

American Board of Emergency Medicine



ANNUAL REPORT **2025**

“As ABEM enters 2026, our focus remains clear: to certify expertise that reflects the highest standards of emergency care.”

James D. Thomas, MD, ABEM President



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A Year of Momentum and Milestones

In 2025, I began my term as President of the American Board of Emergency Medicine (ABEM), and am deeply honored to serve the specialty and the physicians who define it every day in emergency departments across the country. For over two decades, I have contributed to ABEM's work as an Oral Examiner and volunteer.

I am thankful for the ABEM Board of Directors, who continue to drive progress through collaboration and innovation, and I am particularly grateful to Immediate Past President Diane L. Gorgas, MD, whose leadership strengthened the ABEM Foundation and helped guide many of the initiatives featured in this year's report.

I'm pleased to celebrate the newest generation of ABEM-certified physicians. More than **2,700** physicians achieved ABEM Emergency Medicine certification in 2025—an extraordinary accomplishment that reflects professional excellence. Together, we are reinforcing patient trust in emergency care.

ABEM continues to evolve to meet the needs of physicians and patients in an ever-changing health care landscape. In 2025, we made significant advancements in certification, technology, and leadership.

As ABEM enters 2026, we are preparing for the future while remaining true to our mission: To ensure the highest standards in Emergency Medicine. New exam formats, emerging subspecialties and focused practice designations, enhanced digital tools, and expanded volunteer engagement are all exciting initiatives in the year ahead.

Thank you to all ABEM-certified physicians for your dedication to patient care. I appreciate all you have accomplished in 2025 and look forward to what you will achieve in 2026. ABEM will continue to support you and ensure your certification adds value to your careers.

James D. Thomas, MD, ABEM President



ABEM News

Launching the Certifying Exam

In 2026, ABEM will launch the Certifying Exam in place of the former Oral Certification Examination. The Certifying Exam is a culmination of rigorous, multi-year reviews on how physicians demonstrate readiness for independent practice. This effort, informed by more than 4,000 physicians and leaders around the country, has shaped an initial certification exam that is more relevant to practice and assesses skills that written or traditional oral formats cannot.

The Certifying Exam will evaluate additional competencies, including procedural skills, troubleshooting, and high-stakes communication through two case types: Clinical Care Cases and Communication & Procedural Cases. This marks a major evolution in certification—one that ensures ABEM's process remains both rigorous and contemporary in assessing what truly defines a certified emergency physician. Learn more about the Certifying Exam.

→ [Learn more](#)

Sharing Program Exam Pass Rates

ABEM took another step toward greater transparency this year by publishing residency-specific aggregate pass rates for first-time takers of the Qualifying and Oral Exams. This initiative helps residents, program directors, and educators benchmark performance and identify opportunities for improvement while maintaining fairness, context, and confidentiality.

→ [Learn more](#)

Building Strong Leaders

ABEM's work extends beyond certification—it cultivates leadership across the specialty.

Building on the success of the Health Care Administration, Leadership, and Management (HALM) subspecialty, which certified an initial 150 physicians in 2024, **113** more were certified in 2025. The next HALM exam administration will take place in 2026 and recur every two years.

ABEM expanded its Board of Directors to elect two Public Member Directors, Heidi Conrad, MBA, whose term began in July 2025, and Zeno St. Cyr, II, MPH, who began his term in January 2026. Public members broaden perspectives, enhance public voice, and reinforce accountability.

ABEM also continues to expand opportunities for physicians to shape the future of the specialty through governance, exam development, and professional service. This year, ABEM expanded its volunteer recognition program, creating a special supplement to this Annual Report that acknowledges all current volunteers who contribute their expertise and time to ABEM's mission. Ready to give back to the specialty? Visit our [volunteer page](#).

Expanding Access and Modernizing Systems

ABEM launched MyABEM, a new online portal for physicians to easily manage certification requirements, track activities, and access resources. Designed with physician input, MyABEM improves navigation, enhances accessibility, and supports continued engagement with ABEM's evolving certification programs.

Continuing Certification

Physicians completed more than **22,420** MyEMCert modules in 2025, reinforcing their commitment to staying current with advances in emergency care. ABEM continues to partner with the American Academy of Emergency Medicine and the American College of Emergency Physicians to offer CME credit for module completion, ensuring that ongoing certification supports lifelong learning.

Engaging Our Community

ABEM launched a new podcast in 2025, *ABEM General*, to keep physicians connected and informed. With segments like *ABEM Voices*, *ABEM Pathways*, and *ABEM Key Advances in EM*, the podcast brings timely discussions on certification, leadership, and clinical practice directly to listeners. Listen on your favorite podcast app or [online](#).

