

**2011**



**OFFICE OF THE BOARD**

111 West Jackson, Suite 1110  
Chicago, Illinois 60604

(312) 939-ABPM [2276]  
Fax (312) 939-2218

[abpm@theabpm.org](mailto:abpm@theabpm.org)  
[www.theabpm.org](http://www.theabpm.org)

# THE AMERICAN BOARD OF PREVENTIVE MEDICINE, INC.

Incorporated 1948

## OFFICERS

### **Chair**

Kurt T. Hegmann, MD, MPH  
Salt Lake City, Utah

### **Vice Chair, Aerospace Medicine**

Richard T. Jennings, MD, MS  
Galveston, Texas

### **Vice Chair, Occupational Medicine**

Denece O. Kesler, MD, MPH  
Albuquerque, New Mexico

### **Vice Chair, Public Health and General Preventive Medicine**

Marcel E. Salive, MD, MPH  
Baltimore, Maryland

### **Secretary**

Ronald W. Stout, MD, MPH  
Mason, Ohio

### **Treasurer**

Joshua Lipsman, MD, JD, MPH  
New Rochelle, New York

## MEMBERS

Mary S. Applegate, MD, MPH  
Albany, New York

Richard A. Beane, MD, MPH  
Washington, DC

Natalie P. Hartenbaum, MD, MPH  
Dresher, Pennsylvania

Marie A. Krousel-Wood, MD, MPH  
New Orleans, Louisiana

Susan E. Northrup, MD, MPH  
Peachtree City, Georgia

### **Executive Director**

P Glenn Merchant, MD, MPH&TM

### **Administrator**

Kristine D. Pasciak

## PURPOSE

The following are major functions of The American Board of Preventive Medicine in accomplishing its purpose:

1. To grant and issue, to qualified physicians who are licensed to practice medicine, certificates of special knowledge in Preventive Medicine and in one of the specialty areas of Aerospace Medicine, Occupational Medicine or Public Health and General Preventive Medicine or in one of the subspecialties of Medical Toxicology or Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine; and
2. To encourage the study, enhance the standards of practice, and advance the cause of Preventive Medicine.

Certification in Preventive Medicine does not in itself confer legal qualifications, privileges, or license to practice medicine or the specialty of Preventive Medicine. Furthermore, The American Board of Preventive Medicine has never sought special privileges or recognition for physicians it has certified, either in their practice of the specialty or on the staff of hospitals or other institutions. Rather, the Board's primary purposes are to pass judgement on the education, training, and knowledge of broadly competent and responsible practitioners of Preventive Medicine and to extend and support development of the specialty itself.

## DEFINITION AND CONTENT OF PREVENTIVE MEDICINE

### **DEFINITION OF PREVENTIVE MEDICINE**

Preventive Medicine is that specialty of medical practice which focuses on the health of individuals and defined populations in order to protect, promote, and maintain health and well-being and prevent disease, disability, and premature death.

### **CONTENT OF PREVENTIVE MEDICINE**

In addition to the knowledge of basic and clinical sciences and the skills common to all physicians, the distinctive components of Preventive Medicine include:

1. Biostatistics and the application of biostatistical principles and methodology;
2. Epidemiology and its application to population-based medicine and research;

3. Health services management and administration, including developing, assessing, and assuring health policies; planning, implementing, directing, budgeting, and evaluating population health and disease management programs; and utilizing legislative and regulatory processes to enhance health;
4. Control and prevention of environmental factors that may adversely affect health;
5. Control and prevention of occupational factors that may adversely affect health and safety;
6. Clinical preventive medicine activities, including measures to promote health and prevent the occurrence, progression, and disabling effects of disease and injury; and
7. Assessment of social, cultural, and behavioral influences on health.

Each applicant for a certificate in Aerospace Medicine, Occupational Medicine, or Public Health and General Preventive Medicine must meet certain requirements to be admitted to the certifying examination. Such requirements are determined by the Board.

Approval for admission to the examination can only be established after the review of a complete application by the full Board. No individual member of the Board is authorized to give an opinion on the admissibility of candidates, nor does the Board do preliminary credential reviews.

For the information of applicants, such requirements are summarized below. A worksheet is available to use in comparing the ABPM requirements to an applicant's training and experience.

#### GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

1. **Medical School:** Graduation from a medical school in the United States which at the time of the applicant's graduation was accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education, a school of osteopathic medicine approved by the American Osteopathic Association, an accredited medical school in Canada, or from a medical school located outside the United States and Canada that is deemed satisfactory to the Board.
2. **Current License(s):** Unrestricted and currently valid license(s) to practice medicine in a State, the District of Columbia, a Territory, Commonwealth, or possession of the United States or in a Province of Canada. No license may be restricted, revoked, or suspended or currently under such notice.
3. **Clinical Year:** A year of supervised postgraduate clinical training provided as part of a graduate medical education program accredited by the ACGME\*. Clinical training accredited by the American Osteopathic Association, the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, or the College of Family Physicians of Canada is also acceptable. The training must include at least six months of direct patient care comprising ambulatory and inpatient experience with hands-on patient care involving diagnostic workup and treatment of individual patients.

4. **Academic Year:** Successful completion of a course of graduate academic study and award of a Master of Public Health or equivalent masters or doctoral postgraduate degree; the course content of which shall include biostatistics, epidemiology, health services management and administration, and environmental health.
5. **Practicum Year:** Residency practicum of not less than one year which is accredited by the ACGME in the specialty area (Aerospace Medicine, Occupational Medicine or Public Health and General Preventive Medicine) for which certification is being sought and which shall have provided supervised experience in the practice of that specialty area of Preventive Medicine and planned instruction, observation, and active participation in a comprehensive organized program.
6. **Current Practice:** The applicant must have been engaged in essentially full-time training for, or practice in, preventive medicine for at least one of the three years preceding application for certification (alternative pathway and special pathway applicants will need to demonstrate two of the five years preceding application for certification in the specialty area for which certification is being sought).

\*A statement of the essentials of approved residencies, as well as a listing of accredited residency programs and information regarding The American Board of Preventive Medicine, Inc., may be found in the Directory of Graduate Medical Education Programs, published annually by the American Medical Association. Further information concerning residencies in Aerospace Medicine, Occupational Medicine, or Public Health and General Preventive Medicine may be obtained from the Executive Director, Residency Review Committee for Preventive Medicine, Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, 515 North State Street, Suite 2000, Chicago, IL 60610 or at their web site [www.acgme.org](http://www.acgme.org).

#### ALTERNATIVE PATHWAY TO CERTIFICATION

Persons graduating from a school of medicine or school of osteopathic medicine prior to January 1, 1984 who have not formally completed all of the components previously described may be considered for admission to the examination if their training and experience are judged by the Board to provide a suitable alternative for formal training.

The Board will consider granting credit toward satisfying training requirements for such factors as:

1. Completion of three-credit hour, post graduate level academic course work in each of the four core areas: epidemiology, biostatistics, health services management and administration, and environmental health or teaching in one or more of the four courses at the post graduate level and that is acceptable to the Board; and
2. Periods of full-time practice, research, or teaching in the specialty area of Preventive Medicine in which certification is sought. A total of eight years of full-time practice is required if no other specialty certification is held, but may be reduced to six years if certification is held in another specialty recognized by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS). For those with an

M.P.H. or equivalent masters or doctoral post graduate degree but no practicum year, a period of four years of full-time practice is required in the specialty area of Preventive Medicine for which certification is being sought, a period that can be reduced to three years if other ABMS specialty certification is held.

Each applicant is considered individually by the Board in accordance with the existing guidelines. A worksheet is available to use in comparing the ABPM requirements to an applicant's training and experience. Practice time needed for the alternative pathway to certification is summarized on this worksheet. Applications must be received by June 1 of each year. Requirements must be completed by August 1 of the year in which the applicant wishes to sit for the examination.

Persons graduating from a school of medicine or school of osteopathic medicine after January 1, 1984 will be admissible to the examination only after completing ACGME-accredited residency training in Preventive Medicine. This alternative pathway to certification is not available for such graduates.

#### **COMPLEMENTARY PATHWAY TO CERTIFICATION**

The complementary pathway is designed to accommodate physicians who wish to make a mid-career shift into the practice of Preventive Medicine. In order to qualify through this pathway, physicians must complete two or more years of training in an ACGME-accredited clinical residency program. They must also complete one year of ACGME-accredited residency training in the Preventive Medicine specialty area in which certification is being sought. In addition to the Preventive Medicine residency training, physicians must have practiced full-time in the Preventive Medicine specialty for two of the last five years. The academic year requirement can be met by completing post-graduate level courses in each of the following areas: Epidemiology, Biostatistics, Health Services Administration and Management, Environmental Health, and Behavioral Health Sciences.

