



“Board Eligibility” and “Active Candidate Status” Policy

Board Eligibility and Timeframe to Achieve Certification

Candidates must achieve board certification within six years of the completion of their training in a particular specialty or subspecialty. A maximum of three certification examination attempts are allowed during the six-year board eligibility period.

A candidate is considered “**Board Eligible**” in a specific specialty or subspecialty (*i.e.*, clinical genetics and genomics, clinical molecular genetics and genomics, clinical cytogenetics and genomics, laboratory genetics and genomics, clinical biochemical genetics, or medical biochemical genetics) after satisfactory completion of an accredited training program and before certification by the ABMGG.

A candidate may use the term “Board Eligible” for a specific specialty or subspecialty to indicate that they are eligible to apply to sit for the ABMGG certification examination. If certification is not achieved within six years following completion of training, the following must occur:

- The candidate must cease and desist from making any representation of ABMGG Board Eligibility in that specialty or subspecialty. Any violation of this rule will be considered a breach of ethical standards in medical practice.
- The candidate is no longer eligible for certification in that specialty without fulfilling the requirements for re-entry into the certification process.

In individual instances and for good cause, such as military deployment or catastrophic illness, the ABMGG may waive the six-year time limit to achieve certification. The decision to grant or deny a deferral will be at the sole discretion of the ABMGG. All requests for exceptions must be made in writing to the ABMGG.

Individuals training consecutively in more than one ABMGG specialty or subspecialty will begin their board eligibility timeframe after the completion of the most recent of the consecutive training periods.

Individuals training in more than one specialty in a non-consecutive manner (defined by more than four weeks between the completion of one specialty and the initiation of the subsequent specialty) will have separate board eligibility timeframes in each specialty following completion of training in that specialty.

Active Candidate Status

The term “**Active Candidate Status**” recognizes applicants who have fulfilled the requirements for ABMGG certification but who have not yet taken the certification examination. Active Candidate Status is granted after all requirements have been met and formally approved by the ABMGG. Active Candidate Status is valid only for a single designated examination cycle and terminates when the results of the examination are released.

Revised and approved: February 27, 2021