New Credentialing Opportunities

ABEM remains a leader in advancing the specialty through new certification and designation pathways:

- **Disaster Medicine:** In 2025, ABEM made strides in applying for a new subspecialty certification in Disaster Medicine—a vital step toward equipping the nation with physicians trained for disaster response. In partnership with the American Board of Preventive Medicine and the American Board of Surgery, ABEM submitted an application and received initial approval from the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) Committee on Certification. A final decision on the application is expected at the ABMS Board of Directors meeting in February 2026.
- **Emergency Behavioral Health:** ABMS approved the Emergency Behavioral Health (EBH) Focused Practice Designation in February 2025. This pioneering portfolio-based designation will launch in 2027 and marks ABEM's first use of an innovative,

non-exam assessment for a Focused Practice Designation. ABEM, in collaboration with the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, published the **Core Content of Emergency Behavioral Health** in *The Journal of Emergency Medicine* December 2025 issue. This milestone publication defines the essential knowledge, skills, and abilities required to deliver high-quality care for patients experiencing acute, unscheduled behavioral health emergencies.

- **Advanced Emergency Medicine Ultrasonography (AEMUS):** Physicians certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine are now eligible for the AEMUS Focused Practice Designation, expanding access to this important area of clinical expertise. The next AEMUS FPD exam will take place March 30–April 4, 2026, at Pearson VUE Testing Centers.

→ [Learn more](#)



OUR MISSION

To Ensure the Highest Standards in the Specialty of Emergency Medicine.



“ABEM’s Board of Directors continues to drive progress through collaboration, innovation, and steadfast commitment to our certified physicians.”

James D. Thomas, MD, ABEM President

LEADERSHIP



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

James D. Thomas, MD, President
Diane L. Gorgas, MD, Immediate Past President
Felix K. Ankel, MD, President-Elect
Yvette Calderón, MD, MS, Secretary-Treasurer
Kim M. Feldhaus, MD, At-Large Member
Suzanne R. White, MD, MBA, At-Large Member

DIRECTORS

Heidi Conrad, MBA
Deborah B. Diercks, MD, MSc, MBA
Susan E. Farrell, MD, EdM
Theodore J. Gaeta, DO, MPH
Lynne Holden, MD
John L. Kendall, MD
Barry J. Knapp, MD
Derek R. Linklater, MD, MEd
John P. Marshall, MD, MBA
Melissa A. Platt, MD
Hope A. Ring, MD
Ernest E. Wang, MD

EXECUTIVE STAFF

Melissa A. Barton, MD, Executive Director, *Professional & Clinical Affairs*
Kathleen C. Ruff, MBA, Executive Director, *Administrative Affairs*
John T. Finnell, MD, MSc, Director of Medical Affairs
Michael Gottlieb, MD, Director of Research
Terry Kowalenko, MD, Director of Foundation Affairs
Michele C. Miller, Associate Executive Director, *Systems and Technology*
Michelle M. Mulhern, MPA, Associate Executive Director, *Organizational Services*
Nell A. Newton, Associate Executive Director, *Operations*
Jared W. Riel, MA, ICE-CCP, Chief Assessment Officer, *Assessment Services*
Courtney Walsh, PMP, Associate Executive Director, *Certification Services*

As of December 2025

OUR LEGACY

*Denotes Past Presidency

SENIOR DIRECTORS

Gail V. Anderson, Sr, MD*
Walter R. Anyan, Jr, MD
Jill M. Baren, MD*
William G. Barsan, MD*
J. David Barry, MD
Michael S. Beeson, MD
Carol D. Berkowitz, MD
Howard A. Bessen, MD
Michael D. Bishop, MD*
Brooks F. Bock, MD*
G. Richard Braen, MD*
Glenn D. Braunstein, MD
Dick D. Briggs, Jr, MD
Kerryann B. Broderick, MD
Paul D. Bruns, MD
Michael L. Carius, MD*
Wallace A. Carter, MD
Carl R. Chudnofsky, MD
Joseph E. Clinton, MD*
Robert E. Collier, MD
Lily C. A. Conrad, MD
Francis L. Counselman, MD*
Rita Kay Cydulka, MD*
Robert H. Dailey, MD
Daniel F. Danzl, MD*
Steven J. Davidson, MD
John H. Davis, MD
Richard E. Dean, MD
James J. Dineen, MD
Frank A. Disney, MD
Lynnette Doan-Wiggins, MD*
E. John Gallagher, MD
Marianne Gausche-Hill, MD*
Joel M. Geiderman, MD
William E. Gotthold, MD
Deepi G. Goyal, MD, MHA
Jeffrey G. Graff, MD*
Harris B. Graves, MD*
Leon L. Haley, Jr, MD

