



American Board of Medical Genetics and Genomics

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2015 ABMG Certification Examination

 Examination Dates: **August 17-20, 2015**

 Application Deadline: **November 1, 2014**

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Requirements for Certification

Training Requirements

Individuals seeking ABMGG certification must fulfill all of the requirements for certification, as detailed in this document. Individuals who hold doctoral degrees earned outside of the U.S., Canada, or Puerto Rico or who received their medical training outside of the U.S., Canada, or Puerto Rico, may need to meet additional requirements (see [Foreign Medical Graduates Credentials Check](#)). A trainee is only eligible to apply for ABMGG certification in 2015 in specialties for which the necessary training will have been completed by July 31, 2015.

Individuals interested in pursuing ABMGG certification must be enrolled in an ABMGG-accredited fellowship or an ACGME-accredited clinical genetics residency. The program must be accredited in the specialty(ies) in which the trainee plans to seek certification. The list of ABMGG-accredited fellowships and ACGME-accredited clinical genetics residencies is available on the ABMGG web site.

A. Doctoral degree requirements for each genetics specialty are as follows:

Clinical Genetics.....MD or DO
 Clinical CytogeneticsMD, DO, or PhD*
 Clinical Biochemical Genetics..... MD, DO, or PhD*
 Clinical Molecular Genetics.....MD, DO, or PhD*

*PhD must be in genetics, human genetics or a related field within the biological sciences, as determined by the ABMGG.

B. The **Clinical Genetics** specialty training requirements for 2015 include:

- Satisfactory completion of full-time training in an ACGME-accredited, 2-year **clinical genetics** residency in addition to satisfactory completion of a minimum of 2 years, full-time training in an ACGME-accredited residency in a specialty **other** than clinical genetics (e.g., pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, internal medicine, etc.);

OR

- Satisfactory completion of full-time training in an ACGME-accredited, 4-year **clinical genetics** residency.

OR

- Satisfactory completion of full-time training in a dual-board approved, combined residency program, including pediatrics/medical genetics, internal medicine/medical genetics, or maternal fetal medicine subspecialty/medical genetics. Upon successful completion of the requirements of the combined residency, a trainee is qualified to apply for certification by the ABMGG and the other ABMS- member board for the second discipline. Applicants must satisfactorily complete the specific credentialing requirements of each Board to be eligible to sit for the examination of that Board. Certification in one specialty is not contingent upon certification in the other specialty.

C. The **laboratory specialty** (Clinical Biochemical Genetics, Clinical Cytogenetics and Clinical Molecular Genetics) training requirements include:

- Satisfactory completion of full-time training in an ABMGG-accredited, 2-year laboratory genetics postdoctoral training program in one of the clinical laboratory specialties.
- For certification in an additional ABMGG **laboratory** specialty: an additional 12 months of full-time training in an ABMGG-accredited laboratory training program in that additional specialty is required.

Note: It is strongly recommended that any interested person or trainee whose training does not conform to the training requirements outlined in this document petition the ABMGG in writing prior to the onset of medical genetics training to clarify the requirements for certification by the ABMGG.

TABLE 1: Table 1. Number of months of ABMGG-approved medical genetics training to be completed by number of ABMGG specialty certifications sought:

Number of ABMGG primary specialty certifications*	Months of completed ABMGG-approved medical genetics training
1	24 months
2	36 months
3	48 months
4	60 months

Credentialing Requirements and Process

The credentialing process determines an applicant's candidate status for the ABMGG certifying examination. All documents required for the credentialing process must be submitted to the ABMGG Administrative Office and postmarked by the deadline (see Deadlines, Section VI).

The Program Director must submit to the ABMGG Administrative Office documents verifying the successful completion of training and competency obtained of each medical genetics trainee planning to seek ABMGG certification. The required documents are:

- The Trainee Information Form, which is submitted to the ABMGG Administrative Office by the Program Director at the onset of the applicant's training. Note that the specific date, month and year of the start and conclusion of the trainee's medical genetics training, and the ABMGG specialty(ies) for which the trainee is receiving training must be reported on this form. Receipt of this form also initiates the process for obtaining access to the online Logbook.

