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FORMER DIRECTORS

T. Drysdale Buchanan, M.D. .................... 1938-1940
John S. Lundy, M.D. ................................. 1938-1955
E. A. Rovenstine, M.D. ............................. 1938-1948
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Philip D. Woodbridge, M.D. ...................... 1938-1947
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Meyer Saklad, M.D. .................................. 1944-1956
Rolland J. Whitacre, M.D. ......................... 1947-1956
John W. Winter, M.D. ............................... 1947-1950
Curtiss B. Hickcox, M.D. ........................... 1948-1959
Donald L. Burdick, M.D. ........................... 1949-1962
Frederick P. Haugen, M.D. ....................... 1949-1962
Stuart C. Cullen, M.D. ............................. 1950-1962
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Robert D. Dripps, M.D. ............................ 1956-1967
E. M. Papper, M.D. ................................. 1956-1965
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David M. Little, Jr., M.D. .......................... 1961-1972
James H. Matthews, M.D. .......................... 1962-1971
Robert T. Patrick, M.D. ........................... 1962-1974
James E. Eckenhoff, M.D. ......................... 1965-1973
Albert M. Betcher, M.D. ........................... 1967-1975
Arthur S. Keats, M.D. .............................. 1967-1979
Donald W. Benson, M.D. ........................... 1969-1981
Richard A. Theye, M.D. ........................... 1969-1976
E. O. Henschel, M.D. .............................. 1971-1975
E. S. Siker, M.D. ................................. 1971-1983
Oral B. Crawford, M.D. .......................... 1972-1984
Robert M. Epstein, M.D. .......................... 1972-1984
Harry H. Bird, M.D. ............................... 1973-1985
C. Philip Larson, Jr., M.D. ....................... 1973-1985
Martin Helrich, M.D. .............................. 1974-1986
Richard J. Kitz, M.D. .............................. 1974-1986
James F. Arens, M.D. .............................. 1975-1987
Wendell C. Stevens, M.D. ......................... 1975-1988
Alan D. Sessler, M.D. ............................. 1977-1989
Stephen Slogoff, M.D. ............................ 1981-1993
Carl C. Hug, Jr., M.D., Ph.D. ..................... 1984-1996
William D. Owens, M.D. ........................... 1984-1996
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Lawrence J. Saidman, M.D. ....................... 1985-1997
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2017 – 2018 OFFICERS

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1.01 GENERAL INFORMATION

The American Board of Anesthesiology, Inc. (the ABA or Board) publishes its policy book to inform all interested individuals of the policies, procedures, regulations and requirements governing its certification programs. The Board reserves the right to amend the policy book from time to time without advance notice. There are several chapters in this book that apply to individuals in different situations:

- Traditional Examinations (Primary Certification in Anesthesiology)
- Staged Examinations (Primary Certification in Anesthesiology)
- Maintenance of Certification in Anesthesiology™ (MOCA 2.0®) program
- Traditional Maintenance of Certification in Anesthesiology™ (MOCA®) program
- Subspecialty Certification
- Subspecialty Recertification

The chair of the anesthesiology department is ultimately responsible for the residency program. The ABA corresponds officially about training matters with the department chair and the department chair’s appointed program director. If the chair notifies the ABA that a faculty member has been appointed as a designated official with responsibility for coordinating the administration of the program, the ABA corresponds with the department chair and program director about training matters and sends the designated official a copy of the correspondence.

The program must ensure that each resident's/fellow's training fulfills all criteria for entering the ABA examination system. However, it is crucial that the resident/fellow know the requirements described in the policy book, since the resident/fellow ultimately holds responsibility for compliance with the requirements and bears the consequences if one or more aspects of training prove unacceptable. This is especially important when requests are made for special training sequences or sites, or for exemptions. If, after speaking with the program director, there is any question about the acceptability of any portion of training, the resident/fellow should write to the Secretary of the ABA at the ABA office.

Physicians taking ABA examinations have the ultimate responsibility to know and comply with the Board’s policies, procedures, requirements and deadlines regarding admission to and opportunities for examination.

1.02 MISSION AND PURPOSES

The ABA mission is to advance the highest standards of the practice of anesthesiology. The ABA exists to:

**A. Advance the highest standards of practice by fostering lifelong education in anesthesiology, which the ABA defines as the practice of medicine dealing with but not limited to:**

1. Assessment of, consultation for, and preparation of patients for anesthesia.
2. Relief and prevention of pain during and following surgical, obstetric, therapeutic and diagnostic procedures.
3. Monitoring and maintenance of normal physiology during the perioperative or periprocedural period.
5. Diagnosis and treatment of acute, chronic and cancer-related pain.
7. Clinical management and teaching of cardiac, pulmonary and neurologic resuscitation.
(9) Conduct of clinical, translational and basic science research.

(10) Supervision, teaching and evaluation of performance of both medical and allied health personnel involved in perioperative or periprocedural care, hospice and palliative care, critical care and pain management.

(11) Administrative involvement in health care facilities and organizations, and medical schools as appropriate to the ABA’s mission.

B. Establish and maintain criteria for the designation of a Board-certified and subspecialty certified anesthesiologist as described in the ABA’s policy book.

C. Inform the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) concerning the training required of individuals seeking certification as such requirements relate to residency and fellowship training programs in anesthesiology.

D. Establish and conduct those processes by which the Board may judge whether a physician who voluntarily applies should be issued a certificate indicating that the required standards for certification or maintenance of certification as a diplomate of the ABA in anesthesiology or its subspecialties have been met.

A board-certified anesthesiologist is a physician who provides medical management and consultation during the perioperative period in pain medicine and in critical care medicine. A diplomate of the Board must possess knowledge, judgment, adaptability, clinical skills, technical facility and personal characteristics sufficient to carry out the entire scope of anesthesiology practice independently, without accommodation or with reasonable accommodation. An ABA diplomate must logically organize and effectively present rational diagnoses and appropriate treatment protocols to peers, patients, their families and others involved in the medical community. A diplomate can serve as an expert in matters related to anesthesiology, deliberate with others, and provide advice and defend opinions in all aspects of the specialty of anesthesiology. A board-certified anesthesiologist is able to function as the leader of the anesthesiology care team.

Because of the nature of anesthesiology, the ABA diplomate must be able to manage emergent life-threatening situations in an independent and timely fashion. The ability to independently acquire and process information in a timely manner is central to ensure individual responsibility for all aspects of anesthesiology care. Adequate physical and sensory faculties, such as eyesight, hearing, speech and coordinated function of the extremities, are essential to the independent performance of the board-certified anesthesiologist. Freedom from the influence of or dependency on chemical substances that impair cognitive, physical, sensory or motor function is also an essential characteristic of the Board-certified anesthesiologist.

E. Serve the public, medical profession, health care facilities and organizations, medical schools and licensing boards by providing the names of physicians certified by the Board.
ABA TRADEMARKS AND CERTIFICATION MARKS

The ABA is the owner of the following trademarks and certification marks:

A. The ABA certification mark and seal:

![ABA Certification Mark and Seal]

B. The American Board of Anesthesiology®

C. Maintenance of Certification in Anesthesiology™ (MOCA®) program

D. MOCA®

E. MOCA Minute®

F. MOCA 2.0®

Each of these marks is a registered mark with the United States Patent and Trademark Office as shown.

FEES

The ABA is a nonprofit organization. Fees are based on the cost of maintaining the functions of the ABA.

Registration fees vary by date received. Current fees are posted on the ABA website at www.theABA.org. The Board reserves the right to change fees when necessary. All fees paid to the ABA are non-refundable except when:

- an individual withdraws from residency or fellowship training and has a fee on account.
- an individual passes away and has a fee on account.

STATUS OF INDIVIDUALS

The ABA reserves the right to define an individual’s status relative to its examination and certification system. Status is limited to the period of time the physician’s certification or registration for certification is valid.

The ABA defines clinically active as spending, on average, at least one day per week during 12 consecutive months over the previous three years in the clinical practice of anesthesiology and/or related subspecialties. This activity must involve patients having a varied degree of systemic disease and who are undergoing surgery or diagnostic procedures requiring anesthetic care, and must be consistent with currently relevant knowledge of pharmacology, physiology and medicine.

The ABA has defined the following certification statuses:

- Certified
- Certified – Not Clinically Active
- Certified – Retired
- Expired
- Retired
- Revoked
Diplomates designated by the ABA as “Certified - Not Clinically Active” have attested to the ABA that they do not meet the ABA definition of clinical activity. Diplomates designated by the Board as “Certified – Retired” or “Retired” have attested to the ABA that they do not meet the ABA definition of clinical activity and do not plan to return to the practice of anesthesiology at any time in the future. Diplomates with a certification status of “Retired” or “Revoked” have to register with the ABA to re-attain “Certified” status (see Section 8.07).

An individual’s current status relative to the ABA examination and certification system may be confirmed at no charge via the ABA Diplomate and Candidate Directory on the Board website at www.theABA.org, which is the official source for verification of ABA certification status. The fee for written confirmation of an individual’s status is $35.00.