R. R. Hannas, Jr, MD*
Gerald B. Healy, MD
Barry N. Heller, MD*
Robert S. Hockberger, MD*
Gwendolyn L. Hoffman, MD*
Leonard D. Hudson, MD
Bruce D. Janiak, MD*
Carl Jelenko, III, MD
Ramon W. Johnson, MD, MBA*
James H. Jones, MD*
R. Scott Jones, MD
Samuel M. Keim, MD, MS*
Allen P. Klippel, MD
Robert K. Knopp, MD
Terry Kowalenko, MD*
David A. Kramer, MD
Ronald L. Krome, MD*
Jo Ellen Linder, MD
Louis J. Ling, MD*
O. John Ma, MD
Catherine A. Marco, MD
Mark A. Malangoni, MD
Mary Nan S. Mallory, MD, MBA*
Vincent J. Markovchick, MD*
M. J. Martin, MD
John B. McCabe, MD*
Henry D. McIntosh, MD
W. Kendall McNabney, MD
Harvey W. Meislin, MD*
J. Mark Meredith, MD
Sheldon I. Miller, MD
James D. Mills, MD*
John C. Moorhead, MD, MS*
Robert L. Muelleman, MD*
John F. Murray, MD
Robert C. Neerhout, MD
Lewis S. Nelson, MD, MBA
Richard N. Nelson, MD*
Michael S. Nussbaum, MD

Thomas K. Oliver, Jr, MD
Debra G. Perina, MD*
Nicholas J. Pisacano, MD
Roy M. Pitkin, MD
George Podgorny, MD*
Peter T. Pons, MD
J. David Richardson, MD
Leonard M. Riggs, Jr, MD
Frank N. Ritter, MD
Peter Rosen, MD
Robert J. Rothstein, MD
Douglas A. Rund, MD*
Earl Schwartz, MD
Richard I. Shader, MD
Roger T. Sherman, MD
Rebecca Smith-Coggins, MD
Mark T. Steele, MD*
Richard M. Steinhilber, MD
Richard L. Stennes, MD
Robert W. Strauss, MD
Henry A. Thiede, MD
Harold A. Thomas, MD*
Judith E. Tintinalli, MD*
Robert Ulstrom, MD
Michael V. Vance, MD*
David K. Wagner, MD*
Robert P. Wahl, MD
Edward E. Wallach, MD
Gerald P. Whelan, MD*
John G. Wiegenstein, MD*

PAST EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

Benson S. Munger, PhD
(1979-1999)
Mary Ann Reinhart, PhD
(2000-2010)
Earl J. Reisdorff, MD
(2010-2024)

Thank you for your legacy and contributions to the specialty of Emergency Medicine!

THANK YOU

ABEM is proud to work with hundreds of volunteers who serve in a variety of ways. Join us in celebrating their commitment to the specialty!

[Current volunteers](#)

[Become a volunteer](#)



THE ORAL EXAM

CELEBRATING 45 YEARS

In 2025, ABEM administered the last Oral Certification Examination, closing a chapter on a large part of ABEM's history. The first Oral Exam was administered in 1980, and physicians had to travel to the exam sites in Chicago, Denver, and Dallas.

Oral Exam Key Facts

- The Oral Exam was created to test skills not captured with a multiple-choice test.
- Benson S. Munger, PhD (ABEM's founding Executive Director) worked with the Board to author seminal reports in the early 1980s describing the exam's design and evidence base.
- ABEM completed and published studies on inter-examiner agreement, refinements on case formats, and analyses linking oral performance to aspects of professional outcomes.
- The first exam was developed through a federal grant obtained through Michigan State University.
- Over the years, advances included the refinement of case scenarios, examiner training, standardized scoring rubrics, and the introduction of objective measures to ensure fairness and consistency.
- Technology advances included the 2015 launch of the eOral using monitors and iPads for case materials, a robust data and scoring platform, and the 2020 transition to a Virtual Oral Exam to continue certification during the COVID-19 pandemic.



"We honor the history of the Oral Exam and the people who built it—and we look forward with confidence to the next chapter of certification in Emergency Medicine."

