

American Board of Emergency Medicine
Board Eligibility
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

- 1. How do I know if I am ABEM board eligible?** You can sign in to the ABEM website, select "EM Certification," and view your board eligibility status if you:

 - Are about to graduate from EM residency training
 - Graduated in the past but do not have an open certification application on file
 - Had an open certification on file January 1, 2015

- 2. I was previously certified and am now a former diplomate. Am I board eligible?** No. Board eligibility only applies to the initial certification process. However, all physicians who were previously certified by ABEM have an opportunity to regain certification. See the [ABEM website](#) for information about how to regain certification.

- 3. How does ABEM define board eligibility?** Starting in 2015, EM residency graduates whose medical licensure meets ABEM policy are board eligible for a period of five years. On January 1, 2015, physicians who have applied to ABEM and are in the certification process, either awaiting assignment to the Qualifying Examination or the Oral Certification Examination, are also considered board eligible for a period of five years. By meeting specific requirements, board eligibility status can be maintained for an additional five years. Physicians must be designated as board eligible to pursue ABEM certification.

- 4. For what period of time am I board eligible?** Your period of board eligibility ends when you become certified or December 31 five years after you have been designated as board eligible. View your period of board eligibility by signing in to the ABEM website and select "EM Certification."
It is possible to maintain board eligible status beyond five years by meeting specific requirements (see **FAQ #15**).

- 5. What does it mean if my board eligible status is "pending"?** Your board eligibility status shows as pending under the following circumstances:

 - You are enrolled in, but have not yet graduated from an Emergency Medicine residency, and ABEM has verified your medical licensure status.
 - You have graduated, but ABEM has been unable to verify your medical licensure status. This usually means that ABEM does not have enough identification information for you on file to complete the verification. **If you graduated in the past but see "pending" when you check your board eligibility status, please contact ABEM at BoardElig@abem.org to provide any missing information.**
 - You have not yet graduated and ABEM has not yet completed verification of your medical licensure status. This is not cause for concern unless you still see the "pending" board eligibility status several weeks after you graduate.

If your status is "pending" and you graduated from an Emergency Medicine residency prior to 2015, your five-year period of board eligibility started January 1, 2015, **and ends December 31, 2019**. You also have additional certification requirements (see **FAQ #8**) that began January 1, 2015.

6. Can my hospital credentialers confirm my board eligible status with ABEM? Yes. ABEM can provide your board eligible status via phone. You can also print a letter verifying your status to provide to your hospital credentialer*, request that a letter be sent to you, or arrange for ABEM to send a letter to credentialers. ABEM charges a \$25 fee to send letters directly to third parties. Contact ABEM at verify@abem.org to request a written verification of your board eligibility status.

* To print a letter verifying your status, first sign into the ABEM portal and click "Print Letters" on the left navigation. You will need to answer a couple of questions and confirm your contact and licensure information. Please make sure your browser is allowing pop-ups.

7. How often do I have to take a certification exam? Board eligible physicians are no longer required to take a certification examination at least once every three years. However, if you did not pass the Qualifying Examination before 2015, you must pass the examination by the end of your first five-year period of board eligibility to be granted a second period of board eligibility.

8. What are additional certification requirements? If you are board eligible and delay any portion of the certification process you must complete additional certification requirements to apply for certification (if you have not already done so), register for the Qualifying Examination, register for the Oral Certification Examination, request placement on an Oral Certification Examination wait list, or be granted a second period of board eligibility. Additional certification requirements are:

- Complete an average of one ABEM LLSA per year
- Complete an average of 25 *AMA PRA Category 1*[™] (or equivalent) CME credits per year

These requirements begin the year after you first delay a portion of the certification process, and continue until you become certified or board eligibility expires. Requirements can begin while your board eligibility status is "pending" (see **FAQ #5** for an explanation of the "pending" status).

9. How do I know if I have delayed a portion of the certification process, referred to in FAQ #8? You have not delayed any portion of the certification process if you apply for certification in the first application period available to you, take and pass the Qualifying Examination the calendar year you apply, and take and pass the Oral Certification Examination the following calendar year. You have delayed one or more portions of the certification process if you:

- Graduated from EM residency training in the past but have not applied for certification
- You applied for certification, but not in the first application period available to you
- You did not take the first Qualifying Examination administered after your certification application was approved
- You did not pass the Qualifying Examination
- You did not take the first Oral Certification Examination to which you were assigned
- You did not pass the Oral Certification Examination

If you have delayed a portion of the certification process, you have additional certification requirements (see **FAQ #8**) that you will see if you sign in to the ABEM website and select "EM Certification."