Inquiries about the current status of individuals should be addressed to the ABA office. In addition to the physician’s full name, inquiries should include other identification information if available. The ABA responds to inquiries with one or more of the following statements:

- The physician is certified by the ABA.
- The physician is currently enrolled in one or more ABA Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Program (Anesthesiology, Critical Care Medicine, Hospice and Palliative Medicine, Pain Medicine, Pediatric Anesthesiology, Sleep Medicine).
  - The physician is participating in MOC.
  - The physician is not participating in MOC.
  - The physician is not required to participate in MOC.
- The physician currently is not clinically active.
- The physician is retired from the practice of anesthesiology.
- The physician was certified by the ABA from (date of certification) to (date certification expired).
- The ABA revoked the physician’s certification, which had been in effect from (date of certification) to (date of revocation).
- The physician is a candidate in the ABA examination system (see Sections 2.10, 3.06.A and 6.09.C for the definition of a “candidate”).
- The physician has never been certified by the ABA.

The ABA will affirm the status of physicians who are certified in a subspecialty by the Board.

The ABA will affirm the status of diplomates in the Maintenance of Certification in Anesthesiology™ (MOCA®) program.

The ABA does not recognize “Board Eligible” as a physician status relative to the ABA examination system for primary certification in anesthesiology. Therefore, physicians should refrain from making any representations of being “Board Eligible.”

The certification marks and trademarks identified in Section 1.03 are owned by The American Board of Anesthesiology, Inc., and only the ABA has any legal rights with respect to the ownership of such marks. In the event the ABA has reason to believe that individuals have misappropriated its certification marks for the purpose of misrepresenting their ABA certification status or for some other purpose, the ABA will aggressively defend the integrity of such marks, including but not limited to pursuing all legal remedies at law and in equity. After an investigation has been concluded and an individual has been determined to have committed such acts, the ABA may impose any of its own restrictions on the eligibility of the individual to participate in the ABA examination system, including but not limited to permanent exclusion from entrance to its examination system; and the ABA shall notify any state medical licensure board known by it to have licensed the individual.
2.01 CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

At the time of certification by the ABA, the candidate must:

A. Hold an unexpired license to practice medicine or osteopathy in at least one state or jurisdiction of the United States or province of Canada that is permanent, unconditional and unrestricted. Further, every United States and Canadian medical license the candidate holds must be free of restrictions.

Candidates for initial certification and ABA diplomates have the affirmative obligation to advise the ABA of any and all restrictions placed on any of their medical licenses, and to provide the ABA with complete information concerning such restrictions within 60 days after their imposition or notice, whichever first occurs. Such information shall include, but not be limited to, the identity of the State Medical Board imposing the restriction as well as the restriction’s duration, basis, and specific terms and conditions. Candidates and diplomates discovered not to have made disclosure may be subject to sanctions on their candidate or diplomate status.

The ABA must receive acceptable evidence of the candidate having satisfied the licensure requirement for certification by Nov. 15 of the Part 2 Examination administration year.

B. Have fulfilled all the requirements of the continuum of education in anesthesiology.

C. Have on file with the ABA a Certificate of Clinical Competence with an overall satisfactory rating covering the final six-month period of clinical anesthesia training in each anesthesiology residency program.

D. Have satisfied all examination requirements of the Board.

E. Have a professional standing satisfactory to the ABA (see Section 8.06).

F. Be capable of performing independently the entire scope of anesthesiology practice without accommodation or with reasonable accommodation (see Sections 1.02.A and 1.02.D).

Although admission into the ABA examination system and success with the examinations are important steps in the ABA certification process, they do not by themselves guarantee certification. The Board reserves the right to make the final determination of whether each candidate meets all of the requirements for certification, including A, E and F above, after successful completion of examinations for certification.

ABA certificates in anesthesiology issued on or after Jan. 1, 2000, are valid for 10 years after the year the candidate passes the examination for certification. ABA certificates are subject to ABA rules and regulations, including its policy book, all of which may be amended from time to time without further notice.

A person certified by the ABA is designated a diplomate in publications of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) and the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA).
The continuum of education in anesthesiology consists of four years of full-time training subsequent to the date that the medical or osteopathic degree has been conferred. To be eligible for appointment to an ACGME-accredited program at the time of enrollment, the residency training program will verify that a resident has graduated from a medical school in a state or jurisdiction of the U.S. or in Canada that was accredited at the date of graduation by the Liaison Committee of Medical Education, the Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools, or the American Osteopathic Association. Graduates of medical schools outside the jurisdiction of the U.S. and Canada must have one of the following: a permanent (valid indefinitely) certificate from the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG), comparable credentials from the Medical Council of Canada, or documentation of training for those who entered postdoctoral medical training in the U.S. via the Fifth Pathway as proposed by the American Medical Association.

The continuum consists of a clinical base year and 36 months of approved training in anesthesia (CA-1, CA-2 and CA-3 years). Prospective ABA approval is required for exceptions to ABA policies regarding the training planned for individual residents.

A. During the clinical base year, the physician must be enrolled and training as a resident in a transitional year or primary specialty training program in the United States or its territories that is accredited by the ACGME or approved by the American Osteopathic Association (AOA), or outside the United States and its territories in institutions affiliated with medical schools approved by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education from the date the training begins to the date it ends. Training as a fellow in a subspecialty program is not an acceptable clinical base experience.

The clinical base year must include at least six months of clinical rotations during which the resident has responsibility for the diagnosis and treatment of patients with a variety of medical and surgical problems, of which at most one month may involve the administration of anesthesia and one month of pain medicine. Acceptable clinical base experiences include training in internal medicine, pediatrics, surgery or any of their subspecialties, obstetrics and gynecology, neurology, family medicine or any combination of these as approved for residents by the directors of their training programs in anesthesiology. The clinical base year should also include rotations in critical care and emergency medicine, with at least one month, but no more than two months, devoted to each. Other rotations completing the 12 months of broad education should be relevant to the practice of anesthesiology.

The resident must complete the clinical base year before beginning CA-3 year clinical rotations.

B. The three-year clinical anesthesia curriculum (CA 1-3) consists of experience in basic anesthesia training, subspecialty anesthesia training and advanced anesthesia training. It is a graded curriculum of increasing difficulty and learning that is progressively more challenging of the resident’s intellect and technical skills.

1) Experience in basic anesthesia training is intended to emphasize basic and fundamental aspects of the management of anesthesia. It is recommended that at least 12 months of the CA-1 and CA-2 years be spent in basic anesthesia training with a majority of this time occurring during the CA-1 year.

2) Subspecialty anesthesia training is required to emphasize the theoretical background, subject material and practice of subdisciplines of anesthesiology. These subdisciplines include obstetric anesthesia, pediatric anesthesia, cardiothoracic anesthesia, neuroanesthesia, anesthesia for outpatient surgery, recovery room care, perioperative evaluation, regional anesthesia and pain medicine. It is recommended that these experiences be subspecialty rotations and occur in the CA-1 and CA-2 years. The sequencing of these rotations in the CA-1 and CA-2 years is left to the discretion of the program director.
By the end of the CA-3 year, required experiences in perioperative care must include four months of distinct rotations in critical care medicine with progressive responsibility and three months in pain medicine that may include one month in an acute perioperative pain management rotation, one month in a rotation for assessment and treatment of inpatients and outpatients with chronic pain, and one month of regional analgesia experience in pain medicine. Experiences in these rotations must emphasize the fundamental aspects of anesthesia, preoperative evaluation and immediate postoperative care of surgical patients, and assessment and treatment of critically ill patients and those with acute and chronic pain. An acceptable critical care rotation should include active participation in patient care, active involvement by anesthesia faculty experienced in the practice and teaching of critical care and an appropriate population of critically ill patients. Experience in short-term, overnight post-anesthesia units, intermediate step-down units or emergency rooms does not fulfill this requirement.

(3) **Experience in advanced anesthesia training** constitutes the CA-3 year. The program director, in collaboration with the resident, will design the resident’s CA-3 year of training. The CA-3 year is a distinctly different experience than the CA 1-2 years, requiring progressively more complex training experiences and increased independence and responsibility for the resident. Resident assignments in the CA-3 year should include the more difficult or complex anesthetic procedures and care of the most seriously ill patients. Residents must complete the clinical base and CA 1-2 years of training before they begin clinical rotations in fulfillment of the CA-3 year requirement.

CA-3 residents are required to complete a minimum of six months of advanced anesthesia training. They may spend the remaining months in advanced anesthesia training in one to three selected subspecialty rotations, or in research. Residents may train in one anesthesia subspecialty for at most six months during the CA-3 year and no more than 12 months during the CA 1-3 years. The training must culminate in sufficiently independent responsibility for clinical decision-making and patient care so that the graduating resident demonstrates sound clinical judgment in a wide variety of clinical situations and can function as a leader of perioperative care teams.

(4) **There are options for research during the anesthesiology residency.** Interested residents could spend approximately 25 percent of a three- or four-year training program, and 38 percent of a five-year program, engaged in scholarly activities. Suggested templates for research during the anesthesiology residency are posted on the ABA website at www.theABA.org. The program director must develop a plan with strict guidelines for research activity and “work product” oversight if a resident’s research activities will be more than six months. The resident must be enrolled in an ACGME-accredited anesthesiology program and remain active in the educational component of the program while pursuing research.