James D. Thomas, MD, ABEM President

1,430 Physicians Participated as Examiners From 1980–2025



"After over four decades of distinguished service, the Oral Certification Examination has been an essential pillar of ABEM's mission to ensure the highest standards of Emergency Medicine. This examination has served as a defining milestone and shared experience for all currently ABEM-certified physicians. More importantly, the Oral Certification Examination served as a rigorous assessment of clinical competency and judgment in caring for the acutely ill and injured. As we transition to the Certifying Examination, we look forward to the ability to continually adapt the assessment to the needs of the specialty not only today but looking forward to the future. We honor the volunteers who donated their time and expertise to the exam. We applaud the ABEM-certified physician who shows up to provide the highest quality of care in what is the safety net of our health care system, the emergency department. You are valued. The work you do matters."

Melissa A. Barton, MD

ABEM Executive Director of Professional & Clinical Affairs

The Oral Exam From 1980–2025

70,432
Took the Exam

62,082
Passed the Exam

88%
Overall Pass Rate

The Virtual Oral Exam From 2020–2025

15,913
Took the Exam

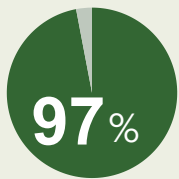
14,890
Passed the Exam

94%
Overall Pass Rate

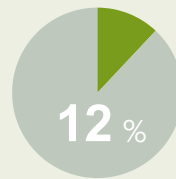
2025 Calendar Year

ABEM-CERTIFIED PHYSICIANS

49,068



EM residency trained

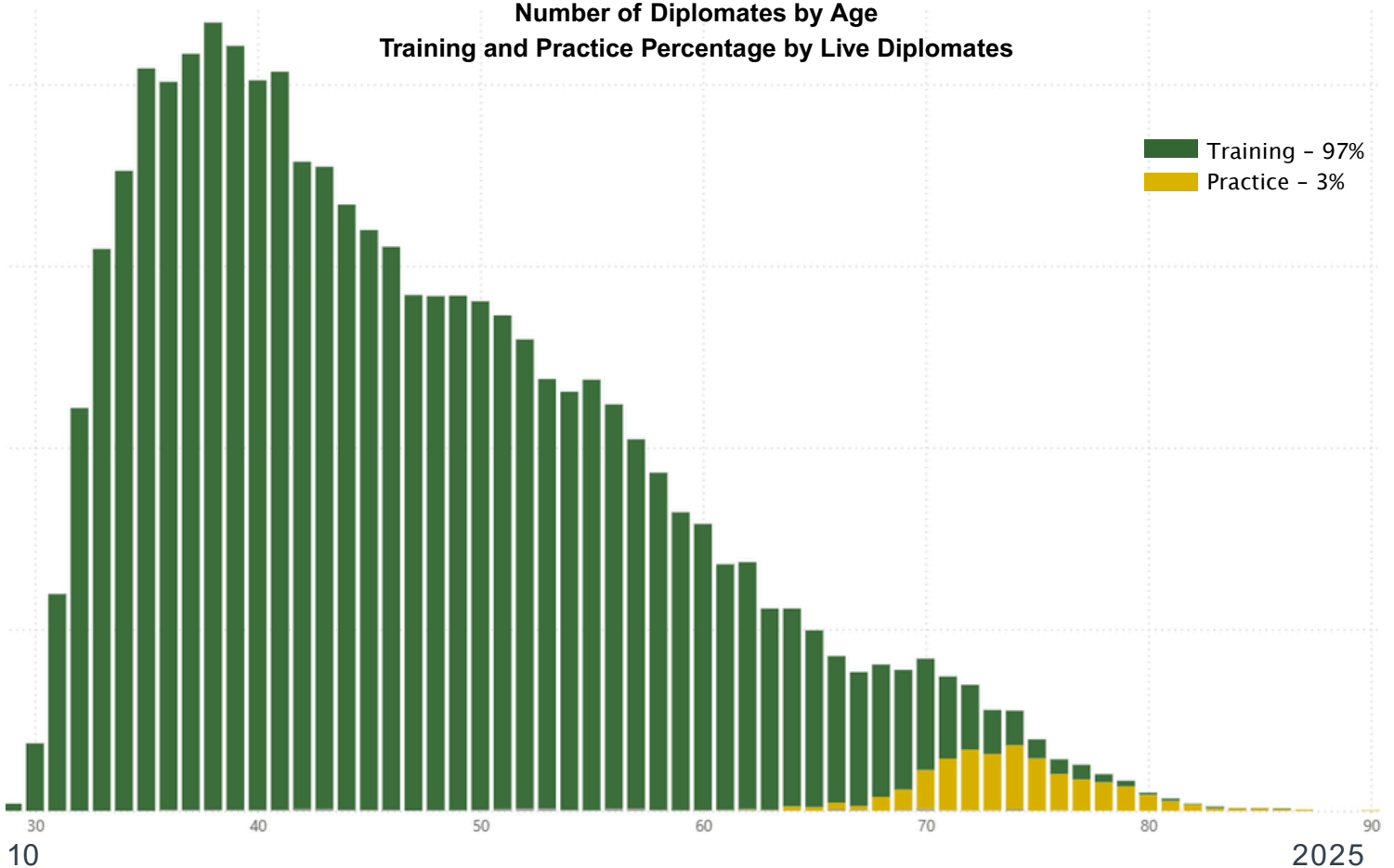


Subspecialty certified



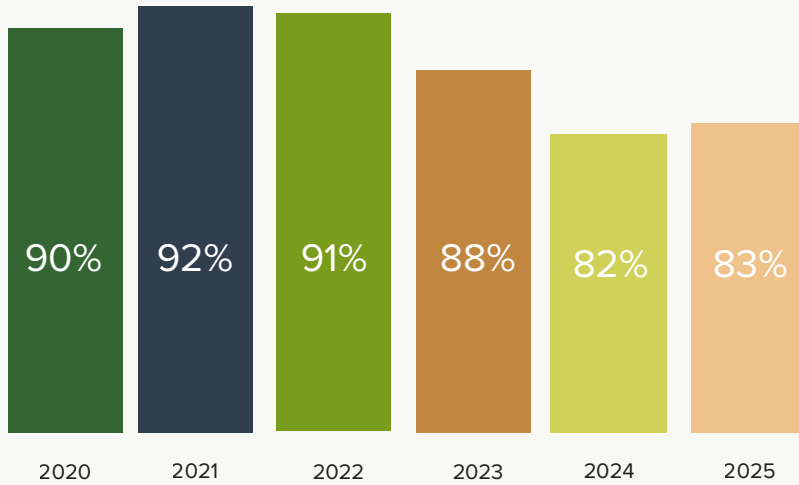
[Learn more about related data](#)

