

ABMS Board Eligibility Policy

The ABMS Board Eligibility Policy enables ABMS Member Boards to set parameters for how candidates can use the term “board eligible” to signal their preparations for certification. The term applies **only** to the period prior to initial certification in a specialty or subspecialty.

| BOARD ELIGIBLE PERIODS BY MEMBER BOARD | | |
|--|---|---|
| American Board of | SPECIALTIES | SUBSPECIALTIES |
| | Board Eligible Period (+ practice requirement) | Board Eligible Period (+ practice requirement) |
| Allergy and Immunology | 7 years | No subspecialties |
| Anesthesiology | 7 years | 7 years |
| Colon and Rectal Surgery | 7 years ¹ | No subspecialties |
| Dermatology | 5 years | 5 years |
| Emergency Medicine | 5 years | 7 years |
| Family Medicine | 7 years | 7 years |
| Internal Medicine | 7 years | 7 years |
| Medical Genetics and Genomics | 6 years | 6 years |
| Neurological Surgery | 6-7 years | |
| Nuclear Medicine | 7 years | No subspecialties |
| Obstetrics and Gynecology | 7 (+1) years | 7 (+1) |
| Ophthalmology | 7 years | No subspecialties |
| Orthopaedic Surgery | 5 years ² | 7 (+2) years |
| Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery | 5 years | 7 years |
| Pathology | 5 years | 7 years ³ |
| Pediatrics | 7 years | 7 years |
| Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation | 7 years | 7 years |
| Plastic Surgery | 7 (+1) years | 7 (+2) years |
| Preventive Medicine | 7 years | 7 years |
| Psychiatry and Neurology | 7 years | 7 years |
| Radiology | 6 years | 6 years |
| Surgery | 7 years | |
| Thoracic Surgery | 7 years ⁴ | 7 years ⁵ |
| Urology | 6 years | 6 years ⁶ |

¹ Colon and Rectal Surgery requires candidates to pass the traditional examination given by the American Board of Surgery. Candidates have seven years to complete both the traditional and oral examinations after application approval.

² Orthopaedic Surgery candidates have five years to achieve certification after passing the traditional examination.

³ Pathology subspecialty applicants who completed training before 2019 receive five years eligibility from completion of training or primary certification, whichever is later.

⁴ Thoracic Surgery will accept a Vascular Surgery residency in lieu of a General Surgery residency as long as the Vascular Surgery training leads to primary certification by the American Board of Surgery.

⁵ Thoracic Surgery requires diplomates to apply within one year of completing training.

⁶ Urology requires applicants to complete the examination process within six years with up to three attempts to take the examination.



sales@abmsolutions.com
abmsolutions.com

ABMS Solutions, an affiliate of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS), is the premier resource for ABMS board certification data & PSV.