Involvement in scholarly activities must result in the generation of a specific permanent “work product.” Review of scholarly activity and the permanent work product will occur at the local level by a Scholarship Oversight Committee responsible for overseeing and assessing the trainee’s progress and verifying to the ABA that the requirement has been met. The Scholarship Oversight Committee must consist of three or more faculty members. The program director may serve as a trainee’s mentor and participate in the activities of the Scholarship Oversight Committee, but should not be a standing member.

The following exceptions will be considered by application to the ABA Credentials Committee (at least four months in advance):

- Aggregating research time normally allocated across the clinical base and clinical anesthesia years into one or more years, allowing a significant amount of time to be used for research as a block.
- Leave of absence from the clinical program for research activities.
- Additional months in research, especially if the research is prospectively integrated in the training program.
A resident can receive credit for research activities, provided that the resident has at least six months of satisfactory clinical anesthesia (CA) training on file with the ABA prior to beginning research. If a resident receives an unsatisfactory Certificate of Clinical Competence Report immediately preceding any research activity, no credit will be given for the research activity unless prospectively approved by the Credentials Committee of the ABA.

C. The ABA grants a resident credit toward the CA 1-3 year requirements for clinical anesthesia training that satisfy all four of the following conditions:

1. The CA 1-3 years of training are spent as a resident enrolled with the ABA by no more than two ACGME-accredited anesthesiology residency programs in the United States or its territories. An ACGME-accredited program includes the sponsoring (parent) institution and major participating institutions (i.e., institutions that have an RRC-approved integration or affiliation agreement with the sponsoring institution). All three years of CA training must occur in programs that are accredited by the ACGME for the entire period of training.

2. The period of clinical anesthesia training as an enrolled resident of any single program is at least six months of uninterrupted training.

3. The six-month period of clinical anesthesia training in any one program ends with receipt of a satisfactory Certificate of Clinical Competence. To receive credit from the ABA for a six-month period of clinical anesthesia training that is not satisfactory, the resident must immediately complete an additional six months of uninterrupted clinical anesthesia training, not including research, in the same program with receipt of a satisfactory Certificate of Clinical Competence. A resident with an unsatisfactory training period reported with gaps in training (e.g. leave of absence) will not receive credit for any training reported prior to the gap in the period because it was not immediately followed by six months of uninterrupted clinical anesthesia training. If a resident receives consecutive Certificates of Clinical Competence that are not satisfactory, additional training is required.

When a resident receives a satisfactory Certificate of Clinical Competence immediately following consecutive periods of training that are not satisfactory, the ABA will grant credit only for the period of satisfactory training and the most recent of the periods of unsatisfactory training immediately preceding it.

For residents who receive an unsatisfactory Certificate of Clinical Competence for a period of training completed in an integrated training program where clinical base year rotations are intermingled with clinical anesthesia rotations, the Credentials Committee of the ABA shall determine the amount of training credit granted for the unsatisfactory period.

4. Residents have the option to complete training away from their ACGME-accredited anesthesiology programs. This option is not available during the last three months of residents' CA-3 year or until after they complete at least one year of clinical anesthesia training, unless the training will be in another ACGME-accredited anesthesiology program.

Current Residency Review Committee requirements limit training in institutions not integrated with the resident’s ACGME-accredited program to a maximum of 12 months throughout the CA 1-3 years. The ABA will accept no more than six of these months in institutions not affiliated with the ACGME-accredited program. Therefore, residents must complete a minimum of 24 months of clinical anesthesia training in their ACGME-accredited program’s parent and integrated institutions and may complete at most six months of clinical anesthesia training away from their ACGME-accredited program.

The Credentials Committee of the ABA 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 2.02.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 Certificate of Clinical Competence report filed for the period involved.

D. The Credentials Committee of the ABA will assess individually requests for part-time training. Prospective approval is required for alteration in the number of hours per week of training or alteration in the temporal distribution of the training hours (e.g., substantially different night and weekend hours) from other residents in the program. It is expected that residents will take not more than twice the “standard time” to achieve the level of knowledge and clinical experience comparable to a full-time resident completing the program in standard time. Residents who train on a part-time basis are expected to meet all the program’s didactic requirements before training is complete.

Requests for part-time training must be in writing from the program director and countersigned by the department chair (if that is another person), the hospital’s Designated Institutional Officer (DIO), and the resident. The letter must include: (1) the reason for the part-time training request, (2) documentation about how all clinical experiences and educational objectives will be met, (3) assurance that the part-time training program will teach continuity-of-care and professionalism and (4) an explanation about how the part-time training program will maintain the overall quality, content and academic standards/clinical experiences of the training program required of a full-time trainee.

E. Prospective approval is required for exceptions to ABA policies regarding the training planned for individual residents [see Sections 2.02.B (3) and 2.02.C (4)]. The Credentials Committee of the ABA considers requests for prospective approval on an individual basis. The ABA office must receive the request from the program director on behalf of a resident at least four months before the resident begins the training in question. It is the responsibility of the program director and the resident to ensure that the request is received in a timely manner.

2.03 ABSENCE FROM TRAINING

The total of any and all absences may not exceed 60 working days (12 weeks) during the CA 1-3 years of training. Attendance at scientific meetings, not to exceed five working days per year, shall be considered a part of the training program. Duration of absence during the clinical base year may conform to the policy of the institution and department in which that portion of the training is served. Absences in excess of those specified will require lengthening of the total training time to the extent of the additional absence. A lengthy interruption in training may have a deleterious effect upon the resident’s knowledge or clinical competence. Therefore, when there is an absence for a period in excess of six months, the Credentials Committee of the ABA shall determine the number of months of training the resident will have to complete subsequent to resumption of the residency program to satisfy the training required for admission to the ABA examination system.

2.04 CERTIFICATE OF CLINICAL COMPETENCE

The Board requires every residency training program to file, on forms provided by the Board, an Evaluation of Clinical Competence in January and July on behalf of each resident who has spent any portion of the prior six months in clinical anesthesia training in or under the sponsorship of the residency program and its affiliates. The program director or department chair must not chair the Clinical Competence Committee.

Entry into the ABA examination system is contingent upon the registrant having a Certificate of Clinical Competence on file with the Board attesting to satisfactory clinical competence during the final period of clinical anesthesia training in or under the sponsorship of each program [see Section 2.02.C (3) for details]. The Board, therefore, will deny entry into the ABA examination system until this requirement is fulfilled.
Residents who wish to appeal an Evaluation of Clinical Competence, and registrants who wish to appeal final recommendations from the program director or department chair, must do so through the reporting institution’s grievance and due process procedures.

2.05 PROGRAM DIRECTOR REFERENCE FORM

The Board requires every residency Program director to file, on forms provided by the Board, a Program director Reference Form on behalf of each resident upon graduation from the residency program. Information is requested regarding the professional standing, abilities and character of the candidate. This evaluation will be used by the ABA as the basis for assessing a resident’s entrance into the ABA examination system.

Entry into the ABA examination system is contingent upon the program directors’ recommendation. The Board, therefore, will deny entry into the ABA examination system until this requirement is fulfilled.

Residents who wish to appeal a final recommendation from the program director or department chair must do so through the reporting institution’s grievance and due process procedures.

2.06 OVERVIEW OF PRIMARY CERTIFICATION EXAMINATIONS

The examination system for ABA primary certification in anesthesiology has two distinct parts, the Part 1 Examination and the Part 2 Examination. Each is designed to assess different qualities of a board-certified anesthesiologist as previously defined in Section 1.02.D. It is necessary for candidates to pass the Part 1 Examination to qualify for the Part 2 Examination.

Beginning in 2017, the new staged examinations process consisting of BASIC, ADVANCED and APPLIED examinations, will begin to replace the traditional Part 1 and Part 2 Examinations. ABA candidates who began the four-year continuum of education in anesthesiology on or after July 2012 and will complete residency training on or after June 30, 2016 will participate in the staged examination process. The Part 1 Examination will still be offered to eligible individuals (those who completed residency training before June 30, 2016) until it is passed, or until it is no longer possible to satisfy examination requirements within the defined duration of candidate status (see Section 2.10). Candidates who did not pass the Part 2 Examination in 2016 will take the Standardized Oral Examination (SOE) component of the APPLIED Examination in 2017 and later to satisfy the Part 2 Examination requirement. Candidates will have one examination appointment per calendar year to satisfy the examination requirements. Details of these examinations can be found in the Staged Examinations section.

A. Part 1 Examination

The Part 1 Examination is designed to assess the candidate’s knowledge of basic and clinical sciences as applied to anesthesiology. The Part 1 Examination is held annually in locations throughout the United States and Canada. A passing grade, as determined by the Board, is required. The Part 1 Examination will be administered by computer through a third-party testing vendor.

Examination dates are available on the last page of this section. However, for the most current examination dates please visit the ABA website at [www.theABA.org](http://www.theABA.org), which is the official source of ABA examination dates and deadlines. Current fees are published on the ABA website at [www.theABA.org](http://www.theABA.org).

B. Part 2 Examination

The Part 2 Examination assesses the candidate’s ability to demonstrate the attributes of an ABA diplomate when managing patients presented in clinical scenarios. The attributes are sound judgment in decision making and management of surgical and anesthetic complications, appropriate application of scientific principles to clinical problems, adaptability to unexpected changes in the clinical situations, and logical organization and effective presentation of information. The Part 2 Examination emphasizes the scientific rationale underlying clinical management decisions. Examiners are Directors of the Board and
other ABA diplomates who assist as associate examiners. A passing grade, as determined by the Board, is required.

