



**Exam Eligibility Policy
Diagnostic Radiology and Interventional Radiology**

APPROVED BY BOARD OF GOVERNORS ON: April 20, 2026

Content Revision Dates:

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1. Policy:

The American Board of Radiology (ABR) establishes rigorous standards to ensure that candidates for certification in Diagnostic Radiology and Interventional Radiology possess the necessary education, training, and professional qualifications. This policy outlines the core eligibility requirements for initial certification qualifying and certifying exams across these specialties. By adhering to these guidelines, candidates demonstrate their readiness to uphold the highest standards of patient care and professional practice in radiology.

2. Procedure:

The Board will assess an applicant's eligibility in accordance with ABR policies and Alternate Pathways toward Board Certification (see Board Eligibility Policy) at the time of application.

A. Eligibility for Initial Certification Qualifying Exams

To be eligible to take an ABR initial certification qualifying examination, candidates must:

- i. Submit an application to the ABR
- ii. Complete required training, subsequently verified by the program director or department chair.
- iii. Pay all applicable fees

B. Eligibility for Initial Certification Certifying Exams

To be eligible to take an ABR initial certification examination, candidates must:

- i. Hold an active, unrestricted medical license
- ii. Complete and verify required training in an internship and residency or alternate pathway
- iii. Pass the applicable qualifying exam(s)
- iv. Pay all applicable fees

Detailed exam eligibility requirements for each discipline are outlined in the appendices to this policy: Diagnostic Radiology (Appendix A) and Interventional Radiology (Appendix B).

This policy is subject to change at any time. Changes will not affect previously approved applications. All revisions require approval by the ABR Board of Governors.

APPENDIX A: EXAM ELIGIBILITY FOR DIAGNOSTIC RADIOLOGY (DR)

The Diagnostic Radiology certification process consists of two exams, the qualifying (core) exam and the certifying exam.

1. Qualifying (Core) Exam

Candidates must complete 36 months of training in an ACGME- or RCPSC-accredited DR residency program, or an approved alternate pathway, to be eligible for the qualifying (core) exam.

With approval from their program director, candidates in a typical residency can elect to take the exam at or beyond 32 months of training. This option will not be available for qualifying (core) exams administered after 2027.

2. Certifying Exam

Written Certifying Exam

Final exam administrations are scheduled for 2027.

- A. Candidates who completed their training before 2026, and have met all other requirements by July 31, 2027, will be eligible for the September 2027 written certifying exam.
- B. Candidates who complete residency training by August 31, 2026, and have met all other requirements, are eligible for the written certifying exam approximately 15 months after residency completion.
 - i. Candidates who complete their residency training after August 31, 2026, will not be eligible to take the written certifying exam(s) in 2027. The next exam opportunity will be the certifying oral exam in 2028.
- C. Candidates who complete their alternate pathway training by August 31, 2027, and have met all other requirements, are eligible to take the next scheduled written certifying exam.

Oral Certifying Exam

The first exam administration is scheduled for Q1 2028.

A. 2027 Training Completion

- i. Candidates who complete their residency training before November 1, 2027, and have met all other requirements, will be eligible for their first opportunity for the Q1 certifying oral exam in the calendar year following their residency completion.
- ii. Candidates who complete their alternate pathway training after August 31, 2027, but before November 1, 2027, and have met all other requirements, will be eligible for their first opportunity for the Q1 certifying oral exam in the calendar year following their training completion.
- iii. The second exam opportunity for those completing training before November 1, 2027, will be in the second half of 2028.

B. 2028 and Future Training Completion

- i. Beginning in 2028, candidates will be eligible for their first opportunity to take the certifying oral in June (Q2) of their PGY-5/R4 year. During the transition year of 2028, the Q2 exam is reserved for eligible candidates who were NOT eligible for the Q1 2028 exam.
- ii. Candidates in the alternate pathway will be eligible for their first opportunity to take the next available certifying oral exam after completion of their training.

APPENDIX B: EXAM ELIGIBILITY FOR INTERVENTIONAL RADIOLOGY (IR)

The IR certification process includes three exams, the qualifying (core) exam and the certifying exams.

1. Qualifying (Core) Exam

Candidates must complete 36 months of training in an ACGME- or RCPSC-accredited DR residency or alternate pathway to be eligible for the Qualifying (core) exam.

With approval from their program director, candidates in a typical residency can elect to take the exam at or beyond 32 months of training. This option will not be available for qualifying (core) exams administered after 2027.

2. Certifying Exam

There are two components to the IR Certifying Exam: computer-based and oral. The certifying exam for those completing training in 2029 and beyond will be comprised of 2 oral exams.

Written Certifying Exam

Final exam administration is scheduled for 2028.

- A. Candidates are eligible for their first opportunity for the written certifying exam immediately after residency or alternate pathway training completion.

Oral Certifying Exam – Interventional Radiology Portion

- A. Candidates are eligible for their first opportunity for the IR oral portion of the certifying exam the calendar year following residency completion.
- B. Candidates in the alternate pathway are eligible for their first opportunity for the IR oral portion of the certifying exam immediately following completion of their training.

Oral Certifying Exam – Diagnostic Radiology Portion

The first exam administration is scheduled for Q2 2028.

- A. Beginning in 2028, candidates in a residency or alternate pathway will be eligible for their first opportunity to take the DR portion of their certifying oral exam in June of their PGY-5/R4 year.
 - i. Alternate Pathway candidates must complete their fourth year of training by June 30 to be eligible for the June administration of the oral exam.

- ii. The second exam opportunity for candidates will be in the second half of 2028 and subsequent years.