



The academic pathway is open to all psychiatry- or neurology-trained physicians who meet the following qualifications. Determinations of qualifications are made by the ABPN; all ABPN determinations are final and are not subject to appeal.

### **Academic Pathway — Required Qualifications, Experience, and Documentation**

1. ECFMG certification
2. Satisfactory completion of at least 4 full years (48 calendar months) of post-medical degree clinical specialty training (i.e., residency or equivalent) in psychiatry, neurology, or child neurology, which must be one of the following:
  - International training that includes a minimum of 3 years (36 calendar months) of training in the primary specialty for which certification is being sought
  - Osteopathic training accredited by the AOA and successfully completed before the creation of the Single Accreditation System
  - ACGME-accredited training successfully completed *if* the physician has ‘timed out’ of requirements for standard ABPN certification eligibility criteria
3. Unrestricted U.S. medical license, as stipulated in the ABPN policy on licensure
4.
  - a. Minimum of 4 continuous years (48 consecutive calendar months) as a member of the full-time academic faculty at a LCME-accredited U.S. school of medicine, concurrent with 4.b.
  - b. Minimum 4 continuous years (48 consecutive calendar months) of participation as a member of the teaching faculty of an ACGME-accredited residency training program in the primary specialty, concurrent with 4.a.
  - c. The following apply to 4.a. and 4.b.:
    - i. Must *currently* hold the faculty roles, specified in 4.a. and 4.b., with at least 3 continuous years (36 consecutive months) at the current school and residency training program
    - ii. The medical school faculty appointment must be either (a) full-time; or (b) a part-time employed appointment at minimum of 50% effort throughout the appointment term *if* that effort represents their total professional effort *and if* the institution recognizes the appointment as having full faculty privileges
    - iii. Voluntary faculty appointments, and other faculty appointments not meeting criterion 4.c.ii., do *not* qualify as they do not meet criterion 4.a.
    - iv. Solely voluntary or part-time teaching of residents, such as teaching residents only when on-call, does *not* qualify as this does not meet criterion 4.b.
    - v. The required 4 continuous years must take place *after* the completion of training; for example, a faculty appointment concurrent with fellowship training does *not* meet criterion 4.a.
    - vi. In these roles, must provide regular and routine direct patient care and/or regular and routine direct supervision of residents providing patient care (with the faculty member having attending physician-level responsibility for the patient care) for at least 8 hours/week on average during each of the 4 continuous years
    - vii. In these roles, must have responsibility for formal evaluation of residents, and roles in which the physician is evaluated by residents, with findings reported directly to the program director and/or department chair

- viii. At the time of application for certification examination, must have attained a minimum rank of Assistant Professor, or the institution's equivalent level of faculty rank
- ix. Short-term leaves during the faculty appointment term are allowed if they do not exceed 6 months in total duration during the required 4 continuous years; however, any short-term leave(s) must be completed prior to the time of application for the academic pathway (i.e., applicants cannot currently be on any kind of leave)

5. Must provide ABPN attestation form signed and submitted to ABPN by the department chair (or equivalent institutional leader); the form is found [here](#).

- i. Prospective applicants should email the [ABPN](#) to request access to the examination application with 'Academic Pathway application request' in subject line.
- ii. [Application deadlines](#) are posted on the ABPN website. There will be an additional non-refundable \$350 evaluation/processing fee for eligible applicants.

**Physicians assessed by ABPN to meet all the above criteria, and thereby are determined as 'fully qualified' in the academic pathway, are eligible to take the ABPN certification examination in their primary specialty.**

**Physicians in the academic pathway who pass an ABPN certification examination and become certified in an ABPN primary specialty become eligible to take ABPN subspecialty certification examinations if they have completed ACGME-accredited fellowship training in that subspecialty and meet the other standard ABPN eligibility criteria for that subspecialty.**

**Please note that the ABPN pilot of the Academic Pathway will run for six years from 2026 through 2032 exam administrations. Applications to the Pathway will not be accepted after these dates. If the ABPN decides to offer a subsequent version of this pathway after the conclusion of this pilot, the criteria for the subsequent version would be announced at that time.**