The Part 2 Examination is administered several times each year at the ABA Assessment Center in Raleigh, NC. Individuals who did not pass the Part 2 Examination in 2016 will take the Standardized Oral Examination (SOE) component of the APPLIED Examination in 2017 and later at the ABA Assessment Center in Raleigh, NC; however, they can only schedule one examination appointment per calendar year. Descriptions of these examinations can be found in the Staged Examinations section.

Part 1 and Part 2 Examination dates are available on the last page of this section. However, for the most current examination dates please visit the ABA website at www.theABA.org, which is the official source of ABA examination dates and deadlines.

The ABA must receive acceptable evidence of the candidate having satisfied the licensure requirement for certification by Nov. 15 of the Part 2 Examination administration year (see Section 2.01.A). Training and expired licenses do not fulfill this licensure requirement for certification. Candidates must inform the ABA of any conditions or restrictions in force on any active medical license they hold. When there is a restriction or condition in force on any of the candidate’s medical licenses, the Credentials Committee of the ABA will determine whether, and on what terms, the candidate shall be permitted to take the Part 2 Examination.

The ABA will not validate the results of candidates who take the Part 2 Examination and do not fulfill the licensure requirement by the deadline.

C. ABA examinations are administered to all candidates under the same standardized testing conditions. The Board will consider a candidate’s complaint about the testing conditions under which an ABA examination was administered only if the complaint is received within one week of the examination date.

2.07 REGISTRATION ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

At the time of registration for entrance to the ABA examination system, the registrant must:

A. Have on file in the ABA office evidence of having satisfactorily fulfilled all requirements of the continuum of education in anesthesiology before the date of the Part 1 Examination. Such evidence must include a satisfactory Certificate of Clinical Competence covering the final six months of clinical anesthesia training in each residency program [see Sections 2.02.C (3) for details]. A grace period will be permitted so that registrants completing this requirement by Sept. 30 may register for the immediately preceding the Part 1 Examination.

B. Have on file with the Board documentation attesting to the registrant’s current privileges and evaluations of various aspects of their current practice of anesthesiology. Such evaluations will include verification that the registrants meet the Board’s clinical activity requirement by spending, on average, at least one day per week during 12 consecutive months over the previous three years in the clinical practice of anesthesiology and/or related subspecialties. The ABA may solicit such documentation and evaluations from the residency program director or others familiar with the registrant’s current practice of anesthesiology and use them in determining the resident’s qualifications for admission to the ABA examination system. The Certificate of Clinical Competence Report from the department and the evaluation of the program director and others will be used as the basis for assessing admission qualifications.

C. Be capable of performing independently the entire scope of anesthesiology practice without accommodation or with reasonable accommodation (see Sections 1.02.A and 1.02.D).
The ABA will not validate the results of registrants who take the Part 1 Examination and do not fulfill those conditions identified above by the deadlines.

The ABA shall determine that entry into its examination system is warranted when required information submitted by and on behalf of the registrant is satisfactory. The ABA will notify a registrant who is accepted as a candidate for certification after approval of all credentials.

Although admission into the ABA examination system and success with the examinations are important steps in the ABA certification process, they do not by themselves guarantee certification. The Board reserves the right to make the final determination of whether each candidate meets all of the requirements for certification (see Section 2.01 and Section 2.11).

The Board, acting as a committee of the whole, reserves the right not to accept a registration. The registrant has the right to seek review of such decisions (see Section 8.05).

The Board reserves the right to correct clerical errors affecting its decisions.

2.08 REGISTRATION PROCEDURE

A. Registration for admission to the ABA examination system must be made using the ABA Physician Portal, which can be accessed via the ABA website at www.theABA.org.

B. Registration includes the following Acknowledgement and Release forms, which the registrant shall be required to sign by electronic signature:

1. I, the undersigned registrant ("registrant"), hereby agree to participate in the American Board of Anesthesiology, Inc.'s ("ABA") primary certification program. I acknowledge that my participation is subject to the ABA rules and regulations. I further acknowledge and agree that if I withdraw my registration or the ABA does not accept it, the ABA will retain the registration fee and any late fee.

I represent and warrant to the ABA that all information I provide to the ABA is true, correct and complete in all material respects. I understand and acknowledge that any material misstatement or omission over the course of my primary certification program shall, at any time, constitute cause for disqualification from the ABA examination system or from the issuance of an ABA certificate or to forfeiture and redelivery of such ABA certificate to the ABA.

I agree that this acknowledgement, as submitted by me, shall survive the electronic submission of the registration, regardless of whether the information or data provided in the registration has been reformatted in any manner by the ABA. I also agree that this acknowledgement is a part of and incorporated into the registration, whether submitted along with the registration or not.

I acknowledge that I have read a copy of the ABA Policy Book. I agree to be bound by the policies, rules, regulations and requirements published in the book, in all matters relating to consideration of and action upon this registration and certification should it be granted. I understand that ABA certificates are subject to ABA rules and regulations, all of which may be amended from time to time without further notice. I understand and acknowledge that in the event I have violated any of the ABA rules governing my registration and/or certification, such violations shall constitute cause for disqualification from the ABA examination system or from the issuance of an ABA certificate or for revocation of certification and indication of such action in the ABA Diplomate and Candidate Directory.

2. I, the undersigned registrant ("registrant"), hereby agree to participate in the American Board of Anesthesiology, Inc.'s ("ABA") primary certification program. I acknowledge that participation is subject to the ABA rules and regulations, all of which may be amended from time to time without further notice. In connection with my registration, I authorize all persons holding testimony, records, documents, opinions, information and data relevant to or pertaining to my professional competence and ethical conduct and/or behavior (the "Background Information") to release such Background Information to the ABA, its employees...
and agents. This authorization applies whether or not such persons are listed as a reference on my registration. The Background Information includes any information relating to any abusive use of alcohol and/or illegal use of drugs, and any medical or psychiatric treatment or rehabilitation related thereto. I understand that such Background Information may be used to determine or verify my qualifications for entrance into the ABA entrance examination and ABA certification. A copy of this release may accompany any request made by the ABA for such Background Information.

I authorize the ABA to: (1) report my status in the examination system, including the results of any Part 1 or Part 2 Examination, to the director and department chair of the program from which I received my clinical training; (2) use any score in psychometric analyses to confirm observations and reports of suspected irregularities in the conduct of an examination; and (3) respond to any inquiry about my status in the ABA examination system. I understand and agree that once my examination registration is completed and granted, this consent cannot be withdrawn.

I also authorize the ABA to record the video and audio of my performance during the ABA examinations at the ABA Assessment Center for educational, quality and scoring purposes. Such recordings will be used for ABA internal purposes only and will be retained in accordance with ABA retention policies.

I also understand that the ABA may use any and all Background Information for the purpose of conducting longitudinal studies to assess the ABA certification process. I further understand that the ABA, alone of in collaboration with other researchers, may use information from the registration, testing, assessment and certification process (the “Assessment Information”) to conduct scientific research relating to anesthesiologists, the practice of anesthesiology and/or or the education of anesthesiologists. Any and all information used for research may be reported or released to the public only in the aggregate without any individual identification.

Use of any Background Information or Assessment Information for analysis or research will not impact in any way my individual registration, test results or certification status. I understand and agree that should I not wish for my information to be used for research purposes, prior to taking the exam I must notify the ABA in writing to the attention of researchoptout@theABA.org to opt out and withdraw consent for my information to be used as part of research studies. I cannot opt out and consent cannot be withdrawn once my information has been de-identified and/or aggregated as part of any research study.

I release and agree to hold harmless each person from any liability to me arising out of the giving or releasing of information to the ABA. This release and agreement includes liability for the inaccuracy or untruth of the Information, so long as such Information is provided in good faith. I also release and agree to hold harmless the ABA and its agents and employees, including but not limited to its directors, officers and examiners, from any liability to me as a result of any acts or proceedings undertaken or performed in connection with my registration, provided such acts or proceedings are made or conducted in good faith.

C. Registrants must also attest to their clinical activity every three years while in the examination system.

2.09 EXAMINATION REGISTRATION, SCHEDULING & CANCELLATION

The examination system for ABA primary certification in anesthesiology has two distinct parts, the Part 1 Examination and the Part 2 Examination. Each is designed to assess different qualities of a Board certified anesthesiologist as previously defined in Section 1.02.D. It is necessary for candidates to pass the Part 1 Examination to qualify for the Part 2 Examination.

A. Part 1 Examination

Candidates will register for the examination in the year of the examination and pay a single fee upon registration. The ABA notifies candidates of their eligibility to register for a Part 1 Examination via emails sent to their email address on file in the ABA office. Candidates who register for an examination by the established deadline must pay the registration fee at that time. Current fees are posted on the ABA website at www.theABA.org.
After candidates register for an examination and pay the fee via their ABA portal account, they will be notified via email with instructions on how to schedule an examination appointment with the examination vendor.

B. Part 2 Examination

When a physician passes the Part 1 Examination, they will receive notification from the ABA that they are eligible to register for the Part 2 Examination. The notification is sent to their email address of record on file in the ABA office.

