Becoming Certified in Addiction Medicine through ABPM

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Sub-Board Director, ABPM
Disclosures

• Michael Weaver, MD, DFASAM
  • Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
  • Sub-board Director for the American Board of Preventive Medicine
  • No conflicts of interest to disclose

• Christopher J. Ondrula, JD
  • Executive Director for the American Board of Preventive Medicine
  • No conflicts of interest to disclose
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ABPM Specialties & Subspecialties

• Specialty Areas of Preventive Medicine
  • Aerospace Medicine
  • Occupational Medicine
  • Public Health and General Preventive Medicine

• Subspecialty Areas of Preventive Medicine
  • Addiction Medicine
  • Clinical Informatics
  • Medical Toxicology
  • Undersea & Hyperbaric Medicine
Eligibility Requirements & Pathways to Certification
Key Eligibility Requirements for Addiction Medicine Exam

• Current certification by any of the ABMS Member Boards or the AOA
• Medical degree or equivalent
• Medical licensure: current, unrestricted and valid in US or Canada in all jurisdictions where the physician is licensed
• Training or experience in Addiction Medicine
  • Practice Pathway
  • ACGME-Accredited Fellowship in Addiction Medicine
Practice Pathway

- Provides opportunity for physicians who have significant Addiction Medicine practice experience or training but who have not completed an ACGME-accredited Addiction Medicine fellowship to qualify for the certification exam

- Practice Pathway will be open through 2025 Exam Cycle
Practice Pathway: Time in Practice

• 1,920 hours of relevant practice in ADM at the subspecialty level
  • Completed over at least 24 months
  • Need not be continuous, but must be within 60 months immediately preceding June 30 of the application year

• Broad-based, professional activity with significant addiction medicine responsibility
  • Clinical care including prevention and treatment of individuals at risk for substance use disorders (minimum 480 hours)
  • Teaching, research and/or administration activities (maximum 1,440 hours)
ACGME-Accredited Fellowship Pathway

• Successful completion of a minimum of 12 months of ACGME-accredited fellowship training
  • If fellowship program is approved for more than 12 months of training, successful completion of all years of training for which the fellowship program is accredited

• Addiction Medicine fellowship programs began accreditation process through ACGME in February 2018
Examination Content, Questions & Timeline
Exam Content

- Assesses ability to apply knowledge rather than recall of isolated facts

- Focuses on high-frequency and/or high-impact patient problems

- Emphasizes clinical situations and decisions arising in the experienced addiction medicine specialist’s practice
### Core Content Areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Content Areas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>25%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01 Definitions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02 Genetics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03 Pharmacokinetic and Pharmacodynamic Principles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04 Pharmacology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05 Neurobiology of Addiction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>20%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06 Epidemiological Concepts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07 Epidemiological Trends of Substance Use Disorders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08 Prevention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>40%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09 Screening, Assessment, and Brief Intervention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Overview of Addiction Treatment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Management of Inpatient and Outpatient Intoxication and Withdrawal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Pharmacologic Interventions for Addictions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Behavioral Interventions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Co-Occurring and Medical Disorders among Patients with Alcohol and Other Drug Use and Addiction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Co-Occurring Psychiatric Disorders among Patients with Alcohol and Other Drug Use and Addiction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Pain and Addiction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>15%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 Ethical, Legal and Liability Issues in Addiction Practice</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Exam Content

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Addiction</th>
<th>Target Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol</td>
<td>15-20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sedatives</td>
<td>7-10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stimulants</td>
<td>7-10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opioids</td>
<td>10-15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cannabinoids</td>
<td>7-10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicotine</td>
<td>15-20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hallucinogens</td>
<td>.5-3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissociatives</td>
<td>.5-3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inhalants</td>
<td>.5-3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anabolic steroids</td>
<td>.5-3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other substances</td>
<td>1-3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonsubstance addiction</td>
<td>1-3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General/All substances combined</td>
<td>1-5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Exam Questions

• Multiple choice questions; single-best answer

• Types of Multiple-Choice Questions
  • **Recall**: specific important facts
  • **Interpretation**: e.g., identify a fatal study flaw, diagnose a patient
  • **Problem Solving**: e.g., judgment about clinical treatment, healthcare administration, study design, 2x2 tables, etc.

