

American Board of Emergency Medicine

Advanced Emergency Medicine Ultrasonography
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

- 1. Is Advanced Emergency Medicine Ultrasonography (AEMUS) a new subspecialty?**
No. AEMUS is a [Focused Practice Designation](#) (FPD), a recognition first approved by the [American Board of Medical Specialties](#) in 2017. An FPD recognizes areas of practice that either evolve as physicians progress throughout their professional careers or emerge due to advances in medicine.025
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- 2. How does AEMUS differ from ultrasonography skills that ABEM-certified physicians have without this recognition? What is the difference in skills and abilities between an ABEM-certified emergency physician and one with recognition in AEMUS?** While residency-trained emergency physicians have acquired basic expertise applying ultrasound in the emergency department, physicians who specialize in AEMUS will have acquired a greater breadth and depth of experience in advanced techniques, research, and quality improvement skills.
- 3. I am certified by another ABMS member board. Will I be able to apply for AEMUS?**
No. Only physicians certified in Emergency Medicine by ABEM can apply for AEMUS recognition.
- 4. I am in the process of becoming certified in EM through ABEM. Can I apply now?**
No, physicians must be fully certified in Emergency Medicine with ABEM in order to be eligible to apply for an FPD exam.
- 5. What will I have to do to obtain the recognition?** Physicians currently certified by ABEM must meet the [eligibility criteria](#) and pass a half-day, secure, multiple choice examination. Physicians who pass the examination must participate in an ABEM-approved continuing certification process.
- 6. I am certified by AOBEM. Will I be able to apply for AEMUS?** No. Only ABEM-certified physicians are eligible for a Focused Practice Designation.
- 7. When will the first examination be available?** The first examination will be administered March 7-11, 2022.
- 8. What are the requirements that ABEM-certified physicians must meet to apply for AEMUS FPD?** Physicians currently certified by ABEM will have access to the FPD via three pathways: a Training Pathway, a Practice-Plus-Training Pathway, and a Practice-Only Pathway. The Practice-Plus-Training Pathway and the Practice-Only Pathway will be available for a limited time. The detailed requirements of these two pathways are defined in the [eligibility criteria](#).
- 9. Which fellowships meet the requirement for the Training Pathway?** The Training Pathway requires that physicians complete an Emergency Ultrasound Fellowship Accreditation Council (EUFAC)-accredited AEMUS fellowship. EUFAC accredits training programs based on [AEMUS Program Requirements](#). A list of accredited fellowships is available on the [EUFAC website](#).
- 10. I completed an unaccredited fellowship. Why can't I use this to qualify under the Training Pathway?** Completing a fellowship accredited by the EUFAC ensures that the training received meets at least the minimum standards required by the EUFAC. Completing a fellowship that was not accredited at the time of training does not meet this standard.

- 11. I graduated from an unaccredited fellowship that is now EUFAC accredited. Can I apply under the Training Pathway?** No. To apply under the Training Pathway, the fellowship must have been accredited before you graduated from the program. However, you can count the training you received toward the requirements of the Practice-Plus-Training Pathway.
- 12. Why does the Practice-Plus-Training Pathway require 24 months of practice when I've already completed an unaccredited fellowship?** The 24 months of clinical experience needed to fulfill the Practice-Plus-Training Pathway ensures that there is ongoing, spaced, repetitive learning. This pathway also allows physicians to receive some credit for non-EUFAC-accredited training without having to fulfill the Practice-Only Pathway requirements (which include additional years of service, administrative, research, and leadership roles).
- 13. Can I count Ultrasound practice that occurred during my residency or fellowship training toward meeting the Practice-Only or Practice-Plus-Training eligibility criteria?** No. Ultrasound practice that occurs during residency or fellowship training cannot count toward fulfilling practice requirements of the eligibility criteria.
- 14. Will ABEM be selecting which fellowship programs will be accepted to fulfill the training requirement?** No. A designated, independent panel developed the program requirements for ABEM approval. The EUFAC receives and reviews applications from fellowship programs. The programs accredited by EUFAC are considered "ABEM approved" fellowships. Information about applying for program accreditation is available on the [EUFAC website](#).
- 15. What are the "practice/training start date" and " practice/training end date" that are required when requesting an application?** This is the period of time during which you fulfilled the eligibility criteria. For the **Practice-Only Pathway**, this date can go as far back as five years from the day an application is submitted. If an applicant is still practicing, the end date used can be the day the application is submitted. Future end dates can be used, but dates past the current application deadline (December 31, 2021) cannot be used.
- For the **Training-Plus-Practice Pathway**, unaccredited training can go back further than five years. Those who are applying through this pathway can list their combined training and practice dates. For example, if you completed a residency in June 2008, completed an unaccredited fellowship after that date, and are still practicing today, your dates would be July 1, 2008, to the date the application is submitted.
- 16. How long do I have to apply for AEMUS FPD recognition under the Practice-Only or Practice-Plus-Training pathways?** The Practice-Only and Practice-Plus-Training pathways will end on December 31, 2026.
- 17. I completed an unaccredited fellowship more than five years ago. Do I need to apply under the Practice-Only Pathway?** No. To apply under the Training-Plus-Practice Pathway, unaccredited fellowship training can go back further than five years; however, verification of training will be required. If you apply through this pathway, you can list your combined training and practice dates.
- 18. I will begin a EUFAC-accredited training program July 1, 2021. Can I apply for AEMUS in 2021?** No, training must be completed before the end of the application cycle. In some cases, training can go beyond the application cycle but must be completed before the exam administration.

19. Do CMS regulations for fellowships apply to EUFAC-accredited AEMUS fellowships the same way as they do for ACGME-accredited fellowships? No, CMS regulations do not apply to AEMUS fellowships. AEMUS fellowships should be considered similar to other non-ACGME-accredited fellowships within your institution with regard to complement numbers and CMS funding. Specific requirements related to funding are incorporated broadly into the [AEMUS Program Requirements](#). Please refer to Sections I.A, I.B, and II.D. For questions related to fellowship funding, you are encouraged to seek guidance from your institution's Designated Institutional Official.

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