Registration for the Part 2 Examinations is continuous, so there are no registration deadlines. The ABA notifies candidates of their eligibility to register for a Part 2 Examination via their email address on file in the ABA office. Upon notification, these candidates will select an examination week from the list of available weeks posted within their portal accounts. Once a Part 2 Examination week reaches its capacity of appointments, candidates can no longer schedule appointments for that week. Specific examination dates and times within the selected week will be assigned by the ABA. Two months prior to an examination, the ABA will notify candidates of the exact date, time and location of their examination and the rules of examination conduct.

- Candidates who have not been assigned an exam date, time and location may request to change their Part 2 Examination week within the same calendar year; however, the ABA cannot guarantee that a change will be made. To request a change, candidates must send a written request to the ABA office with a check for the Part 2 Examination change fee. Current fees are posted on the ABA website at www.theABA.org.

- Candidates who have been assigned an exam date, time and location may not request to change their Part 2 Examination week. If they do not plan to attend their scheduled exam, they must cancel their examination as defined in Section 2.09.C (1).

C. Notification and Cancellation of Examination Appointments

1. A candidate who cancels a scheduled examination appointment must submit a written request to cancel at least one week prior to the examination administration week. A cancellation fee must accompany the candidate’s request in order to retain the registration fee for the next examination appointment. Current cancellation fees are posted on the ABA website at www.theABA.org.

2. A candidate who misses a scheduled examination appointment because of an unavoidable or catastrophic event must submit a written request with explanation and independent documentation of the event. The ABA must receive the candidate’s request and the cancellation fee no later than three days after the examination date to retain the registration fee for the next examination appointment.

3. A candidate who misses a scheduled examination appointment and does not cancel the scheduled examination appointment forfeits the examination fee.

4. A candidate who cancels or misses a scheduled Part 2 Examination may not schedule another Part 2 Examination in the same calendar year.

D. The ABA office is not responsible for an interruption in communication with a candidate that is due to circumstances beyond its control. Candidates must immediately notify the ABA of a mailing or email address change via their ABA portal account at www.theABA.org, or by writing the ABA office. Candidates must call the ABA office if they do not receive an examination notice they are expecting within the time frames described above. The candidate’s ABA identification number should be included on all correspondence to the Board solely for identification purposes.
2.10 DURATION OF CANDIDATE STATUS

A. The duration of candidate status is limited as follows:

(1) Candidates who completed residency training **prior to Jan. 1, 2012**, must satisfy all requirements for certification by Dec. 31, 2018. Candidates have one examination appointment per calendar year until Jan. 1, 2019, to successfully complete both the Part 1 and Part 2 Examinations and satisfy all other requirements for ABA certification.

(2) Candidates who complete residency training **on or after Jan. 1, 2012**, must satisfy all requirements for certification within seven years of the last day of the year in which residency training was completed. Candidates have one examination appointment per calendar year until seven years of the last day of the year in which residency training was completed to successfully complete both the Part 1 and Part 2 Examinations and satisfy all other requirements for ABA certification.

Physicians will be considered candidates in the ABA examination system when their first registration for primary certification in anesthesiology is accepted. Candidates with two or more prior voided registrations will not be considered candidates in the ABA examination system, regardless of registration status, until they pass the Part 1 Examination.

The ABA does not recognize “Board Eligible” as a physician status relative to the ABA examination system for primary certification in anesthesiology. Therefore, physicians should refrain from making any representations of being “Board Eligible.” (see Section 1.05.)

2.11 REESTABLISHING ELIGIBILITY FOR PRIMARY CERTIFICATION

If a candidate does not satisfy all requirements for certification within the initial seven-year prescribed time period specified in Section 2.10, the ABA will declare the candidate’s registration void. Physicians whose registrations have been voided may submit a new registration after reestablishing eligibility for primary certification. Such registration shall be subject to the fees, rules, privileges and entrance requirements that apply at the time of reregistration. Physicians will only be allowed to reestablish eligibility for primary certification once.

To reestablish eligibility for certification, physicians must take and pass the BASIC Examination to re-enter the ABA examination system for primary certification. After reestablishing eligibility, candidates must satisfy all requirements for certification, including successfully completing the ADVANCED Examination and both the Standardized Oral Examination and Objective Structured Clinical Examination components of the APPLIED Examination, by Dec. 31 of the fourth year following the successful completion of the BASIC Examination. Physicians will be considered candidates in the ABA examination system when their registration for the ADVANCED Examination is accepted.
## TRADITIONAL EXAMINATIONS DEADLINES & EXAMINATION DATES

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<th>2018 PART 1 EXAMINATION</th>
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* There is an additional $500 fee for any registration submitted during the late registration period.
3.01 CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

At the time of certification by the ABA, the candidate must:

A. Hold an unexpired license to practice medicine or osteopathy in at least one state or jurisdiction of the United States or province of Canada that is permanent, unconditional and unrestricted. Further, every United States and Canadian medical license a candidate holds must be free of restrictions.

Candidates for initial certification and ABA diplomates have the affirmative obligation to advise the ABA of any and all restrictions placed on any of their medical licenses, and to provide the ABA with complete information concerning such restrictions within 60 days after their imposition or notice, whichever first occurs. Such information shall include, but not be limited to, the identity of the State Medical Board imposing the restriction as well as the restriction’s duration, basis, and specific terms and conditions. Candidates and diplomates discovered not to have made disclosure may be subject to sanctions on their candidate or diplomate status.

The ABA must receive acceptable evidence of the candidate having satisfied the licensure requirement for certification by Nov. 15 of the APPLIED Examination administration year.

B. Have fulfilled all the requirements of the continuum of education in anesthesiology.

C. Have on file with the ABA a Certificate of Clinical Competence with an overall satisfactory rating covering the final six-month period of clinical anesthesia training in each anesthesia residency program.

D. Have satisfied all examination requirements of the Board.

E. Have a professional standing satisfactory to the ABA (see Section 8.06).

F. Be capable of performing independently the entire scope of anesthesiology practice without accommodation or with reasonable accommodation (see Sections 1.02.A, 1.02.D and 8.09).

Although being a candidate in the ABA Primary Certification Examination System and success with the examinations are important steps in the ABA certification process, they do not by themselves guarantee certification. The Board reserves the right to make the final determination of whether each candidate meets all of the requirements for certification, including A, E and F above, after successful completion of examinations for certification.

ABA certificates in anesthesiology issued on or after Jan. 1, 2000 are valid for 10 years after the year the candidate passes the examination for certification. ABA certificates are subject to ABA rules and regulations, including its policy book, all of which may be amended from time to time without further notice.

A person certified by the ABA is designated as a “diplomate” in publications of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) and the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA).
The continuum of education in anesthesiology consists of four years of full-time training subsequent to the date that the medical or osteopathic degree has been conferred. To be eligible for appointment to an ACGME-accredited program at the time of enrollment the training program will verify that a resident has graduated from a medical school in a state or jurisdiction of the U.S. or in Canada that was accredited at the date of graduation by the Liaison Committee of Medical Education, the Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools, or the American Osteopathic Association. Graduates of medical schools outside the jurisdiction of the U.S. and Canada must have one of the following: a permanent (valid indefinitely) certificate from the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (EDFMG), comparable credentials from the Medical Council of Canada, or documentation of training for those who entered postdoctoral medical training in the U.S. via the Fifth Pathway as proposed by the American Medical Association.

The continuum consists of a clinical base year and 36 months of approved training in anesthesia (CA-1, CA-2 and CA-3 years). Prospective ABA approval is required for exceptions to ABA policies regarding the training planned for individual residents.

A. During the clinical base year, the physician must be enrolled and training as a resident in a transitional year or primary specialty training program in the United States or its territories that is accredited by the ACGME or approved by the American Osteopathic Association (AOA), or outside the United States and its territories in institutions affiliated with medical schools approved by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education from the date the training begins to the date it ends. **Training as a fellow in a subspecialty program is not an acceptable clinical base experience.**

The clinical base year must include at least six months of clinical rotations during which the resident has responsibility for the diagnosis and treatment of patients with a variety of medical and surgical problems, of which at most one month may involve the administration of anesthesia and one month of pain medicine. Acceptable clinical base experiences include training in internal medicine, pediatrics, surgery or any of their subspecialties, obstetrics and gynecology, neurology, family medicine or any combination of these as approved for residents by the directors of their training programs in anesthesiology. The clinical base year should also include rotations in critical care and emergency medicine, with at least one month, but no more than two months, devoted to each. Other rotations completing the 12 months of broad education should be relevant to the practice of anesthesiology.

The resident must complete the clinical base year before beginning CA-3 year clinical rotations.

B. **The three-year clinical anesthesia curriculum (CA 1-3)** consists of experience in basic anesthesia training, subspecialty anesthesia training and advanced anesthesia training. It is a graded curriculum of increasing difficulty and learning that is progressively more challenging of the resident’s intellect and technical skills.

(1) **Experience in basic anesthesia training** is intended to emphasize basic and fundamental aspects of the management of anesthesia. It is recommended that at least 12 months of the CA-1 and CA-2 years be spent in basic anesthesia training with a majority of this time occurring during the CA-1 year.