• Calculator, drug name list, and normal range values provided
What is NOT on the Exam?

• True/False items

• K-type questions: choose appropriate set of correct answers

• Trick questions

• “Experimental” questions
Exam Timeline

• Late October – early November: all exams administered
• November/December: all exams scored
• December/January: Key validation process
  • Each question’s performance reviewed
  • Focus on low-performing question
  • Questions may be retained, re-keyed, or dropped based on performance
  • Each candidate’s exam is then rescored
• January: Board reviews exam results and characteristics
  • Scores equated to a standardized score so passing standard represents the same level of proficiency year after year
  • Eliminates effects of variance in exam difficulty from year to year
Certificate

• Attests that all requirements of Certification in the Specialty/Subspecialty have been met.

• Dated January 1 of the year after the exam.
  
  • Subject to continuing compliance with Continuing Certification Program (CCP) requirements, Certificate will expire December 31, ten years after issuance
  
  • E.g., for those passing the 2023 examination, the effective date of the Certification will be January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2033.

• All Addiction Medicine Diplomates Certified by the ABPM are subject to the Annual Fee
Important Dates

Application Window Opens - March 15
Exam Registration Opens - May 24
Application Window Closes – June 30
Late Application Window Opens - July 1
Late Application Window Closes - July 15
Exam Registration Closes - September 15
Exam Administration – October 16 – November 5
Exam Results – Mid January 2024
Review of the 2022 ABPM Exam Cycle
# Application Totals (2020–2022)

## Total of Applications Submitted Per Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>1048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>1486</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>1921</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Comparison of Applications Submitted 2020 to 2022

The graph shows the comparison of applications submitted from 2020 to 2022, with a focus on the number of applications submitted per week and the total applications submitted per year.
ABPM Exam Registrations: 2013-2022

Exam Registrations

- 2013: 779
- 2014: 622
- 2015: 629
- 2016: 693
- 2017: 1581
- 2018: 1269
- 2019: 1389
- 2020: 1557
- 2021: 1462
- 2022: 1132
2022 Exam Registrations
Addiction Medicine

Exam Registrations

Year 1: 1112
Year 2: 774
Year 3: 905
Year 4: 1046
Year 5: 800
Year 6: 612
Year 7:
Year 8:
Year 9:
Year 10:
Addiction Medicine Exam Pass Rates by Pathway

- 2017: 89%
- 2018: 77%
- 2019: 73%
- 2020: 71%
- 2021: 77%

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Continuing Certification Program – Three Phase Plan
Three Phase Implementation of CCP

• Phase 1 – January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2024

• Phase 2 – January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2029

• Phase 3 – January 1, 2030, to December 31, 2039
Phase 1 Requirements

January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2024
Review of Professional Standing

At all times, ABPM Diplomates shall be required to maintain a full, valid, and unrestricted license to practice medicine in all states, territories or jurisdictions for which the Diplomate has a license to practice medicine.
Lifelong Professional Development

• **20 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™** between January 1, 2023, and December 31, 2023
  - 6 of the 20 CME Credits must be specific to the Diplomate’s ABPM Certification(s)

• **20 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™** between January 1, 2024, and December 31, 2024
  - 6 of the 20 CME Credits must be specific to the Diplomate’s ABPM Certification(s)

• Diplomates shall attest annually to completion of the CME requirement via the online “Attestation Form” on the ABPM Physician Portal.