Number of Diplomates by Age
Training and Practice Percentage by Live Diplomates

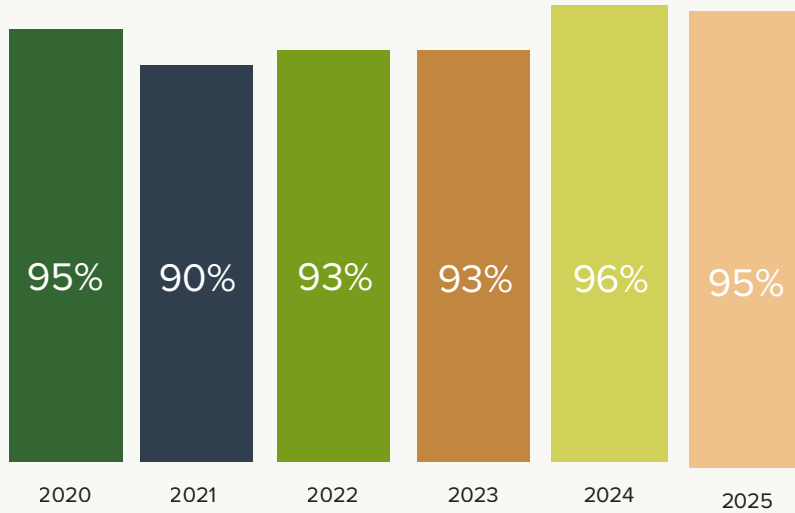


PASS RATES

Percent of EM resident, first-time takers of the Qualifying Exam



Percent of EM resident, first-time takers of the Oral Exam

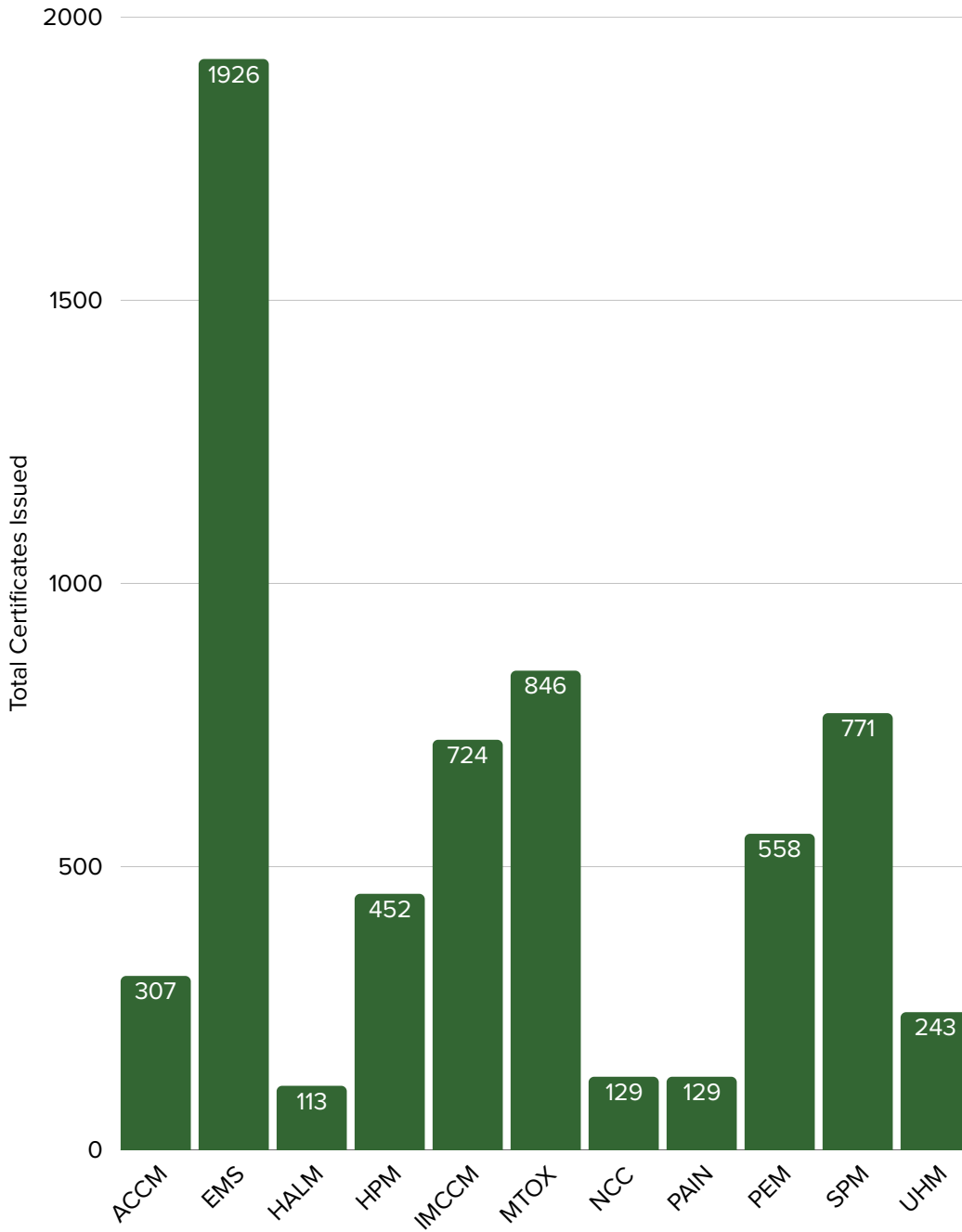


ABEM now publishes exam pass rates by residency program.

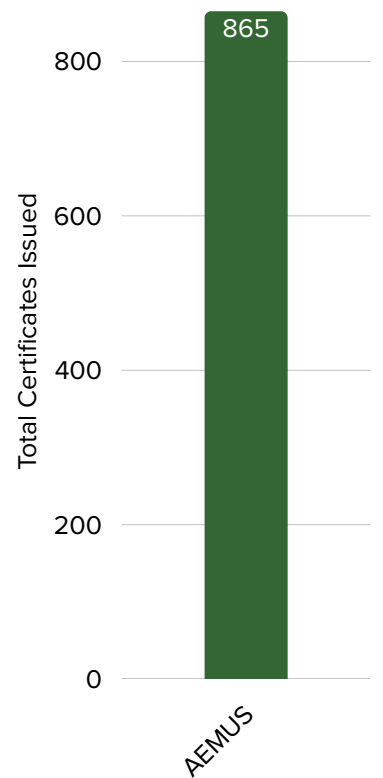
[**→ Learn more**](#)