(2) **Subspecialty anesthesia training** is required to emphasize the theoretical background, subject material and practice of subdisciplines of anesthesiology. These subdisciplines include obstetric anesthesia, pediatric anesthesia, cardiothoracic anesthesia, neuroanesthesia, anesthesia for outpatient surgery, recovery room care, perioperative evaluation, regional anesthesia and pain medicine. It is recommended that these experiences be subspecialty rotations and occur in the CA-1 and CA-2 years. The sequencing of these rotations in the CA-1 and CA-2 years is left to the discretion of the program director.

By the end of the CA-3 year, required experiences in perioperative care must include four months of distinct rotations in critical care medicine with progressive responsibility and three months in pain
medicine that may include one month in an acute perioperative pain management rotation, one month in a rotation for assessment and treatment of inpatients and outpatients with chronic pain, and one month of regional analgesia experience in pain medicine. Experiences in these rotations must emphasize the fundamental aspects of anesthesia, preoperative evaluation and immediate postoperative care of surgical patients, and assessment and treatment of critically ill patients and those with acute and chronic pain. An acceptable critical care rotation should include active participation in patient care, active involvement by anesthesia faculty experienced in the practice and teaching of critical care and an appropriate population of critically ill patients. Experience in short-term overnight post-anesthesia units, intermediate step-down units or emergency rooms does not fulfill this requirement.

(3) **Experience in advanced anesthesia training** constitutes the CA-3 year. The program director, in collaboration with the resident, will design the resident’s CA-3 year of training. The CA-3 year is a distinctly different experience than the CA 1-2 years, requiring progressively more complex training experiences and increased independence and responsibility for the resident. Resident assignments in the CA-3 year should include the more difficult or complex anesthetic procedures and care of the most seriously ill patients. Residents must complete the clinical base and CA 1-2 years of training before they begin clinical rotations in fulfillment of the CA-3 year requirement.

CA-3 residents are required to complete a minimum of six months of advanced anesthesia training. They may spend the remaining months in advanced anesthesia training in one to three selected subspecialty rotations, or in research. Residents may train in one anesthesia subspecialty for at most six months during the CA-3 year, with a total of no more than 12 months during the CA 1-3 years. The training must culminate in sufficiently independent responsibility for clinical decision-making and patient care so that the graduating resident demonstrates sound clinical judgment in a wide variety of clinical situations and can function as a leader of perioperative care teams.

(4) **There are options for research during the anesthesiology residency.** Interested residents could spend approximately 25 percent of a three- or four-year training program, and 38 percent of a five-year program, engaged in scholarly activities. Suggested templates for research during the anesthesiology residency are posted on the ABA website at [www.theABA.org](http://www.theABA.org). The program director must develop a plan with strict guidelines for research activity and "work product" oversight if a resident’s research activities will be more than six months. The resident must be enrolled in an ACGME-accredited anesthesiology program and remain active in the educational component of the program while pursuing research.

Involvement in scholarly activities must result in the generation of a specific permanent “work product.” Review of scholarly activity and the permanent work product will occur at the local level by a Scholarship Oversight Committee responsible for overseeing and assessing the trainee’s progress and verifying to the ABA that the requirement has been met. The Scholarship Oversight Committee must consist of three or more faculty members. The program director may serve as a trainee’s mentor and participate in the activities of the Scholarship Oversight Committee, but should not be a standing member.

The following exceptions will be considered by application to the ABA Credentials Committee (at least four months in advance):

- Aggregating research time normally allocated across the clinical base and clinical anesthesia years into one or more years, allowing a significant amount of time to be used for research as a block.
- Leave of absence from the clinical program for research activities.
- Additional months in research, especially if the research is prospectively integrated in the training program.
A resident can receive credit for research activities, provided that the resident has at least six months of satisfactory clinical anesthesia (CA) training on file with the ABA prior to beginning research. If a resident receives an unsatisfactory Certificate of Clinical Competence Report immediately preceding any research activity, no credit will be given for the research activity unless prospectively approved by the Credentials Committee of the ABA.

C. The ABA grants a resident credit toward the CA 1-3 year requirements for clinical anesthesia training that satisfy all four of the following conditions:

1. The CA 1-3 years of training are spent as a resident enrolled with the ABA by no more than two ACGME-accredited anesthesiology residency programs in the United States or its territories. An ACGME-accredited program includes the sponsoring (parent) institution and major participating institutions (i.e., institutions that have an RRC-approved integration or affiliation agreement with the sponsoring institution). **All three years of CA training must occur in programs that are accredited by the ACGME for the entire period of training.** All physicians who graduate from an AOA-approved anesthesiology residency program on or after the date the program receives full ACGME accreditation will receive ABA credit for the CA 1-3 years of satisfactory training in the newly accredited program.

2. The period of clinical anesthesia training as an enrolled resident of any single program is at least six months of uninterrupted training.

3. The six-month period of clinical anesthesia training in any one program ends with receipt of a satisfactory Certificate of Clinical Competence (see Section 3.04). To receive credit from the ABA for a six-month period of clinical anesthesia training that is not satisfactory, the resident must immediately complete an additional six months of uninterrupted clinical anesthesia training, not including research, in the same program with receipt of a satisfactory Certificate of Clinical Competence. A resident with an unsatisfactory training period reported with gaps in training (e.g., leave of absence) will not receive credit for any training reported prior to the gap in the period because it was not immediately followed by six months of uninterrupted clinical anesthesia training. **If a resident receives consecutive Certificates of Clinical Competence that are not satisfactory, additional training is required.** When a resident receives a satisfactory Certificate of Clinical Competence immediately following consecutive periods of training that are not satisfactory, the ABA will grant credit only for the period of satisfactory training and the most recent of the periods of unsatisfactory training immediately preceding it.

For residents who receive an unsatisfactory Certificate of Clinical Competence for a period of training completed in an integrated training program where clinical base year rotations are intermingled with clinical anesthesia rotations, the Credentials Committee of the ABA shall determine the amount of training credit granted for the unsatisfactory period.

A resident who fails the BASIC Examination (see Section 3.06.A) for 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 Certificate of Clinical Competence (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 Board strongly encourages residents to register and take the BASIC Examination as soon as they meet the eligibility requirements defined in Section 3.07.
Residents have the option to complete training away from their ACGME-accredited anesthesiology programs. This option is not available during the last three months of residents' CA-3 year or until after they complete at least one year of clinical anesthesia training, unless the training will be in another ACGME-accredited anesthesiology program.

Current Residency Review Committee requirements limit training in institutions not integrated with the resident's ACGME-accredited program to a maximum of 12 months throughout the CA 1-3 years. The ABA will accept no more than six of these months in institutions not affiliated with the ACGME-accredited program. Therefore, residents must complete a minimum of 24 months of clinical anesthesia training in their ACGME-accredited program's parent and integrated institutions and may complete at most six months of clinical anesthesia training away from their ACGME-accredited program.

The Credentials Committee of the ABA 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 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.

D. The Credentials Committee of the ABA will assess individually requests for part-time training. Prospective approval is required for alteration in the number of hours per week of training or alteration in the temporal distribution of the training hours (e.g., substantially different night and weekend hours) from other residents in the program. It is expected that residents will take not more than twice the "standard time" to achieve the level of knowledge and clinical experience comparable to a full-time resident completing the program in standard time. Residents who train on a part-time basis are expected to meet all the program’s didactic requirements before training is complete.

Requests for part-time training must be in writing from the program director and countersigned by the department chair (if that is another person), the hospital’s Designated Institutional Officer (DIO), and the resident. The letter must include: (1) the reason for the part-time training request, (2) documentation about how all clinical experiences and educational objectives will be met, (3) assurance that the part-time training program will teach continuity-of-care and professionalism and (4) an explanation about how the part-time training program will maintain the overall quality, content and academic standards/clinical experiences of the training program required of a full-time trainee.

E. Prospective approval is required for exceptions to ABA policies regarding the training planned for individual residents (see Sections 3.02.B (3) and 3.02.C (4)). The Credentials Committee of the ABA considers requests for prospective approval on an individual basis. The ABA office must receive the request from the program director on behalf of a resident at least four months before the resident begins the training in question. It is the responsibility of the program director and the resident to assure that the request is received in a timely manner.

3.03 ABSENCE FROM TRAINING

The total of any and all absences may not exceed 60 working days (12 weeks) during the CA 1-3 years of training. Attendance at scientific meetings, not to exceed five working days per year, shall be considered a part of the training program. Duration of absence during the clinical base year may conform to the policy of the institution and department in which that portion of the training is served. Absences in excess of those specified will require lengthening of the total training time to the extent of the additional absence. A lengthy interruption in training may have a deleterious effect upon the resident’s knowledge or clinical competence. Therefore, when there is an absence for a period in excess of six months, the Credentials Committee of the ABA shall determine the number of months of training the resident will have to complete subsequent to
resumption of the residency program to satisfy the training required for admission to the ABA examination system.

3.04 CERTIFICATE OF CLINICAL COMPETENCE

The Board requires every residency training program to file, on forms provided by the Board, an Evaluation of Clinical Competence in January and July on behalf of each resident who has spent any portion of the prior six months in clinical anesthesia training in or under the sponsorship of the residency program and its affiliates. The Program Director or Department Chair must not chair the Clinical Competence Committee.