• No audits will be conducted during Phase 1
Phase 2 Requirements

January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2029
Review of Professional Standing

At all times, ABPM Diplomates shall be required to maintain a full, valid, and unrestricted license to practice medicine in all states, territories or jurisdictions for which the Diplomate has a license to practice medicine.
Lifelong Professional Development

• 20 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ annually regardless of the number of ABPM Certificates.
  • 6 of the 20 CME credits must be specific to a Diplomate’s ABPM Certification(s).
• Diplomates shall attest annually to completion of the CME requirement via the online “Attestation Form” on the ABPM Physician Portal.
• ABPM shall audit up to 5% of attestations for compliance.
  • Audits demonstrating non-compliance will result in Suspension of Diplomate’s ABPM Certification(s).
  • Diplomate shall have a period of six-months to complete the “missed” CME requirement.
  • Diplomates who timely complete “missed” CMEs will be subject to automatic audit for the next 2 calendar years.
  • If a Diplomate has not completed the “missed” CME requirement in the six-month period, that Diplomate’s Certification(s) shall be Revoked and the Diplomate will be subject to re-entry requirements.
LAP Transition Plan (Jan 1, 2025-Dec 31, 2029)

• All Time-Limited Diplomates shall be required to participate in the LAP.
• Answer 30 Specialty/Subspecialty questions annually
  • Diplomate with Multiple ABPM Certifications MUST participate in LAP for each Certificate
• Open-book: reference materials may be consulted
• There will be no time limit for a Diplomate’s response to an individual LAP item
  • Once a Diplomate “opens an item” the Diplomate must answer and cannot close the item (by closing the browser window) prior to submitting a response. Doing so will result in the response being marked incorrect.
• The extended LAP Pilot will be subject to industry-standard psychometric analysis for longitudinal assessment platforms. Each year a Minimum Passing Score (MPS) shall determine if a participating Diplomate achieves an MPS during the extended LAP Pilot.
• Diplomates who fail to meet the MPS in 4 of the 5 administrations during Phase 2 shall be required to participate in a Remediation Activity.
Phase 3 Requirements
January 1, 2030, to December 31, 2039
Continuous Certification Process

• CCP Requirements in Phase III
  • Pay Administrative Fee – Annual
  • Maintain a full, valid & unrestricted license to practice medicine - Annual
  • Complete 20 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ - Annual
  • Participate in LAP by answering 30 questions (untimed & open book) - Annual
  • Diplomate must complete one IHHC Activity designed to positively impact & improve a Diplomate’s practice – 1x/5-year period
Continuing Certification Program – Three Phase Plan Graphic
# Phase 2 Process

## Continuing Certification Program (CCP)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Professionalism &amp; Licensure</th>
<th>PHASE 1</th>
<th>PHASE 2</th>
<th>PHASE 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maintain a full, valid, and unrestricted license to practice medicine</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Annual Certification Fee Requirement</th>
<th>PHASE 1</th>
<th>PHASE 2</th>
<th>PHASE 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Submit an annual $175 certification fee</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lifelong Professional Development</th>
<th>PHASE 1</th>
<th>PHASE 2</th>
<th>PHASE 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Earn general and certificate-specific Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits</td>
<td>20 AMA PRA Category 1 CME Credits™ Annually 6 credits must be certificate-specific</td>
<td>20 AMA PRA Category 1 CME Credits™ Annually 6 credits must be certificate-specific</td>
<td>20 AMA PRA Category 1 CME Credits™ Annually 6 credits must be certificate-specific</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Longitudinal Assessment Program (LAP)</th>
<th>PHASE 1</th>
<th>PHASE 2</th>
<th>PHASE 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation in Annual LAP which will be subject to psychometric analysis and a minimum passing score (MPS)</td>
<td>Not Required</td>
<td>Answer 30 certificate-specific questions using LAP Platform and achieve an MPS in 4 out of 5 years</td>
<td>Answer 30 certificate-specific questions using LAP Platform and achieve an MPS in 4 out of 5 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Improving Health and Health Care (IHHC)</th>
<th>PHASE 1</th>
<th>PHASE 2</th>
<th>PHASE 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Complete an activity designed to positively impact and improve a Diplomate’s practice</td>
<td>Not Required</td>
<td>Not Required</td>
<td>TBD*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Find your specific requirements by visiting the Continuing Certification link on the ABPM website at [www.theabpm.org](http://www.theabpm.org)

*Subject to final approval by ABPM’s Continuing Certification Committee
Questions?