



CSD – Initial Certification
ABR Audit Standards for Initial Certification in Medical Physics
for Exams Occurring in 2016 and Beyond

Policy:

Introduction

The ABR conducts an audit of about 20 percent of candidate applications. Audits are done to confirm that candidates are meeting ABR requirements. The applications and supporting documents of graduate students, students in certificate programs, and medical physics residents are audited. Those candidates in the clinical experience pathway for Part 2 are audited at the time of their Part 2 application.

Experience has shown that few problems are discovered during the audits. If there are problems, the candidate may complete any exam that he or she is scheduled for and will receive his or her scores. The candidate will not be allowed to proceed to the next exam until audit issues are resolved. The exception to this is the submission of fraudulent documents. If fraud is suspected, the candidate will not be allowed to take any exams or receive any scores until the matter is resolved. Fraudulent behavior may be referred to the Professionalism Committee, which may take further action.

The ABR generally follows CAMPEP standards in assessing the qualifications of candidates, but some details are not fully covered in the CAMPEP standards. In all cases, the ABR reserves the right to determine the qualifications of all candidates and may change its standards as it deems appropriate.

Audit Policy for Part 1 Applications

Candidates for the Part 1 examination are audited to demonstrate that they have the equivalent of a minor in physics. This requires the following:

- A two-semester calculus-based introductory physics course (a total of at least six hours)
- Three advanced physics courses (at least three hours each)

The advanced physics courses should be from the usual advanced physics curriculum. Courses that are primarily related to engineering, chemistry, health, or medical physics are not acceptable. Commonly approved courses are as follows:

- Electricity and Magnetism
- Atomic Physics
- Modern Physics
- Quantum Mechanics
- Optics
- Nuclear Physics

- Heat and Thermodynamics
- Advanced Mechanics

Other advanced physics courses may be accepted. If a candidate is unsure, he or she may contact the ABR for verification of the acceptability of a course. All courses must be completed at an institution accredited by one of the organizations recognized by the Council on Higher Education Accreditation, or its successors. Exceptions are made for courses taken in foreign countries. The ABR may require an evaluation of such courses by the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES).

Audit Policy for Part 2 Applications

Candidates for the Part 2 exam will be audited in the same manner as the Part 1 candidates. In addition, they must demonstrate that they have an appropriate advanced degree in medical physics (MS, PhD, or equivalent) or meet the requirements of the CAMPEP alternate pathway, which is defined for CAMPEP Certificate Programs, and have a degree in physics, engineering, or similar scientific disciplines. They must also demonstrate that they have completed these courses:

- Anatomy and Physiology
- Radiobiology
- Radiological Physics and Dosimetry
- Radiation Protection and Safety
- Fundamentals of Medical Imaging
- Radiation Therapy Physics

These courses are the same as those required by CAMPEP. They must average three semester hours per course, but individual course hours may vary. The actual name of the course may vary from the list, but the content must be similar to the list.

The two biological science courses (Anatomy & Physiology and Radiobiology) must be completed at an institution accredited by one of the organizations recognized by the Council on Higher Education Accreditation, or its successors. Exceptions are made for courses taken in foreign countries. The ABR may require an NACES evaluation of such courses. If the four medical physics courses (Radiological Physics and Dosimetry, Radiation Protection and Safety, Fundamentals of Medical Imaging, and Radiation Therapy Physics) were not completed at a CAMPEP-accredited educational institution, the ABR at its discretion may require that the courses be submitted to CAMPEP for approval, that the program director attest that the courses have been reviewed and approved, or that another review deemed appropriate take place.

The ABR does not give credit for courses that were taught by a candidate because there is no grade, and the course does not appear on a transcript.

Other Matters

The ABR may ask for other materials necessary to evaluate that a candidate meets ABR standards.

Please note: This policy is subject to amendment from time to time. Candidates and diplomates are advised to check the ABR website periodically for the most current version.