#### **SPECIAL PATHWAY FOR ABPM DIPLOMATES**

Diplomates of ABPM who have completed an ACGME accredited residency in a specialty area of Preventive Medicine, been certified by ABPM in that specialty area, and want to become certified in an additional Preventive Medicine specialty area may request consideration through a special pathway. ABPM diplomates must have a total of two of the last five years in essentially full-time practice in the specialty area for which the additional certification is sought to apply through this pathway.

## **SUBSPECIALTIES**

**Medical Toxicology:** Every two years ABPM offers subspecialty certification in Medical Toxicology to ABPM diplomates who meet the appropriate requirements for Medical Toxicology. Applications will be available on the ABPM web site or by contacting the Board office in March 2012. Applications for the examination to be offered in 2012 will be accepted with postmark dates through April 15, 2012.

**Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine:** ABPM offers subspecialty certification in Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine in November each year to physicians holding current certification by one of the ABMS Member Boards and who meet the appropriate requirements in Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine. Those physicians who are certified by the American Board of Emergency Medicine (ABEM) must apply through ABEM. Applications for all other physicians certified by an ABMS Member Board are available on the ABPM web site or by contacting the Board office.

**WEB SITE ADDRESS:** [www.theabpm.org](http://www.theabpm.org)

ABPM has a web site that includes the latest version of our application and other publications. Please refer to the web site for current information about the ABPM.

## **APPLICATION**

Applications can be submitted online at the ABPM website from March 1 to June 1 each year. After the June 1 deadline, applications can be submitted online until 1 week prior to the Board meeting with payment of appropriate late fees.

Applicants requiring special examination accommodations due to a disability should contact the Board office to obtain the Application for Testing Accommodations form. This form is required at the time the examination application is submitted.

## **EXAMINATION**

The examination is a one-day computer-based examination given in the Fall each year over a two week span. It is administered at Pearson VUE Professional Centers across the United States. This multiple choice examination consists of a morning portion covering the core knowledge of Preventive Medicine and the afternoon portion covering either Aerospace Medicine, Occupational Medicine, or Public Health and General Preventive Medicine.

The subspecialty examination in Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine is a half-day computer-based examination given in the Fall each year. The subspecialty examination in Medical Toxicology is administered every other year by the American Board of Emergency Medicine. The next offering will be in 2012.

## RE-APPLICATION AND RE-EXAMINATION

An applicant approved for admission to the examination who does not take the examination, or who fails to pass the examination within the three-year approval period, is required to file a new application and pay a new application fee.

Applicants not approved for admission to the examination may request reconsideration of their applications on the basis of new or additional information within two years of the filing date of the original application, with payment of the re-review fee.

Candidates not passing the examination may, upon timely registration and payment of appropriate fee, be admitted to re-examination during their approval period.

Beginning with the 2001 examination, examinees who fail one component of the examination, may retake just the component that was failed at the next offering of the examination. This policy applies only to the next examination offering; if an examinee does not pass the component at the next examination offering, taking both components of the examination will be required on future attempts.

A candidate who has failed the examination on two or more occasions may be required to have additional training, in accordance with recommendations from the full Board, before being admitted to further examination.

## MULTIPLE CERTIFICATION

An individual may apply sequentially for admission to examination in more than one specialty area of Preventive Medicine. Applicants may apply in more than one specialty area in a given year. An applicant must fulfill the individual requirements of each specialty area in which application is made and cannot double count the same periods for practice time or currency time.

Diplomates who passed both components of the examination and can fulfill the requirements for a second Specialty Area, may apply to take the examination in the second Specialty Area. Certification in the second Specialty Area will require passing only the Specialty Area examination within seven (7) years of the initial certifying examination. If certification in the second Specialty Area is not achieved within seven years, retaking the Core examination will be required.

## CERTIFICATION

Upon satisfactory completion of the examination, a certificate will be issued stating that the applicant has been found to possess special knowledge in the specified specialty area of Preventive Medicine. The certificate will be signed by the officers of the Board and will have the seal of the Board affixed. Each certificate remains the property of the Board, but the person to whom it is issued is entitled to its possession unless it is revoked.

