



## Board Eligibility and Active Candidate Status Policy

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### **Board Eligibility and Timeframe to Achieve Certification**

Candidates are considered Board Eligible for six (6) years after completion of training in a particular specialty or subspecialty, through the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> calendar year. A candidate may use the term “Board Eligible” in a specific specialty or subspecialty (*i.e.*, clinical genetics 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 maximum of three attempts per certification examination are allowed during the six-year board eligibility period.

If certification is not achieved within the board eligibility period, the following must occur:

- The candidate must cease and desist from making any representation of ABMGG Board Eligibility in that specialty or subspecialty. A 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 non-consecutively in more than one specialty (defined by more than eight 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.

### **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.

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