Entry into the ABA examination system is contingent upon the registrant having a Certificate of Clinical Competence on file with the Board attesting to satisfactory clinical competence during the final period of clinical anesthesia training in or under the sponsorship of each program [see Section 3.02.C (3) for details]. The Board, therefore, will deny entry into the ABA examination system until this requirement is fulfilled.

Residents who wish to appeal an Evaluation of Clinical Competence must do so through the reporting institution’s grievance and due process procedures.

3.05 PROGRAM DIRECTORS REFERENCE FORM

The Board requires every residency Program Director to file, on forms provided by the Board, a Program Directors Reference Form on behalf of each resident upon graduation from the residency program. Information is requested regarding the professional standing, abilities and character of the resident. This evaluation will be used as part of the process by which the Board judges whether the candidate meets the standards of a Board-certified anesthesiologist articulated in Section 1.02.D.

Entry into the ABA examination system is contingent upon the Program Directors’ recommendation. The Board, therefore, will deny entry into the ABA examination system until this requirement is fulfilled.

Residents who wish to appeal a final recommendation from the Program Director or Department Chair must do so through the reporting institution’s grievance and due process procedures.

3.06 OVERVIEW OF STAGED EXAMINATIONS

The staged examinations of the Primary Certification Examination System were designed to better support the movement toward competency-based training in graduate medical education. The staged examinations consist of three distinct parts: the BASIC Examination, the ADVANCED Examination and the APPLIED Examination. Each is designed to assess different qualities of a Board-certified anesthesiologist as defined in Section 1.02.D.

The staged examinations for ABA primary certification in anesthesiology apply to individuals who began the continuum of education in anesthesiology on or after July 2012 and are scheduled to complete residency training on or after June 30, 2016. Residents are automatically enrolled in the staged examination process when their anesthesiology residency program submits a resident enrollment form. Residents must then register for each examination when they meet the registration eligibility criteria for that examination.

A. The BASIC Examination, which will be administered at the end of a resident’s CA-1 year, focuses on the scientific basis of clinical anesthetic practice including content areas such as pharmacology, physiology, anatomy, anesthesia equipment and monitoring. The content outline available at www.theABA.org provides a detailed description of the covered topics. The examination is offered twice each year. Residents must pass the BASIC Examination to qualify for the ADVANCED Examination. The Board strongly encourages residents to register and take the BASIC Examination as soon as they meet the eligibility requirements defined in Section 3.07.
B. The ADVANCED Examination, which will be administered after graduation from residency training, focuses on clinical aspects of anesthetic practice including subspecialty-based practice and advanced clinical issues. The content outline provides a detailed description of the topics covered, which is inclusive of the topics covered in the BASIC Examination. The first examination will be administered in July 2016. Starting in 2017, it will be offered twice each year. Candidates must pass the ADVANCED Examination to qualify for the APPLIED Examination.

C. The APPLIED Examination is designed to assess the candidate’s ability to demonstrate the attributes of an ABA diplomate when managing patients presented in clinical scenarios, with an emphasis on the rationale underlying clinical management decisions. These attributes include sound judgment in making decisions, proper management of surgical and anesthetic complications, appropriate application of scientific principles to clinical problems, adaptability to unexpected changes in the clinical situations, and logical organization and effective presentation of information.

The APPLIED Examination includes two components: a Standardized Oral Examination (SOE) and an Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE). The SOE is an oral assessment using realistic patient cases with two Board-certified anesthesiologist examiners questioning an examinee in a standardized manner. These examinations assess clinical decision-making and the application or use of medical knowledge with realistic patient scenarios. The OSCE is a series of short, simulated clinical situations in which a candidate is evaluated on skills such as history taking, physical exam, procedural skills, clinical decision-making, counseling, professionalism and interpersonal skills. Both components are administered by directors of the Board and other ABA diplomates who assist as associate examiners.

For the OSCE component, candidates will participate in a seven-station circuit to evaluate their proficiency in seven of the nine skills listed in the OSCE Content Outline, which is available on the ABA website. Each OSCE encounter will be eight minutes long, and candidates will have four minutes between stations to review the next scenario. The OSCE portion of the APPLIED Exam will take 84 minutes from start to finish.

Candidates will interact with a standardized patient actor as part of the scenario in some exam rooms. In others, candidates will interact directly with an examiner. Examiners will not be in most exam rooms. Instead, the sessions will be recorded for grading purposes.

Beginning in 2017, the APPLIED Examination will be administered nine times each year.

- **Candidates who complete residency training between June 30 and Sept. 30, 2016**, will not be required to take the OSCE component of the APPLIED Examination. They will only be required to pass the SOE component to satisfy the APPLIED Examination requirement.

- **Candidates who complete residency training on or after Oct. 1, 2016**, will be required to pass both the SOE and the OSCE to satisfy the APPLIED Examination requirement.

When both the SOE and OSCE components are implemented, candidates will receive a separate score for each component of the APPLIED Examination - the SOE and the OSCE. If one component is failed, the candidate will retake only the failed component. Candidates must pass both components of the APPLIED Examination to become Board certified.

D. ABA examinations are administered to all residents and candidates under the same standardized testing conditions. The Board will consider a resident's/candidate's complaint about the testing conditions under which an ABA examination was administered only if the complaint is received within one week of the examination date.

E. Individuals will be considered candidates in the ABA Primary Certification Examination System when their first registration for the ADVANCED Examination is accepted.
The registration deadlines and examination dates for staged examinations are available on the last page of this section. However, for the most current examination dates and registration deadlines, please visit the ABA website at www.theABA.org, which is the official source of ABA examination dates and deadlines.

Once candidates pass all of the examinations that comprise the ABA Primary Certification Program, meet other requirements for certification, and are awarded a certificate, they are automatically enrolled into the Maintenance of Certification in Anesthesiology Program (MOCA®). A description of the program can be found in the MOCA 2.0 section.

3.07 BASIC EXAMINATION REGISTRATION ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Residents are automatically enrolled in the staged examinations process when their anesthesiology residency program submits a resident enrollment form. The ABA shall determine that entry into the examination system is warranted when required information submitted by and on behalf of the resident is satisfactory. The ABA will notify a resident who is accepted for entry (i.e., registered for the BASIC Examination) after approval of all credentials. The notification is sent to residents at their email address on file in the ABA office.

At the time of registration for the BASIC Examination, the resident must:

A. Have on file in the ABA office evidence of having satisfactorily completed 18 months of training, including clinical base and clinical anesthesiology training. Residents who will complete this requirement before March 31 may register for the following summer BASIC Examination. Residents who will complete this requirement before Sept. 30 may register for the following winter BASIC examination.

B. The ABA will not validate the results to residents who take the BASIC Examination and do not fulfill the conditions identified above.

3.08 BASIC EXAMINATION REGISTRATION

The ABA must receive all required documentation to make a decision about a resident’s qualifications for registration to the BASIC Examination. Registration will not be accepted if the required documentation is not received by each registration deadline (please see the Registration Deadlines and Examination Dates available on the last page of this section). It is ultimately the responsibility of every resident to ensure that the ABA receives all required documentation in a timely manner.

A. Approximately three months prior to each BASIC Examination administration, the ABA notifies residents of their eligibility to register for an examination. The notification is sent to residents at their email address on file in the ABA office. Residents who register for an examination must pay the registration fee at that time. Current fees and deadlines are posted on the ABA website at www.theABA.org.

B. Registration for the BASIC Examination must be made via the ABA Physician Portal, which is accessible through the ABA website at www.theABA.org.

C. Registration includes the following Acknowledgement and Release forms, which the registrant shall be required to sign by electronic signature:

(1) I, the undersigned registrant ("registrant"), hereby agree to participate in the American Board of Anesthesiology, Inc.'s ("ABA") primary certification program. I acknowledge that my participation is subject to the ABA rules and regulations. I further acknowledge and agree that if I withdraw my registration or the ABA does not accept it, the ABA will retain the registration fee and any late fee.

I represent and warrant to the ABA that all information I provide to the ABA is true, correct and complete in all material respects. I understand and acknowledge that any material misstatement or omission over the course of my primary certification program shall, at any time, constitute cause for disqualification from the ABA examination system or from the issuance of an ABA certificate or to forfeiture and redelivery of such
ABA certificate to the ABA.

I agree that this acknowledgement, as submitted by me, shall survive the electronic submission of the registration, regardless of whether the information or data provided in the registration has been reformatted in any manner by the ABA. I also agree that this acknowledgement is a part of and incorporated into the registration whether submitted along with the registration or not.

I acknowledge that I have read a copy of the ABA Policy Book. I agree to be bound by the policies, rules, regulations and requirements published in the book, in all matters relating to consideration of and action upon this registration and certification should it be granted. I understand that ABA certificates are subject to ABA rules and regulations, all of which may be amended from time to time without further notice. I understand and acknowledge that in the event I have violated any of the ABA rules governing my registration and/or certification, such violations shall constitute cause for disqualification from the ABA examination system or from the issuance of an ABA certificate or for revocation of certification and indication of such action in the ABA Diplomate and Candidate Directory.

(2) I, the undersigned registrant ("registrant"), hereby agree to participate in the American Board of Anesthesiology, Inc.'s ("ABA") primary certification program. I acknowledge that my participation is subject to the ABA rules and regulations, all of which may be amended from time to time without further notice.

