POLICY FOR ALTERNATE PATHWAY TO CERTIFICATION IN RADIATION ONCOLOGY FOR INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL GRADUATES

INTRODUCTION

Physicians who have taken their radiation oncology training outside the United States or Canada are considered international medical graduates (IMGs). If they have completed a clinical year and have been fully trained and qualified to practice independent radiation oncology in their country of radiation oncology training, they are eligible to pursue certification by the American Board of Radiology through either of two pathways: the Standard Pathway or the Alternate Pathway.

Standard Pathway to Radiation Oncology Certification

Successful completion of clinical training accredited by ACGME, the American Osteopathic Association (AOA), or the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC), and fulfillment of the U.S. requirements established with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for authorized user (AU) status, is the standard by which candidates gain entry to the ABR radiation oncology examination process.

For more information, please visit the radiation oncology requirements page on the ABR website.

ALTERNATE PATHWAY

The Alternate Pathway is available at institutions with an ACGME-accredited radiation oncology residency training program and requires the sponsorship of the radiation oncology department chair of the institution in which the IMG is a faculty member or fellow. The department chair must establish a prospective four-year plan with the individual, must attest to the plan in writing to the ABR, and must monitor and report to the ABR on a yearly basis the individual IMG’s progress on the path to certification eligibility. The required admission process to the alternate pathway to ABR certification is:

¾ Documentation of training and certification obtained internationally, as described under the requirements section on this page of the ABR website:
  https://www.theabr.org/radiation-oncology/initial-certification/alternate-pathways/international-medical-graduates

¾ A clinical year of non-radiation oncology training in general medicine, surgery, transitional internship, or its equivalent.
Satisfactory completion of at least three years of radiation oncology training in a residency program outside the U.S. or Canada.

Submission of the completed and signed form, “Sponsoring Department Agreement: IMG Alternate Pathway for Radiation Oncology Certification.”

Payment of the application fee.

The ABR retains the right and responsibility to exercise Board discretion concerning the request of any individual to enter the examination process and to determine the appropriateness of any documentation provided.

Alternate Pathway to Radiation Oncology Certification

The IMG must serve four continuous years as a full-time member of the radiation oncology department in one institution with any combination of fellow and/or faculty time. The individual is expected to remain in the same institution for the full four consecutive years; the institution must have an ACGME-accredited (or RCPSC-accredited) radiation oncology residency training program.

Individuals serving as fellows must provide documentation signed by the radiation oncology department chair, attesting to their roles and responsibilities within the department during the fellowship period.

The ABR retains the right to determine on a pro rata basis the percentage of time allocation an Alternate Pathway individual will be granted for service in an affiliate-ACGME-accredited (or RCPSC-accredited) program. Any determination by the Board that this time allocation is less than 100 percent will require an equivalent increase in the time required for eligibility to sit for certification examinations.

Alternate Pathway Schedule for Examinations

Alternate Pathway candidates must submit all documentation prior to applying to take the examinations. The Board must assess and approve each candidate’s file before he or she may take any exams. Certification will be awarded only after candidates complete their four-year consecutive plan and successfully pass all required examinations.

Candidates may submit an application as soon as their four-year plan is in place and may apply at any point during their training. To take the qualifying and certifying exams, candidates must complete the following experience requirements:

Physics and Biology qualifying exams: Candidate must complete 36 months of their four-year plan.
Clinical qualifying exam: To apply, candidates must be in the last year of their four-year plan, and they must complete their four-year plan to take the Clinical exam.

Oral certifying exam: Candidates must complete their four-year plan and have passed all three initial qualifying (computer-based) exams.