Note: Requirements for ABMGG certification, including doctoral degree requirements, medical training requirements, medical genetics training requirements, credentialing process and certifying examinations reside exclusively with the Board of Directors of the ABMGG.

Board Eligibility

A candidate is considered “**Board Eligible**” in a specific specialty or subspecialty (i.e., clinical genetics, clinical molecular genetics, clinical cytogenetics, clinical biochemical genetics or medical biochemical genetics) after satisfactory completion of an accredited training program and before certification by the ABMGG.

A candidate may use the term “Board Eligible” for a specific specialty or subspecialty to indicate that he or she is eligible to apply to sit for the ABMGG certification examination.

Timeframe to Achieve Certification

- **Effective January 1, 2012, candidates must achieve board certification within seven years of the completion of their training in a particular specialty or subspecialty.**

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

- The candidate must cease and desist from making any representation of Board Eligibility. 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 seven-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 specialty will be considered Board Eligible in all specialties for up to 7 years after 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 four weeks between the completion of one specialty and the initiation of the subsequent specialty) will have a specific 7 year time limit to achieve certification in each specialty following completion of training in that specialty.

Licensure Requirements for Clinical Genetics Candidates

Certification and maintenance of certification for the specialty of Clinical Genetics is contingent upon medical licensure. Applicants requesting admission to a certifying examination must have a valid (current), unrestricted license to practice medicine in one of the states, districts, or territories of the United States or a province of Canada or unrestricted privileges to practice medicine in the United States Armed Forces.

The licensure requirement for the initial certification examination may be waived if, during the academic year, the applicant is in clinical training in a state, province, or district in which the medical licensing board does not permit an unrestricted license for a trainee and the trainee is covered by an institutional permit. In order to obtain a waiver, the program director of that training program must submit a written confirmation of the applicant's training to the ABMGG Administrative Office by the application deadline. Following the completion of training, applicants must fulfill all licensure requirements before their certification will be finalized.

Should a medical license become encumbered (i.e., restricted, revoked, suspended) at any time during the certification period, the Board shall undertake proceedings consistent with due process to revoke the certificate(s). Physicians are responsible for notifying the ABMGG of any restriction placed on any medical license held, and such notification must occur within 60 days of a final action taken by an authorized agency. Upon successful reinstatement or remedy of the encumbered medical license, and upon the ABMGG being notified of such by the former diplomate, and subsequent verification of such by the ABMGG, certification may be regained by successful completion of the maintenance of certification process.

A physician's license shall be deemed “restricted” for purposes of this policy if, as a result of final action by a state or other legally constituted Medical Board (hereafter “State Medical Board”), the physician:

- Shall have had his/her license revoked or surrendered his/her license in lieu of revocation;
- Shall have had his/her license suspended for a specified period of time and the suspension is still in effect;
- May have been placed on probation and the probationary period had not expired;
- May have been made subject to special conditions or requirements which are still in effect (including, but not limited to, supervision, chaperoning during the examination of patients, additional training beyond that required of all physicians for the maintenance of licensure), and regardless of whether or not such conditions or requirements are imposed by order of the State Medical Board or are the result of a voluntary agreement between the physician and the State Medical Board.

Candidates who completed training prior to 2012 must achieve certification prior to January 1, 2019

Applicants who completed training prior to January 1, 2012 must apply to sit for the certification examination within five years of completing an accredited genetics residency and/or fellowship training program. In addition, applicants who completed training prior to January 1, 2012 have up to three (3) consecutive examination cycles, using one logbook, to achieve certification for that specialty. Applicants who wait to apply for certification may limit their number of opportunities to sit for the examination.