	**Traditional Secure Exam** *(computer-based)*	**Practical/Oral**
Neurology	Psychiatry and Neurology	1 year general internship	3 years	RCPSC, international		7 years	x	
Neurology with Special Qualification in Child Neurology		2 years training in general Pediatrics/ basic neuroscience/Internal Medicine	3 years	RCPSC, international		7 years	x	
Nuclear Medical Physics	Radiology	Masters degree minimum, with completed training from a CAMPEP program	2 years	International		6 years	2 exams: general, specialty-specific	x
Nuclear Medicine	Nuclear Medicine	1 year general internship	3 years	RCPSC, international		7 years	x	
Obstetrics and Gynecology	Obstetrics and Gynecology		4 years	RCPSC, international, AOA	Hospital privileges, case list, practice requirements, professionalism attestation, successful completion of FLS or EMIGS	7 (+1) years	x	Oral exam includes case list assessment
Occupational and Environmental Medicine	Preventive Medicine	1 year general internship	2 years	RCPSC		7 years	x	
Ophthalmology	Ophthalmology	1 year general internship or 1 integrated or joint preliminary year/ophthalmology format at US programs only	3 years	RCPSC, international		7 years	x	x
Orthopaedic Surgery	Orthopaedic Surgery		5 years	RCPSC, international	Patient log, practice requirements, hospital privileges, peer review, participating in the ABOS KSB Program	5 years [5]	x	x
Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery	Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery		5 years	RCPSC, international		7 years	x	x
Pathology-Anatomic	Pathology		3 years	RCPSC	Practice requirements	5 years	x	
Pathology-Clinical			3 years	RCPSC		5 years	x	
Pathology-Anatomic/Pathology-Clinical			4 years	RCPSC	Practice requirements	5 years	x	
Pediatrics	Pediatrics		3 years	RCPSC, international		7 years	x	
Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation	Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation	1 year general internship	3 years	RCPSC		7 years	x	x
Plastic Surgery	Plastic Surgery	5 years training in General Surgery	3 years (independent) or 6 years (integrated training with no prerequisite)	RCPSC, international	Practice requirements, hospital privileges, case log review, peer evaluations, outpatient facility accreditation, advertising material	7 (+1) years	x	x

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ABMS Member Board Requirements for Initial Certification in a Specialty *(continued)*

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		Training Requirement [1] *(All boards require attestation by program director)*		Other Training Accepted [2]	Additional Requirements	Board Eligibility	Assessment	
Specialty Certificate	**Issuing Board: American Board of**	**Prerequisite Requirement**	**Specialty Training Requirement**		*All boards require current and unrestricted medical license*	**Board Eligible Period** *(plus additional practice requirement)*	**Traditional Secure Exam** *(computer-based)*	**Practical/ Oral**
Psychiatry	Psychiatry and Neurology	1 year general internship	3 years	RCPSC, international		7 years	x	
Public Health and General Preventive Medicine	Preventive Medicine	1 year general internship	2 years	RCPSC		7 years	x	
Radiation Oncology	Radiology	1 year general internship	4 years	RCPSC, international		6 years	x	x
Surgery	Surgery		5 years	RCPSC, international	Patient log, practice requirements, hospital privileges	7 years	x	x
Therapeutic Medical Physics	Radiology	Masters degree minimum, with completed training from a CAMPEP program	2 years	International		6 years	2 exams: general, specialty-specific	x
Thoracic and Cardiac Surgery	Thoracic Surgery	5 years training in general surgery [6]	2–3 years or 6 years (integrated training with no prerequisite)	RCPSC, international	Patient log, practice requirements, hospital privileges, recommendation letter	7 years	x	x
Urology	Urology	1 year of core surgical training	4 years	RCPSC, international	Patient log, case log review with minimums, peer review, professional responsibility action review, and surgical complication narrative reviews	6 years	x	x
Vascular Surgery	Surgery	4–5 years training in general surgery (Combined or Early Specialization Pathways)	2 years (Combined or Early Specialization Pathways) or 5 years (integrated training with no prerequisite)	RCPSC, international	Patient log, practice requirements, hospital privileges	7 years	x	x

(1) Prerequisite Requirement is defined as graduate medical education that precedes training in the residency program for a specialty. Specialty Training Requirement is defined as the time spent in the residency program for the specialty. All training must be accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), the accrediting body for postgraduate medical training programs in the United States.

(2) The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC) is the accrediting body for postgraduate medical training programs in Canada. The Canadian College of Medical Genetics (CCMG) is the accrediting body for postgraduate genetics training programs in Canada. The American Osteopathic Association (AOA) is the accrediting body for osteopathic postgraduate medical training in the United States. International indicates training the physicians may have completed outside of the United States or Canada. Boards may accept some or all of RCPSC, AOA, or international training. Contact the individual boards for details.

(3) Medical license requirement is not applicable to PhD trainees in this specialty.

(4) American Board of Colon and Rectal Surgery requires candidates to pass the traditional examination given by the American Board of Surgery. Candidates have seven years to complete both the traditional and oral examinations after application approval.

(5) American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery candidates have five years to achieve certification after passing the traditional examination. Time spent in fellowship does not count toward the five years.

(6) American Board of Thoracic Surgery will accept a Vascular Surgery residency in lieu of a General Surgery residency as long as the Vascular Surgery training leads to primary certification by the American Board of Surgery.