ADDITIONAL CREDENTIALS

2025 Subspecialty Certification



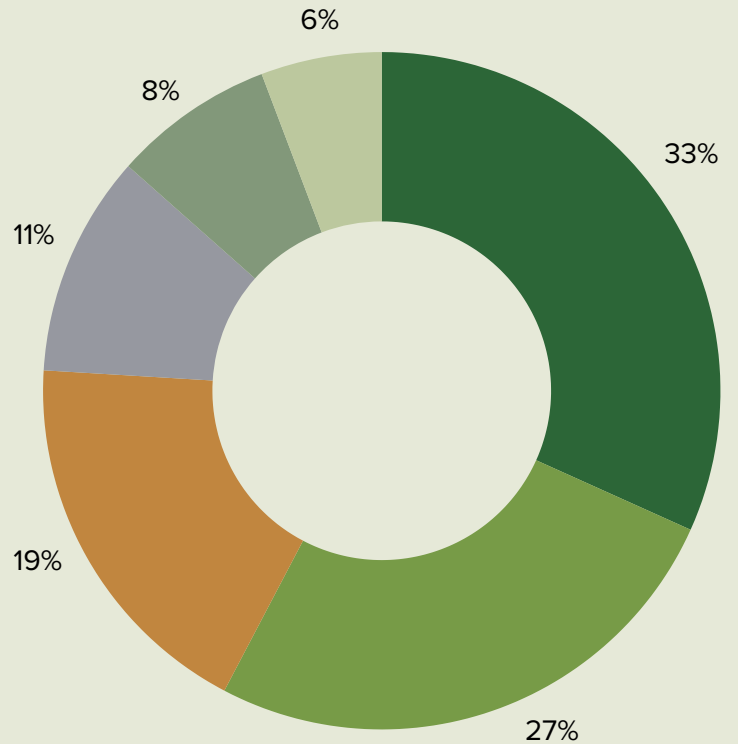
2025 Focused Practice Designation



FINANCES

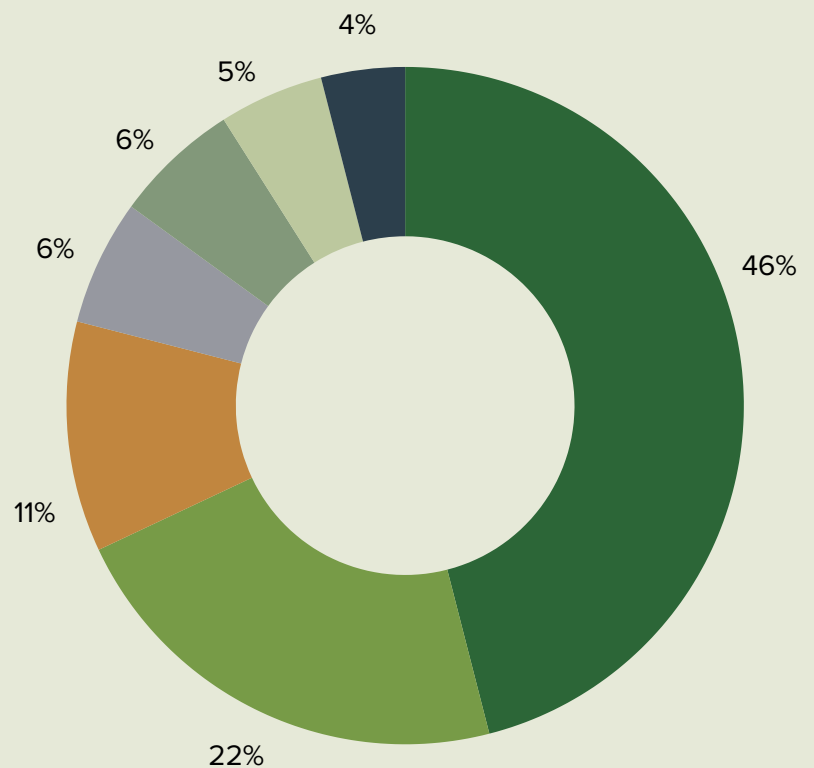
Revenue by Category

Initial Certification	33%
Annual Fees	27%
MyEMCert	19%
Investment Income	11%
Other	8%
In-training	6%
Credits/Reimbursement	-4%
	100.0%



Spending by Category

Staffing	46%
Assessment	22%
IT & Security	11%
Outreach/Liaison	6%
Operations	6%
Meetings	5%
Miscellaneous	4%
	100.0%



AUDITED FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Assets	
Current assets:	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$4,805,263
Accounts receivable	\$9,490
Accrued investment income	\$120,731
Prepaid expenses	\$432,367
Investments	\$30,751,086
Total current assets	\$36,118,937
Property, equipment, and software (net)	\$15,150,397
Other assets	
Deposits	\$494,442
Total assets	\$51,763,776
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Current liabilities	
Accounts payable	\$1,592,219
Accrued payroll and taxes	\$159,302
Deferred revenue	\$6,941,919
Line of Credit	\$750,000
Total current liabilities	\$9,443,440
Other liabilities	
Compensated absences	\$767,885
Total liabilities	\$10,211,325
Net assets/without donor restrictions	\$41,552,451
Total liabilities and net assets	\$51,763,776
Revenues	\$24,721,163
Expenses	
Direct certification expenses	\$7,568,922
Governance	\$2,886,922
Office administration	\$2,736,579
Outreach/Liaison	\$2,457,026
Program Development	\$3,328,905
Research	\$811,570
Subspecialties	\$2,084,213
Training/Academic relations	\$1,258,877
Miscellaneous	\$226,384
Total expenses	\$23,359,081
Change in Net Assets	\$1,362,082
Net assets, at beginning of year	\$40,190,369
Net assets, at end of year	\$41,552,451

RESEARCH

ABEM has a robust research agenda strategically guided by the ABEM Board of Directors and its Committees to ensure alignment with our mission, commitment to excellence, and continuous improvement.

