



American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, Inc.

A Member Board of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS)

General Requirements for All Applicants

To qualify and sit for initial certification, applicants must:

1. Possess a medical degree that meets one of the following requirements:
 - If medical degree was obtained in the United States, must possess either an MD degree from an allopathic medical school accredited by the [Liaison Committee on Medical Education](#) or a DO degree from an osteopathic school accredited by the [American Osteopathic Association](#).
 - If medical degree was obtained in Canada, must possess a medical degree from a school accredited by the [Committee for Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools](#).
 - If medical degree was obtained in other countries, must either be the recipient of a standard [Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates](#) certificate, and/or be in compliance with other [Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education](#) requirements for entry into an ACGME-accredited residency that would meet ABPN training requirements for initial specialty certification.
2. Complete all training in either a U.S. program accredited by the ACGME or approved by the ABPN or in a Canadian program accredited by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada as well as meet the other requirements specified in the reciprocity agreement. Details of the reciprocity agreement are outlined in the 'Canadian Training Program' section of the Information for Applicants booklet on the website, if applicable.
3. Have an active, full, unrestricted medical license* in the U.S. or Canada as defined in the separate [General Information and Board Policies](#) on this website. Applicants are required to update their active, full, unrestricted medical licenses in their [ABPN Physician Portal](#) account.
4. Professionalism forms the basis of medicine's contract with society. The ABPN is concerned with those aspects of professionalism that are demonstrated through a physician's clinical competence, commitment to lifelong learning and professional improvement, interpersonal skills, and ethical understanding and behavior. In its credentialing, certification, and CC programs, the ABPN seeks to assess and document that its candidates and diplomates possess and maintain these aspects of professionalism. To show evidence of professional standing, all diplomates must continuously hold an active, full, and unrestricted allopathic and/or osteopathic license to practice medicine in at least one state, commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States or Canada. All licenses held by a physician must be unrestricted. An active, full, unrestricted license must be maintained even if the physician is out of the country for extended periods of time. Full details of licensure requirements can be found in the [General Information and Board Policies](#) on this website. Licenses must be kept up-to-date in an [ABPN Physician Portal account](#).
5. Have satisfactorily completed the Board's specialized training requirements described on the corresponding specialty or subspecialty section of the website.
6. Apply online and submit an application through the [ABPN Physician Portal](#). Required documents should be emailed, mailed or faxed to 847.229.6600 separately.

*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 for the Continuing Certification (CC) Program:

- 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 all CC requirements as described in the [CC program](#)

See the specific exam page on the [ABPN website](#) for information on each certification exam. The exam web pages contain our requirements for admissions to examinations, examination procedures, specific training requirements, and content descriptions. Specific details on all CC Program requirements are also located on the [ABPN website](#).