



ABA ALTERNATE ENTRY PATH (AEP) INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES

Objective

We provide an alternate entry path that could result in the addition of outstanding anesthesiology academicians moving to the United States (U.S.) to become productive members of U.S. academic anesthesiology programs. Internationally trained and certified anesthesiologists may spend four years in an academic anesthesiology training program as fellows, researchers or faculty members. Participants are expected to actively participate in departmental educational activities and to otherwise retain or gain basic anesthesiology knowledge and experience that would help them to attain ABA certification. All participants in the AEP program must take the In-Training Examination (ITE) annually. If a participant achieves an ITE score of 40 or higher, they will no longer be required to take the examination.

Qualifications

To be considered for entry into the AEP program, applicants must have a pre-existing track record of scholarship as represented by the scholarship of discovery, dissemination and application. The scholarship of discovery is accomplished by obtaining peer-reviewed funding or by publication of original research in peer-reviewed journals. The scholarship of dissemination is accomplished by publication of review articles in peer-reviewed journals or chapters in text books. The scholarship of application is accomplished by publication of case reports or clinical series at local, regional, or national professional and scientific society meetings. High-quality ongoing scholarship is critical to acceptance into the AEP program.

Internationally trained and certified anesthesiologists interested in using the Alternate Entry Path must complete a total of four years of continuous experience in one anesthesiology department that commences on or after July 1, 2007. The Board's Credentials Committee must prospectively approve the four-year program planned for the international medical graduate. At the time the anesthesiology department enrolls the international medical graduate in the AEP program, the department must have an anesthesiology residency or fellowship training program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) that has continued full accreditation. **An anesthesiology department can have no more than four international medical graduates enrolled in the AEP program at one time.**

The chair of the anesthesiology department that sponsors the internationally certified anesthesiologist must submit a four-year plan, co-signed by the physician, for prospective approval by the ABA Credentials Committee. We must receive the four-year plan no later than four months before the department enrolls the internationally certified anesthesiologist in the AEP program and the four-year period of continuous experience commences.

The experiences planned for the internationally certified anesthesiologist will consist of four years of fellowship training, research, or faculty experience or combination thereof. During the four-year period, these anesthesiologists shall demonstrate discovery of new knowledge in the specialty, excellence in teaching and excellence in clinical anesthesiology. The four-year experience must be in the same institution in which the anesthesiology program resides. The four-year plan should be specifically designed and identified for the candidate, including the anticipated research activity.

Periodic Evaluation Reports

At six-month intervals, the department chair must attest that the AEP physician is still a fellow or faculty

member with a full-time primary appointment in an ACGME-accredited program, or is still actively engaged in research. At the same time, the department chair will provide an assessment of the physician's performance during the preceding six months relative to the American Board of Medical Specialties- and ACGME-approved six general physician competencies.

Entrance Requirements

Internationally trained and certified anesthesiologists practicing in the U.S. may use the AEP program once to qualify for admission to the primary certification examination system. Before we will accept an AEP participant as a candidate for primary certification, the physician must complete satisfactorily the four-year program of continuous experience in one anesthesiology department that was planned by the department chair and prospectively approved by the ABA Credentials Committee. The Staged Examinations Policy Book (Booklet of Information), which is available at www.theABA.org, lists the registration eligibility requirements all registrants must fulfill to be accepted as a candidate for initial certification.