→ [Learn more about ABEM research](#)

Topics of research conducted by ABEM and external researchers:

- Validity of ABEM assessments
- Factors associated with exam performance
- Value of certification
- Training and education in Emergency Medicine
- Physician burnout
- Trends in career satisfaction, workforce projections, and attrition
- Other areas of evidence-based insights which contribute to advancement in Emergency Medicine and ABEM's mission to ensure the highest standards in the specialty of Emergency Medicine

Factors Associated with Corrective Actions, Remediation, and Employment Termination of Emergency Physicians

Tyler L, Bhakta Y, Gottlieb M, Kraus CK, Kowalenko T, Calderon Y, Keim SM, Gorgas DL, Diercks DB, Nelson LS. Factors associated with corrective actions, remediation, and employment termination of emergency physicians. *Am J Emerg Med.* 2025 Oct 7;99:232-236. doi: 10.1016/j.ajem.2025.10.009.

Declining Performance on ABEM Written Examinations

Reisdorff EJ, Keim SM, Gorgas DL, White SR, Kendall JL, Ruff KC, Ankel FK, Farrell SE, Calderon Y, Gottlieb M, Bhakta Y, Barton MA, Joldersma KB. Declining Performance on American Board of Emergency Medicine Written Examinations. *AEM Educ Train.* 2025 Oct 24;9(5):e70105. doi: 10.1002/aet2.70105.

ABEM Report on Residency and Fellowship Training Information (2024-2025)

Calderon Y, Knapp BJ, Holden L, Marshall JP, Gaeta TJ, Ankel FK, Barton MA, Purosky RG, Trotter AR, Johnston MM. American Board of Emergency Medicine Report on Residency and Fellowship Training Information (2024-2025). *Ann Emerg Med.* 2025 Jul;86(1):81-98. doi: 10.1016/j.annemergmed.2025.04.035.

The 2024 Core Content of Emergency Behavioral Health

Keim SM, Thrasher TW, Wang EE, Gerardi MJ, Shah SB, Price DW, Munger BS, Livingston CE, Barton MA. The 2024 Core Content of Emergency Behavioral Health. *J Emerg Med.* 2025 May 9;79:60-67. doi: 10.1016/j.jemermed.2025.04.013.

Association Between ABEM Certification Performance and Severe State Medical Licensure Actions

Reisdorff EJ, Johnston MM, Bhakta Y, Keim SM, Ankel FK, Singh H, Abashkin Y, Kraus CK, Barton MA, Ruff KC, Santen SA. Association between American Board of Emergency Medicine certification performance and severe state medical licensure actions. *Am J Emerg Med.* 2025 Jul;93:186-191. doi: 10.1016/j.ajem.2025.04.013.

The 2024 Core Content of Emergency Behavioral Health

Keim SM, Thrasher TW, Wang EE, Gerardi MJ, Shah SB, Price DW, Munger BS, Livingston CE, Barton MA. The 2024 Core Content of Emergency Behavioral Health. *J Emerg Med.* 2025 Dec;79:60-67. doi: 10.1016/j.jemermed.2025.04.013. Epub 2025 May 9. PMID: 41092842.

Factors Associated with Performance on the Emergency Medicine Qualifying Examination.

Santen SA, Calderon Y, Reisdorff E, Johnston MM, Joldersma KB, Corbin T, Kraus CK, Boatright D. Factors associated with performance on the emergency medicine qualifying examination. *AEM Educ Train.* 2025 Feb 14;9(1):e11065. doi: 10.1002/aet2.11065.

Initial Validity Evidence for the ABEM Emergency Medical Services Certification Examination

Reisdorff EJ, Joldersma KB, Kraus CK, Barton MA, Knapp BJ, Kupas DF, Clemency BM, Daya M. Initial Validity Evidence for the American Board of Emergency Medicine Emergency Medical Services Certification Examination. *Prehosp Emerg Care.* 2025;29(3):283-288. doi: 10.1080/10903127.2024.2379872.

