



## Initial Certification Board Eligibility Policy

### **Policy:**

The period during which the ABR grants board-eligible status to a candidate for certification extends from the completion of training\* to December 31 of the sixth full calendar year after completion of training.\*

The termination dates for board-eligibility status are listed in the table below. Because a number of candidates have completed training and continue in the examination process under various previously announced policies, a transitional phase-in period is reflected in the dates given below.

For diagnostic radiology (DR) and radiation oncology (RO), the termination dates for board-eligibility status are:

<b><u>Completion of Training*</u></b>	<b><u>Termination of Board Eligibility</u></b>
2004 or before	December 31, 2014
2005	December 31, 2015
2006-2010	December 31, 2016
2011 and later	Six full calendar years from completion of training*

For medical physics (MP), the termination dates for board-eligibility status are:

<b><u>Completion of Training or Part 2 Approval*</u></b>	<b><u>Termination of Board Eligibility</u></b>
Prior to Jan. 1, 2011	December 31, 2016
Jan. 1, 2011, and later	Six full calendar years from completion of training or Part 2 approval, whichever comes first*

For interventional radiology/diagnostic radiology (IR/DR), board eligibility terminates six full years from the completion of training.

\*"Completion of training" definitions:

- ✓ For DR, RO, and IR/DR, the timing begins at the date of satisfactory completion of the residency training program in an ACGME- or RCPSC-accredited program.
- ✓ For MP, "completion of training" is defined as completion of a CAMPEP-approved residency program or approval for Part 2 of the initial certification examination, whichever is earlier.
- ✓ For international medical graduates (IMGs), "completion of training" is defined as completion of the four-year period outlined in the Sponsoring Department Agreement.

After the period of board eligibility, candidates failing to successfully complete the initial certification process are no longer considered by the ABR to be board eligible, are no longer permitted to designate themselves as such for communications or credentialing purposes, and are no longer reported as such on the ABMS website ([www.certificationmatters.org](http://www.certificationmatters.org)), ABR websites, or in verification letters.

#### Board-Eligibility Statuses:

Candidates who have an approved registration with the ABR for the purposes of certification are considered “enrolled, not yet eligible for certification.” After the requirements for board eligibility are met, the candidate is recognized as board eligible. If a candidate fails to achieve certification by the end of the board-eligibility period, that individual is recognized as “not certified, not board eligible” indefinitely until such a time that the status changes.

#### To return to board-eligible status:

- ✓ DR candidates must take an additional year of training in a department with an Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME)-accredited or Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC)-accredited DR residency program.
- ✓ RO candidates must take an additional year of training in a department with an Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME)-accredited or Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC)-accredited RO residency program.
- ✓ MP candidates must obtain the additional year of training in a department that has a Commission on Accreditation of Medical Physics Education Programs (CAMPEP)-accredited residency program.
- ✓ IR/DR candidates must take an additional year of training in a department with an Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME)-accredited or Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC)-accredited IR residency program.

This year of training to return to board-eligible status cannot begin until after the current board-eligibility period ends, or after the final examination opportunity to attain initial certification. Exceptions to the timing of the start of training may be granted on a case-by-case basis by the discipline’s associate executive director (AED) as long as the candidate is willing to relinquish his or her board eligibility when the training begins. Any additional non-approved training occurring during the board-eligible period will not extend, reset, or in any way modify the board-eligible period. The plan for this year of training must be department-specific and must be approved by the department chair (or the program director for MP and DR) prior to submission to the ABR for approval; the discipline’s AED must put this approval in writing, and submission must occur before beginning the year of additional training.

At the end of the additional approved year, the program director or department chair must attest to satisfactory completion of the pre-approved experience. After that attestation is provided to the ABR, the candidate may re-enter the certification process and will again be required to pass both the qualifying\* and certifying examinations during another six-year board-eligible period. If the requisite prior examinations were not passed previously (i.e., Part 1 for MP, Physics & Biology for RO), they must also be passed as part of the continued certification process. To retain the designation of board eligibility following the year of additional training, a minimum of one of the required examinations must be taken each year.

\*Part 2 exam for MP, clinical exam for RO (if the cancer biology and physics qualifying exams have been passed previously), and Core Exam for DR.

### **General requirements for the year of training:**

- ✓ The period of training must be carried out on site at an ACGME-, RCPSC- or CAMPEP-accredited department and may not be carried out at any unsupervised satellite facility.
- ✓ The period of training must encompass 12 consecutive months in the same department with an allowance for time-off similar to that of other departmental trainees.
- ✓ Time commitment for the period of training must be 1.0 FTE for the 12-month term.
- ✓ Candidates may be assigned to any appointment designation at the preference of the host department and/or institution.
- ✓ Candidates may be assigned teaching responsibilities consistent with the departmental and/or institutional practice for trainees, but they are not to be placed in a circumstance requiring them to supervise residents.
- ✓ The period of training must be entirely clinical and may not include time devoted exclusively to basic or clinical research activities.
- ✓ All training must be supervised by an ABR- or ABMP-certified or board-eligible physician(s) or physicist(s).
- ✓ Training in institutions, including pediatric hospitals, that are formal affiliates of ACGME- or CAMPEP-accredited institutions is allowed, with the same requirements for supervision and program participation.
- ✓ The period of training must include participation in departmental conference and didactic activities.
- ✓ Candidates not currently licensed by the NRC as an Authorized User (AU), a Radiation Safety Officer (RSO), or an Authorized Medical Physicist (AMP), who have completed the required training and have documented this training with the ABR within the past seven years, will be eligible to gain AU-eligible, RSO-eligible, or AMP-eligible status upon certification. If such training occurred longer than seven years before certification, all requirements for AU, RSO, or AMP eligibility must be met during the training year and submitted to the ABR if the candidate desires an NRC status to be shown on his or her certificate.

### **Discipline specific requirements for the year of training:**

- ✓ **Diagnostic Radiology (DR)**
  - The training may be in one or more than one subspecialty of DR, but all rotations must involve supervised interpretation of images and direct supervision of procedures. No dedicated research rotations will be approved.
- ✓ **Radiation Oncology (RO):**
  - The period of training must include participation in all aspects of RO treatment planning and delivery, including 3-D conformal radiation therapy (3-D CRT), intensity-modulated radiation therapy (IMRT), stereotactic body radiation therapy (SBRT), stereotactic radiation (SRS), and brachytherapy.
  - The training experience must include exposure to clinical cases comprising the eight clinical categories of the RO qualifying and certifying examinations.
  - The training experience must include active participation in the care of a minimum of 100 new cases.
  - The training experience must include participation in regularly scheduled departmental and institutional multi-disciplinary conferences.
  - No dedicated research rotations will be approved.

✓ **Medical Physics (MP):**

- Training must be in a department that offers a CAMPEP-accredited residency in the specialty that the candidate is pursuing.

✓ **Interventional Radiology/Diagnostic Radiology (IR/DR):**

- The period of training must be carried out entirely in an ACGME-accredited IR/DR training program. No dedicated research rotations will be approved.

**Payments and Fees:**

Should an individual withdraw/drop out of the certification process during the board-eligible period and then subsequently re-enter the process, that individual will be required to pay all fees that normally would have been charged throughout the period of non-engagement.

**Additional circumstances that may result in loss of board eligibility:**

Actions taken against a candidate's certification by the ABR, which may occur due to a licensure- or professionalism-related issue, may result in the premature removal of board eligibility either temporarily or permanently.

**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.