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.

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