



2025 Policy Book Updates

The ABA has approved the following updates to the Policy Book:

3.02 THE CONTINUUM OF EDUCATION IN ANESTHESIOLOGY

The Credentialing Committee recommended and the BOD previously approved updates to Section 3.02(C)(3) of the ABA Policy Book regarding the requirement for training programs to automatically issue an unsatisfactory rating on the Clinical Competence Committee (CCC) report for residents who fail the BASIC examination two or more times. Copy changes were made as seen below:

A resident who fails the BASIC Examination [see Section 3.06.A] ~~the first time~~ may take the examination again at the next opportunity. ~~A resident who fails the BASIC Examination a second time will automatically receive an unsatisfactory for the CCC reporting period during which the examination was taken. After a third failed attempt at the BASIC Examination, a resident will be required to complete six months of additional training. After a fourth failed attempt a resident will be required to complete an additional 12 months of residency training. A resident will continue to receive an unsatisfactory for each CCC reporting period until the exam is passed, regardless of whether the resident takes the exam during the reporting period. Continuation of residency training is at the discretion of the individual training program. A resident cannot graduate from residency training without passing the BASIC Examination.~~ The ABA strongly encourages residents to register and take the BASIC Examination as soon as they meet the eligibility requirements defined in Section 3.07 to enable them to address any deficits while in their programs.

Program directors are no longer required to inform the ABA about fellows' and residents' training away for established international rotations, ASA advocacy rotations or Texas advocacy rotations of four weeks or less if all Clinical Competence Committee (CCC) reports are satisfactory, training away does not occur during the first month of the fellowship or exceed one month, and previously approved training away rotations and newly requested rotations combined do not exceed one-month cumulative. Section 3.02(C)(4) was updated as seen below to align with this new policy:

~~Our Credentials Committee must prospectively approve all anesthesia training away from the ACGME-accredited program even if the training will occur in another ACGME-accredited program [see Section 3.02.E]. The request for approval must include a chronological description of the rotations, information about resident supervision, and assurances that residents will be in compliance with the limits on training away from their ACGME-accredited programs. Further,~~ Residents must remain enrolled in their programs while training away from the ACGME-accredited programs, and their programs must report the training on the Clinical Competence Committee report filed for the period involved.

3.03 ABSENCE FROM TRAINING

Copy changes were made as seen below:

The ABA has established certain training requirements for a candidate to enter the ABA examination system. The following outlines permissible absences that will not result in delay in a candidate being eligible to enter the examination system:

- Without prior approval from the ABA, a candidate may be absent from training up to a total of ~~60~~ 80 working days (~~12-16~~ weeks) during the ~~CA-1-3 CB-CA3~~ years of training. ~~During the CB year, the candidate may be absent from training up to a total of 20 working days (4 weeks) for vacation/sick days, as permitted by the policy of the candidate's institution and/or department.~~
- Attendance at scientific meetings, not to exceed five working days per year, and the day of the BASIC Examination shall be considered part of the training program and not count toward the absence calculation.
- ~~Candidates should also comply with the policy of the institution and department in which that portion of the training is served for the duration of any absence during the clinical base year.~~
- The ABA will consider requests for up to 40 additional days (eight weeks) away from training (over and above the ~~60~~ 80 working days). Such additional leave of absence time must be approved by the ABA as follows:
 - Any request for such leave must be received by the ABA office within four weeks of the resident's resumption of the residency program.
 - The request shall be completed by the program director using the designated form located in the Record of Training Information Database (RTID), countersigned by the department chair (if that person is different than the program director), and the resident.
 - The request must include: (1) the reason for the absence training request (~~serious medical illness, military family leave, parental or family leave~~ covered under the Family and Medical Leave Act would be reasons acceptable to the ABA) and (2) documentation about how all clinical experiences and educational objectives will be met.