Any certificate issued by the Board may be revoked if evidence, satisfactory to the Board, is presented that the applicant was not eligible to receive it at the time of issuance, or that any pertinent fact had been misstated, misrepresented, or concealed; or that any licensure to practice medicine has been suspended or revoked. Note: The issuance of a certificate to a person does not constitute membership on the Board.

## TIME-LIMITED CERTIFICATES

By action of the Board in August 1994, ABPM now issues ten-year, time-limited certificates. The first time-limited certificates were issued in 1998 to candidates who passed the certifying examination given in November 1997.

## NOTICE OF CERTIFICATION

The examination results, without individual identifiers, are reviewed by the full Board after completion of scoring and examination analysis. Final determination of candidates' certification status is made at that time.

Candidates who have taken the examination may expect to be notified of results by mail approximately two months after taking the examination.

## FEES

The members of the Board serve without compensation. Fees are based on the actual expenses incurred in the review of applications; examination development, administration, and scoring; and office administration.

A nonrefundable application fee of \$410\* is required if the applicant holds an MPH or equivalent masters or doctoral postgraduate degree and has completed an ACGME accredited residency in the specialty area of Preventive Medicine in which certification is sought.

A nonrefundable application fee of \$705\* is required if the applicant is applying through the Alternative Pathway to certification.

A nonrefundable application fee of \$590\* is required if the applicant is applying through the Special Pathway for ABPM Diplomates or the Complementary Pathway.

A nonrefundable re-review fee of \$190\* is required to reactivate an application within two years of the original review.

The examination fee of \$1950\* is due with the application and is non-refundable if registration for the exam is canceled less than 7 days prior to the exam. If your application is not approved, the examination fee will be refunded.

A \$50.00\* administrative fee will be deducted from all refunds.

### Late Fees

The online application is open from March 1 to June 1 each year. A late fee charge will be assessed to any application submitted after June 1 (see the late fee schedule below). *All fees listed below are in addition to the application and examination fees.*

Date Received	Late Fee
6/2 - 6/15	\$400*
6/16 - 6/30	\$800*
7/1 - 7/15	\$1200*
7/16 - 1 week before Board Meeting	\$1,600*

### Subspecialty Fees

#### Medical Toxicology

Fees TBD.

### Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine

A nonrefundable application fee of \$385\* is required for applicants applying through the fellowship pathway.

The examination fee of \$1750\* is due with the application and is non-refundable if registration for the exam is canceled less than 7 days prior to the exam. If your application is not approved, the examination fee will be refunded.

\*All fees are reviewed annually and are subject to change at the direction of the Board. Please contact the Board office for the current fee schedule.

## LISTING OF INDIVIDUALS CERTIFIED

A list, current to the date of publication, of persons to whom certificates have been issued by the Board may be found in *The Official ABMS Directory of Board Certified Medical Specialists*, the ABMS web site:

[www.abms.org](http://www.abms.org), and the ABPM web site:

[www.theabpm.org](http://www.theabpm.org)

## REPORTING OF CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Once certified, physicians should notify the following offices of any changes of address in writing:

1. The American Board of Preventive Medicine, Inc. Diplomates may update their address using the ABPM web site: [www.theabpm.org](http://www.theabpm.org) or by mailing updated address information to the Board office. Address updates by e-mail are not accepted.

2. The Physicians Biographic Records, American Medical Association, 515 North State Street, Chicago, IL 60610, the office that maintains a master file of all physicians in the U.S.
3. The American Board of Medical Specialties, 222 North LaSalle Street, Suite 1500, Chicago, IL 60601, source of the records for *The Official ABMS Directory of Board Certified Medical Specialists*.

## IMPORTANT DATES

### JUNE 1:

Deadline for completed application forms and fees.

Deadline for receipt of re-review requests and fees.

### JULY 15:

Deadline for receipt of *all additional information not included with the June 1 application*.

### AUGUST 1:

Deadline for completion of all Alternative pathway and Special pathway requirements to sit for the examination.

Residency pathway requirements need to be completed 15 business days prior to the first day of the examination. In 2011, the deadline is September 12.

### AUGUST:

Meeting of the Board to determine admissibility of applicants to the examination.

Letters of notification of admissibility for the examination are sent by mail to candidates after the August Board meeting. Notification is *not* given by telephone.