- 10. What is the “first application period available to me,” referred to in FAQ #9?** If you graduate from EM residency training between November 1 of the previous year and October 31 of the current calendar year, the first application period available to you is the one that occurs in the current calendar year, usually open between mid-April and early November. If you are uncertain which application period is the first one available to you, contact ABEM at BoardElig@abem.org.
- 11. How do I know if I have additional certification requirements?** If you have delayed any portion of the certification process, you have additional certification requirements. You can check your requirements by signing in to the ABEM website and selecting “EM Certification.” You may have additional certification requirements if your board eligibility status is “pending” (see **FAQ #5** for an explanation of the “pending” status).
- 12. When must I complete my additional certification requirements?** You must complete additional certification requirements to take your next step in the certification process if you have delayed any portion of that process (see **FAQ #9**). You can check your requirement due dates by signing in to the ABEM website and selecting “EM Certification.”
- 13. How can I meet my additional certification requirements?** When you sign in to the ABEM website, www.abem.org, and select “EM Certification,” you can view and complete your additional certification requirements. You can register for and take an LLSA test online, register for and earn credit for the optional LLSA CME activity, and attest to completing the required number of CME credits. If you are ABEM board eligible, but do not have additional certification requirements, you will not be able to take an LLSA test, participate in an ABEM LLSA CME activity, or attest to completion of CME.
- 14. Can I use the educational and training experiences of residency or fellowship to fulfill the additional CME portion of the additional certification requirements?** Yes. The CME portion of the additional certification requirements can be met by the educational experiences you completed during a year of a residency or fellowship, as long as it was completed in the year the CME requirement was due.
- 15. Is there a way for me to remain board eligible after five years?** Yes. To do so, you must meet the following requirements by the end of your first five-year period of board eligibility:
- You must have passed the Qualifying Examination during the first period of board eligibility
 - If you passed the Qualifying Examination before January 1, 2015, you must take the Oral Certification Examination at least once by December 31, 2019
 - You must have met all of your additional certification requirements (LLSA and CME) by the end of your first period of board eligibility
 - Your medical licensure must continuously comply with the ABEM [Policy on Medical Licensure](#)

If you meet these requirements you enter a second period of board eligibility the day after your first period of board eligibility ends. This second period of board eligibility ends December 31, five years later. If you have not achieved ABEM certification by

that time, you can no longer be board eligible and will be unable to take ABEM examinations to become certified. Board eligibility can be reestablished after completing additional training (see **FAQ #17**).

- 16. How can I become board eligible again if I lose board eligible status?** If you lose board eligible status because you do not meet the requirements to be granted a second period of board eligibility, or because you do not become certified by the end of your final period of board eligibility, the only way you can become board eligible again is by completing additional training and maintaining medical licensure in compliance with ABEM policy.
- 17. What additional training must I do to become ABEM board re-eligible?** To become board eligible again, you must complete a Physician Re-eligibility Program (PREP) that meets ABEM requirements. Currently, there is one organization, the Center for Personalized Education for Professionals (CPEP) that offers PREP. First, contact ABEM to confirm you are eligible for additional training. Then, apply to CPEP, participate in a pre-assessment, complete a learning plan derived from the results of the pre-assessment, and complete supervised practice. More information is available on the [ABEM website](#). If you still have questions, contact ABEM at 517.332.4800, ext. 331, or BoardElig@abem.org.
- 18. When can I begin PREP to become ABEM board re-eligible?** You can begin PREP up to one year before your board eligible status expires. Remember that you may have an opportunity to meet ABEM requirements for a second five-year period of board eligibility or to become certified in the year before your board eligibility expires without needing to complete additional training.
- 19. If I was previously certified and am now a former diplomate, do I need to complete PREP additional training to regain certification?** No, you do not need to complete PREP to regain certification. For information about how to regain certification, see the [ABEM website](#).
- 20. I am planning to pursue certification in an ABEM-sponsored subspecialty. Am I board eligible for the subspecialty?** Yes, if you have graduated from an ACGME-accredited fellowship program in a subspecialty that ABEM sponsors, you can be designated as board eligible in that subspecialty. Subspecialty board eligibility differs somewhat from Emergency Medicine board eligibility. Please see the [ABEM website](#) for more information about subspecialty board eligibility.
- 21. Where can I get more information about board eligibility?** Additional details about ABEM board eligibility can be found on the [ABEM website](#). If you still have questions, please contact ABEM at 517.332.4800, ext. 331, or BoardElig@abem.org.