For absences in excess of those described above, the ABA will require lengthening the total training time to compensate for the additional absences from training. The additional training days required will be equal to the total number of working days missed beyond (1) the ~~60-80~~ working days allowed during the ~~CA-1-3 CB-CA3~~ years ~~and the 20 working days allowed during the CB year~~; and (2) the additional 40 working days if approved by the ABA.

3.13 NOTIFICATION AND CANCELLATION OF EXAMINATIONS

The following copy changes were made as seen below:

~~D. A candidate who cancels or misses a scheduled APPLIED Examination may not schedule another APPLIED Examination sooner than four months following the cancelled or missed appointment. Candidates should notify the ABA immediately at APPLIEDexam@theABA.org if they are unable to make their scheduled APPLIED Examination.~~

D. A candidate who cancels or misses a scheduled APPLIED Examination for reasons not related to an unavoidable or catastrophic event will be prioritized behind newly eligible candidates for rescheduling purposes and will be guaranteed a new exam date within two years of the date of the cancelled or missed appointment.

E. Candidates should notify the ABA immediately at APPLIEDexam@theABA.org if they are unable to make their scheduled APPLIED Examination.

4.03 MOCA 2.0 REQUIREMENTS

Copy changes were made in subsection “G,” as seen below:

Candidates will be allowed to accumulate ~~as many as five years of~~ MOCA CME credit and ~~as many as 25 points of~~ MOCA QI activities that were accumulated ~~prior to their certification date at the time of certification.~~

5.05 CERTIFICATE OF CLINICAL COMPETENCE

Copy changes were made as seen below:

The ABA requires every ~~candidate seeking an~~ anesthesiology subspecialty ~~certification to have the candidate's~~ training program ~~to~~ electronically file an ~~Evaluation Certificate~~ of Clinical Competence in January and July on behalf of each fellow who has spent any portion of the prior six months in subspecialty anesthesia training in or under the sponsorship of the fellowship program and its affiliates. **For purposes of the ABA required Certificate, the program director or department chair must not chair the Clinical Competence Committee that issues the Certificate.**

Entry into the ABA examination system is contingent upon the registrant having a Certificate of Clinical Competence on file with the ABA attesting to satisfactory clinical competence during the final period of fellowship training in or under the sponsorship of each program. The ABA will deny entry into the ABA examination system until this requirement is fulfilled.

Fellows who wish to appeal a Certificate of Clinical Competence must do so through the reporting institution's grievance and due process procedures. ~~The ABA does not provide an appeal procedure.~~

7.06 PROFESSIONAL STANDING

Copy changes were made as seen below:

Individuals with a medical license that is revoked, suspended, surrendered in lieu of revocation or suspension, or has restrictions, may be permitted to take ABA examinations under some circumstances in the discretion of the ABA. Candidates with less severe restrictions on a medical license will be permitted to take ABA examinations. In both instances, certification may be deferred until the ABA reviews and approves awarding certification. ~~Individuals in these circumstances that proceed to take any examination assume the risk that the ABA may defer or deny certification or continuing certification. ABA approval or permission to take an examination is not a guarantee that the ABA will grant certification or continuing certification.~~

ADDITIONAL CHANGES

Replacing instances of “maintenance of certification” with “continuing certification”: We have begun phasing out the “maintenance of certification” nomenclature in alignment with ABMS' request for Member Boards to suspend use of this terminology as the “Maintenance of Certification” moniker has fallen out of favor. The ABMS BOD voted to mandate this change during their October 2024 meeting.

Updated Privacy Policy per legal counsels and added in the following statement:

Participate in an examination. When you participate in an examination, we record your performance and in doing so also collect your audio and visual information. We use the recordings, together with your personal identifiers, to score your exam and for quality control purposes. We will also use the recordings to create deidentified transcripts which we will use, with the help of an artificial intelligence (AI) tool, to determine common issues and mistakes with a view to improve future exams. We will not use the information externally in identified format. All video and audio recordings, as well as all transcripts produced from the audio recordings will be retained for the time necessary to complete the scoring and the deidentification in accordance with ABA retention policies following which only deidentified information will be retained.