



## Board Eligibility and Active Candidate Status Policy

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### **Board Eligibility and Timeframe to Achieve Certification**

Candidates must achieve board certification within six years of the completion of their training in a particular specialty or subspecialty. A candidate may use the term “Board Eligible” for a specific specialty or subspecialty to indicate that they are eligible to apply to sit for the ABMGG certification examination. A candidate is considered Board Eligible in a specific specialty or subspecialty (*i.e.*, clinical genetics and genomics, laboratory genetics and genomics, clinical biochemical genetics, or medical biochemical genetics) after satisfactory completion of an accredited training program and before certification by the ABMGG.

**A maximum of six certification examination attempts are allowed during the six-year board eligibility period.**

**For candidates in clinical biochemical genetics or medical biochemical genetics, a maximum of three certification examination attempts are allowed during the six-year board eligibility period.**

If certification is not achieved within six years following completion of training, the following must occur:

- The candidate must cease and desist from making any representation of ABMGG Board Eligibility in that specialty or subspecialty. Any violation of this rule will be considered a breach of ethical standards in medical practice.
- The candidate is no longer eligible for certification in that specialty without fulfilling the requirements for re-entry into the certification process.

In individual instances and for good cause, such as military deployment or catastrophic illness, the ABMGG may waive the six-year time limit to achieve certification. The decision to grant or deny a deferral will be at the sole discretion of the ABMGG. All requests for exceptions must be made in writing to the ABMGG.

**Individuals training consecutively in more than one ABMGG specialty or subspecialty will begin their board eligibility timeframe after the completion of the most recent of the consecutive training periods.** Individuals training in more than one specialty in a non-consecutive manner (defined by more than eight weeks between the completion of one specialty and the initiation of the subsequent specialty) will have separate board eligibility timeframes in each specialty following completion of training in that specialty.

### **Active Candidate Status**

The term “Active Candidate Status” recognizes applicants who have fulfilled the requirements for ABMGG certification but who have not yet taken the certification examination. Active Candidate Status is granted after all requirements have been met and formally approved by the ABMGG. Active Candidate Status is valid only for a single designated examination cycle and terminates when the results of the examination are released.

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