

Table 3

ABMS MEMBER BOARD REQUIREMENTS FOR GENERAL CERTIFICATION

General certification is the first certification awarded to candidates who meet the requirements in a specified field of medical practice. This table identifies certain specific requirements for general certification from each Member Board, but as published in this form, the table is necessarily over-simplified. To confirm current official policy, including application deadlines and fees, contact the respective board or visit their Web site.

AMERICAN BOARD OF	YEARS OF TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE REQUIRED			TIME LIMITS FOR INITIAL CERTIFICATION		TRAINING CREDIT ACCEPTED		OTHER REQUIREMENTS			
	ACGME Approved ¹			MAXIMUM YEARS TO APPLY AFTER TRAINING	MAXIMUM YEARS TO COMPLETE CERTIFICATION AFTER APPLICATION	NONACGME ¹ ACCREDITED TRAINING	RCPSC ² YEARS	FULL LICENSE REQUIRED BY ALL BOARDS			
	PREREQUISITE TRAINING	SPECIALTY TRAINING	CLINICAL EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENT					WRITTEN OR COMPUTER BASED EXAM	APPLICATION/ EXAM FEES	ORAL EXAM	APPLICATION/ EXAM FEES
Allergy & Immunology	3	2	—	No Limit	No Limit	NO	YES	Computer	\$2,700	NO	—
Anesthesiology	1	3	—	12	6	NO	YES	Computer	\$800/500	YES	\$1,950
Colon/Rectal Surgery	5	1	—	5	7	NO	NO	Computer	\$400/700	YES	\$800 (exam)
Dermatology	1	3	—	No Limit	2 (Renewable)	NO	YES	Written	\$2,200	NO	—
Emergency Medicine	—	3	—	No Limit	No Limit	NO	YES	Computer	\$1,280	YES	\$1,125
Family Medicine	—	3	—	No Limit	No Limit	YES	YES	Both	\$1,250	NO	—
Internal Medicine	—	3	—	No Limit	No Limit	YES	YES	Computer	\$1,280	NO	—
Medical Genetics											
Clinical Biochemical Genetics *	—	2	—	5	6	YES	NO ³	Computer	\$2,300	NO	—
Clinical Cytogenetics *	—	2	—	5	6	YES	NO ³	Computer	\$2,300	NO	—
Clinical Genetics *	2	2	—	5	6	YES	NO ³	Computer	\$2,300	NO	—
Clinical Molecular Genetics *	—	2	—	5	6	YES	NO ³	Computer	\$2,300	NO	—
Neurological Surgery	1	6	42 mos.	4	Must complete within 5 years	YES	NO	Both	\$475	YES	\$3,000/4,500
Nuclear Medicine	1	3	—	7	3	YES	YES	Computer	\$2,400	NO	—
Obstetrics/Gynecology	—	4	2	No Limit	6	NO	YES	Written	\$735/675	YES	\$805/935
Ophthalmology	1	3	—	No Limit	No Limit	NO	YES	Computer	\$1,650	YES	\$1,650
Orthopaedic Surgery	—	5	2	No Limit	5	NO	YES	Computer	\$1,040	YES	\$1,955
Otolaryngology	—	5	—	No Limit	No Limit	NO	NO	Written	\$3,250	YES	\$1,625
Pathology											
Anatomic Pathology *	3	1-2	—	10	5	NO	YES	Computer	\$1,800	NO	—
Anatomic Pathology and Clinical Pathology *	4	1-2	—	10	5	NO	YES	Computer	\$2,200	NO	—
Clinical Pathology *	3	1-2	—	10	5	NO	YES	Computer	\$1,800	NO	—
Pediatrics	—	3	—	7	7 years after completing training	YES	YES	Written	\$1,760	NO	—
Physical Med & Rehab	1	3	0	No Limit	No Limit	YES	YES	Computer	\$600/775	YES	\$600/1,270
Plastic Surgery	3	2	0	2	No Limit	NO	YES	Computer	\$525/1,300	YES	\$625/1,100
Preventive Medicine											
Aerospace Medicine *	1	2	—	No Limit	3 (Renewable)	YES	YES	Computer	\$410/1,950	NO	—
Occupational Medicine *	1	2	—	No Limit	3 (Renewable)	YES	YES	Computer	\$410/1,950	NO	—
Public Health and General Preventive	1	2	—	No Limit	3 (Renewable)	YES	YES	Computer	\$410/1,950	NO	—
Psychiatry/Neurology											
Neurology with Special Qualification in Child Neurology *	2	3	—	No Limit	No Limit	NO	YES	Computer	\$1,650/3,000	Contact Board	—
Neurology *	1	3	—	No Limit	No Limit	NO	YES	Computer	\$1,650/3,000	Contact Board	—
Psychiatry *	1	3	—	No Limit	No Limit	NO	YES	Computer	\$1,650	Contact Board	—
Radiology											
Diagnostic Radiology *	—	4	1	10	10	YES	YES	Computer	\$2,945	YES	No additional fee
Radiation Oncology *	—	4	1	10	10	YES	YES	Computer	\$2,945	YES	No additional fee
Radiologic Physics *	—	—	—	No Limit	No Limit	—	—	Computer	\$1,787	YES	No additional fee
Surgery											
Surgery *	—	5	—	3	5 (written), 5 (oral)	YES	YES	Computer	\$300/700	YES	\$900
Vascular Surgery *	—	5-7	—	3	5 (written), 5 (oral)	NO	YES	Computer	\$200/700	YES	\$950
Thoracic Surgery ⁴	—	—	—	5	8	NO	NO	Written	\$1,575	YES	\$1,225
Urology	1-2	3 or 4	16 mos.	4	5	NO	YES	Both	\$1,250	YES	\$1,300

*Specific disciplines within the specialty where certification is offered.

1. Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) is the accrediting body for post-MD medical training programs in the United States.
2. Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC) is a national, non-profit organization which oversees the medical education of specialists in Canada.
3. Accepted by Canadian College of Medical Genetics.

4. Two pathways for certification may be pursued. Candidates may either complete five years of prerequisite training (General Surgery) and two years of Thoracic Surgery, or six years of an integrated Thoracic Surgery program with no prerequisite training. The 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.