

American Board of Emergency Medicine

**ABEM Information for Medical School Graduates  
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)**

- 1. Why choose an Emergency Medicine residency?** Emergency Medicine (EM) residency training encompasses the content and scope of the specialty. Successful completion of an Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME)- or Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC)-accredited EM training defines adequate breadth and depth of experience in the specialty and meets ABEM's minimum certification training requirements.
- 2. Is there an in-training exam for residents?** Yes. The purpose of the annual In-training Exam is to prepare residents to take the ABEM Qualifying Examination. The 5-day testing window begins the last Tuesday in February each year.
- 3. What are the steps to achieve certification after residency graduation?** There are three steps for physicians to achieve certification in Emergency Medicine: 1) apply to ABEM for certification and receive approval as meeting the credentialing requirements, 2) pass the ABEM Qualifying Examination, and 3) pass the ABEM Oral Certification Examination.
- 4. When can I apply for ABEM initial certification?** Residents can apply for initial certification during the application cycle that starts in April of the year of their graduation, as long as they will graduate on or before October 31 of that year.
- 5. What is the value of ABEM certification?** ABEM certification is an accomplishment of which an emergency physician can take pride. It signifies that the physician has fulfilled the highest standards of professional development. It represents emergency physicians' highest professional credential, reflecting that they have met an externally developed national standard.
- 6. What is ABEM's mission?** To ensure the highest standards in the specialty of Emergency Medicine.
- 7. What is ABEM's purpose?**
  - To improve the quality of emergency medical care
  - To establish and maintain high standards of excellence in Emergency Medicine and subspecialties
  - To enhance Emergency Medicine education and related subspecialties
  - To evaluate physicians and promote professional development through initial and continuous certification in Emergency Medicine and its subspecialties
  - To certify physicians who have demonstrated special knowledge and skills in Emergency Medicine and its subspecialties
  - To enhance the value of certification for ABEM diplomates
  - To serve the public and medical profession by reporting the certification status of ABEM diplomates

Questions? Contact ABEM at 517-332-4800 ext. 388 or email [training@abem.org](mailto:training@abem.org).

**April 2018**