General Requirements for All Applicants

To qualify and sit for initial certification, applicants must:

1. Be a graduate of an accredited medical school in the United States or Canada or of an international medical school listed by the World Health Organization.
2. Have an active, full, unrestricted medical license as defined in the separate “Board Policies.” Applicants are required to update their active, full, unrestricted medical licenses in their ABPN Physician Portal account.*
3. Have completed the required number of clinical skills evaluations per specialty.
4. Have satisfactorily completed the Board’s specific training requirements, as described in each specialty training selection.
5. Submit a completed official online application including all required information and the appropriate examination fees by the specified deadlines. Applicants are required to apply online through their ABPN Physician Portal account at www.abpn.org/physicianportal.

*Applicants for specialty certification examinations who do not yet have an unrestricted medical license because they are in training are not required to submit their medical license at the time of application for the examination. However, such applicants must update their active, full, unrestricted medical licenses in their ABPN Physician Portal account no later than September 1 of the year of the examination. If the active, full, unrestricted medical license has not been updated in the appropriate Physician Portal account by September 1, the application will be denied, and the Board will retain the processing and evaluation fee and any late application fee.

To qualify and to apply to sit for a Continuing Certification (CC) Examination, applicants must:

1. Adhere to and follow all Board Policies as described in the ABPN Board Policies
2. Be Board certified currently or at one time have been Board certified in the specialty or subspecialty you are applying for
3. Fulfill CC requirements as described in the CC program
4. Submit an online application through ABPN Physician Portal at www.abpn.org/physicianportal. If certification has expired, submit an online application and recertification fee. Maintain an active, full, unrestricted U.S. or Canadian medical license

Diplomates who are not recertified before their certificates expire are no longer board certified in any ABPN specialty or ABPN subspecialty certificates they hold (except for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Pain Medicine, and Sleep Medicine). Once a former diplomate completes all CC requirements and passes the CC examination, they will regain certification status. The ABPN recommends that diplomates sit for the CC examination the year in which the diplomate’s certificate is due to expire so that there is no lapse in certification status.