



Pathway to Becoming an ABPN Board-Certified Psychiatrist

Required College Coursework

1 year biology with lab · 1 year physics with lab
1 year chemistry with lab including organic chemistry
1 semester calculus or statistics
12 credit hours humanities · 1 year expository writing

Undergraduate College
4 years

Medical School

At least 1-2 years natural & social sciences: anatomy; biochemistry; biostatistics; cell biology; epidemiology; genetics; histology; immunology; microbiology; neurosciences; pathology; pharmacology; physiology; psychosocial factors in health & disease
At least 2-3 years clinical rotations with supervised responsibilities for patient care, typically 60-80 hours/week, including: emergency medicine; family medicine / primary care; intensive care units (including cardiac care, neonatal, neurocritical care, pediatric); internal medicine (including adult subspecialties such as cardiology, gastroenterology, hematology/oncology, pulmonology, rheumatology); neurology; obstetrics & gynecology; pediatrics (including pediatric subspecialties); psychiatry; radiology

Medical College Admission Test

Medical School
4 years

MCAT
Exam taken before medical school
7.5 hours, 230 questions

U.S. Medical Licensing Exam

USMLE
3-step exam taken during medical school & residency
33 hours, 1010 questions

Psychiatry Residency Training

At least 4 months internal medicine or other primary care
At least 2 months neurology
Approximately 3.5 years psychiatry clinical rotations, with supervision, caring for patients using the full range of treatments, including psychotherapies & other psychosocial interventions, pharmacotherapies, and neuromodulatory therapies, including: inpatient psychiatry; outpatient psychiatry; emergency psychiatry; community psychiatry; child and adolescent psychiatry; geriatric psychiatry; addiction psychiatry; consultation-liaison psychiatry; forensic psychiatry
Lectures and seminars all 4 years covering topics in the scientific understanding of psychiatric disorders and their treatments

Psychiatry Residency
4 years
up to 80 hours/week on average

Initial Board Certification

Initial Board Certification by ABPN
Requires medical licensure + completion of residency training & clinical skills evaluations
Certification examination: 8.5 hours, 425 questions

Lifelong Learning

Ongoing learning including Continuing Medical Education (CME)

ABPN Board-Certified Psychiatrist
Lifelong Learning & Continuing Certification

Continuing Certification by ABPN
Ongoing learning, feedback, and quality improvement activities every 3 years
Regular independent assessments: either ongoing article-based examinations or 10-year re-examinations

Education, Training, and Learning

Assessments and Examinations

Requirements shown are typical but may vary across institutions