### OCTOBER:

Annual one-day computer-based examination at various sites across the United States. In 2011, the examination will be offered over a two week period from October 3-14.

### DECEMBER:

Meeting of the Board to determine the pass/non-pass score for the previous examination.

Results of the certifying examination are mailed to candidates. Notification is *not* given by telephone.

## REQUIREMENTS BY PATHWAY

General Requirements	Residency	Complementary	Special*	Alternative**
Medical School: Graduation from a medical school in the United States which at the time of the applicant's graduation was accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education, a school of osteopathic medicine approved by the American Osteopathic Association, an accredited medical school in Canada, or from a medical school located outside the United States and Canada that is deemed satisfactory to the Board.	Required for all pathways			
Current License(s): Unrestricted, currently valid license(s) to practice medicine in a State, the District of Columbia, a Territory, Commonwealth, or possession of the United States or in a Province of Canada. No license may be restricted, revoked, or suspended or currently under such notice.	Required for all pathways			
Clinical Training: Supervised postgraduate clinical training provided as part of a graduate medical education program accredited by the ACGME. Clinical training accredited by the American Osteopathic Association, the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada or the College of Family Physicians of Canada is also acceptable. The training must include at least six months of direct patient care comprising ambulatory and inpatient experience per each 12 months of training.	One year required	Two years required	One year required	One year required
Academic Training: Successful completion of a course of graduate academic study and award of a Master of Public Health or equivalent masters or doctoral postgraduate degree including core areas of study.	MPH Required. Required coursework: biostatistics epidemiology health services mgmt/admin environmental health	No MPH required. Required coursework: biostatistics epidemiology health services mgmt/admin environmental health behavioral health sciences	No MPH required. Required coursework: biostatistics epidemiology health services mgmt/admin environmental health	No MPH required. Required coursework: biostatistics epidemiology health services mgmt/admin environmental health***
Practicum training: ACGME-accredited residency training in the specialty area (Aerospace, Occupational, Public Health/General Preventive Medicine) for which certification is being sought.	One year required	One year required	Not required	Not required***
Currency: The applicant must have been engaged in current, essentially full-time training for, or practice in, preventive medicine.	One of the last three years in essentially full-time training for, or practice in, preventive medicine.	Two of the last five years in essentially full-time training for, or practice in the specialty area for which certification is being sought.	Two of the last five years in essentially full-time training for, or practice in the specialty area for which certification is being sought.	Two of the last five years in essentially full-time training for, or practice in the specialty area for which certification is being sought.

\*The Special Pathway is ONLY open to physicians who are certified by the American Board of Preventive Medicine.

\*\* The Alternative Pathway is ONLY open to physicians who graduated medical school BEFORE January 1, 1984. No exceptions are made to this deadline.

\*\*\*Alternative Pathway applicants are allowed to apply full-time practice in the specialty area for which certification is being sought, along with the four core courses, toward fulfilling the academic and practicum training requirements. See Practice Years table to equate the total number of years required.

*This form should only be used by applicants who graduated from medical school before January 1, 1984 only and are applying through the Alternative Pathway.*

PRACTICE YEARS	
APPLICANT CREDENTIALS	TOTAL PRACTICE YEARS NEEDED FOR REQUIREMENTS 4 & 5
> MPH DEGREE > NO PRACTICUM > ABMS BOARD CERTIFICATION	<b>3</b>
> MPH DEGREE > NO PRACTICUM > NO ABMS BOARD CERTIFICATION	<b>4</b>
> NO MPH DEGREE * > PRACTICUM > ABMS BOARD CERTIFICATION	<b>3</b>
> NO MPH DEGREE * > PRACTICUM > NO ABMS BOARD CERTIFICATION	<b>5</b>
> NO MPH DEGREE * > NO PRACTICUM > ABMS BOARD CERTIFICATION	<b>6</b>
> NO MPH DEGREE * > NO PRACTICUM > NO ABMS BOARD CERTIFICATION	<b>8</b>

\* WITHOUT THE MPH, THE FOUR CORE COURSES ARE ALSO REQUIRED (SEE ACADEMIC TRAINING REQUIREMENT FOR A LIST OF THE CORE AREAS)

TOTAL PRACTICE YEARS REFERS TO THE AMOUNT OF PRACTICE TIME IN THE SPECIALTY AREA FOR WHICH CERTIFICATION IS BEING SOUGHT.