In connection with my registration, I authorize all persons holding testimony, records, documents, opinions, information and data relevant to or pertaining to my professional competence and ethical conduct and/or behavior (the "Background Information") to release such Background Information to the ABA, its employees and agents. This authorization applies whether or not such persons are listed as a reference on my registration. Background Information includes any information relating to any abusive use of alcohol and/or illegal use of drugs, and any medical or psychiatric treatment or rehabilitation related thereto. I understand that such Background Information may be used to determine or verify my qualifications for entrance into the ABA entrance examination and ABA certification. A copy of this release may accompany any request made by the ABA for such Background Information.

I authorize the ABA to: (1) report my status in the examination system, including the results of any staged examination, to the director and department chair of the program from which I received my clinical training; (2) use any score in psychometric analyses to confirm observations and reports of suspected irregularities in the conduct of an examination; and (3) respond to any inquiry about my status in the ABA examination system. I understand and agree that once my examination registration is completed and granted, this consent cannot be withdrawn.

I also authorize the ABA to record the video and audio of my performance during the ABA examinations at the ABA Assessment Center for educational, quality and scoring purposes. Such recordings will be used for ABA internal purposes only and will be retained in accordance with ABA retention policies.

I understand that the ABA may use any and all Background Information for the purpose of conducting longitudinal studies to assess the ABA certification process. I further understand that the ABA, alone or in collaboration with other researchers, may use information from the registration, testing, assessment and certification process (the "Assessment Information") to conduct scientific research relating to anesthesiologists, the practice of anesthesiology and/or the education of anesthesiologists. Any and all information used for research may be reported or released to the public only in the aggregate without any individual identification.

Use of any Background Information or Assessment Information for analysis or research will not impact in any way my individual registration, test results or certification status. I understand and agree that should I not wish for my information to be used for research purposes, prior to taking the exam I must notify the ABA in writing to the attention of researchoptout@theABA.org to opt out and withdraw consent for my information to be used as part of research studies. I cannot opt out and consent cannot be withdrawn once my information has been de-identified and/or aggregated as part of any research study.
I release and agree to hold harmless each person from any liability to me arising out of the giving or releasing of information to the ABA. This release and agreement includes liability for the inaccuracy or untruth of the Information, so long as such information is provided in good faith. I also release and agree to hold harmless the ABA and its agents and employees, including but not limited to its directors, officers and examiners, from any liability to me as a result of any acts or proceedings undertaken or performed in connection with my registration, provided such acts or proceedings are made or conducted in good faith.

3.09 ADVANCED EXAMINATION REGISTRATION ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

At the time of registration for the Advanced Examination, a resident must:

A. Have passed the BASIC Examination.

B. Have on file in the ABA office evidence of having satisfactorily fulfilled all requirements of the continuum of education in anesthesiology before the date of the ADVANCED Examination. Such evidence must include a satisfactory Certificate of Clinical Competence covering the final six months of clinical anesthesia training in each residency program [see Sections 2.02.C (3) for details].

Registrants completing the full training requirement by Sept. 30 may register for the summer ADVANCED Examination. Registrants who will complete this requirement after Sept. 30 may register for the winter ADVANCED Examination.

Registrants completing the full training requirement by March 31 may register for the winter ADVANCED Examination. Registrants who will complete this requirement after March 31 may register for the summer ADVANCED Examination.

C. Have on file with the Board documentation attesting to the registrant’s current privileges and evaluations of various aspects of their current practice of anesthesiology. Such evaluations will include verification that the registrants meet the Board’s clinical activity requirement by spending, on average, at least one day per week during 12 consecutive months over the previous three years in the clinical practice of anesthesiology and/or related subspecialties. The ABA may solicit such documentation and evaluations from the residency program director or others familiar with the registrant’s current practice of anesthesiology and use them in determining the resident’s qualifications for admission to the ABA examination system.

D. Be capable of performing independently the entire scope of anesthesiology practice without accommodation or with reasonable accommodation (see Sections 1.02A, 1.02D and 8.09).

E. The ABA will not validate the results of registrants who take the ADVANCED Examination and do not fulfill those conditions identified in Section 3.09 by the deadlines.

3.10 ADVANCED EXAMINATION REGISTRATION

The ABA must receive all required documentation to make a decision about a candidate’s qualifications for registration to the ADVANCED Examination. Registration will not be accepted if the required documentation is not received by the registration deadline. It is ultimately the responsibility of every candidate to ensure that the ABA receives all required documentation in a timely manner.

A. Approximately three months prior to each ADVANCED Examination administration, the ABA notifies residents of their eligibility to register for an examination. The notification is sent to residents at their email address on file in the ABA office. Residents who register for an examination must pay the registration fee at that time. Current fees and deadlines are posted on the ABA website at www.theABA.org.
B. Registration for the ADVANCED Examination must be made via the ABA Physician Portal, which is accessible through the ABA website at [www.theABA.org](http://www.theABA.org).

C. Candidates must attest to their clinical activity every three years while in the examination system.

### 3.11 APPLIED EXAMINATION REGISTRATION ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

At the time of registration for the APPLIED Examination, the candidate must:

A. Have passed the ADVANCED Examination.

B. Provide evidence satisfactory to the Board of having satisfied the licensure requirement for certification. A grace period will be permitted so that candidates may complete this requirement by Nov. 15 of the APPLIED Examination administration year. Training and expired licenses do not fulfill this licensure requirement for certification. Candidates must inform the ABA of any conditions or restrictions in force on any active medical license they hold. When there is a restriction or condition in force on any of the candidate’s medical licenses, the Credentials Committee of the ABA will determine whether, and on what terms, the candidate shall be admitted to the ABA Examination System.

C. The ABA will not validate the results to candidates who take the APPLIED Examination and do not fulfill the licensure requirement by the deadline identified above.

### 3.12 APPLIED EXAMINATION REGISTRATION

The ABA must receive all documentation it requires to make a decision about a candidate’s qualifications for registration to the APPLIED Examination by the registration deadline. Registration will not be accepted if the required documentation is not received by the deadline. It is ultimately the responsibility of every candidate to assure that the ABA receives all required documentation in a timely manner.

A. Physicians who have graduated from residency, passed the ADVANCED Examination, and met all eligibility requirements will be eligible to take the APPLIED Examination. When a physician passes the ADVANCED Examination, they will receive notification from the ABA that they are eligible to register for the APPLIED Examination. The notification is sent to their email address of record on file in the ABA office.

B. The APPLIED Examination will be administered nine times each year, beginning in 2017. To schedule an APPLIED Examination, candidates will select an examination week from the list of available weeks posted within their physician portal account. Once an APPLIED Examination week reaches its capacity of appointments, candidates can no longer schedule appointments for that week. Specific examination dates and times within the selected week will be assigned by the ABA. Two months prior to an examination, the ABA will notify candidates of the exact date, time and location of their examination and the rules of examination conduct.

- **Candidates who have not been assigned an exam date, time and location** may request to change their APPLIED Examination week within the same calendar year; however, the ABA cannot guarantee that a change will be made. To request a change, candidates must send a written request to the ABA office with a check for the APPLIED Examination change fee. Current fees are posted on the ABA website at [www.theABA.org](http://www.theABA.org).

- **Candidates who have been assigned an exam date, time and location** may not request to change their APPLIED Examination week. If they do not plan to attend their scheduled exam, they must cancel their examination as defined in Section 3.13.A.
C. Candidates who do not take or do not pass the APPLIED Examination for which they are scheduled, for whatever reason, may schedule their next APPLIED Examination no earlier than four months following the current scheduled examination.

3.13 NOTIFICATION AND CANCELLATION OF EXAMINATIONS

The ABA office is not responsible for an interruption in communication with a resident or candidate that is due to circumstances beyond its control. Residents and candidates must immediately notify the ABA of a mailing or email address change via their ABA portal account at www.theABA.org, or by writing the ABA office. Residents and candidates must call the ABA office if they do not receive an examination notice they are expecting within the time frames described above. The resident’s and candidate’s ABA identification number should be included on all correspondence to the Board solely for identification purposes.

A. A resident or candidate who cancels a scheduled examination appointment must submit a written request to cancel at least one week prior to the examination administration week. A cancellation fee must accompany the request in order to retain the registration fee for the next examination appointment. Current fees are posted on the ABA website at www.theABA.org.

B. A resident or candidate who misses a scheduled examination appointment because of an unavoidable or catastrophic event must submit a written request with explanation and independent documentation of the event. In order to retain the registration fee for the next examination appointment, the ABA must receive the request and the cancellation fee no later than one week after the examination date. If a scheduled appointment is missed for a reason that does not represent an unavoidable or catastrophic event, the registration fee will be forfeited. Forfeiting of the registration fee is solely at the discretion of the Board.

C. A resident or candidate who misses a scheduled examination appointment and does not cancel the scheduled examination appointment forfeits the registration fee.

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.

3.14 DURATION OF CANDIDATE STATUS

The duration of candidate status is limited. Candidates who complete residency training on or after Jan. 1, 2012, must satisfy all requirements for certification within seven years of the last day of the year in which residency training was completed. If a candidate does not satisfy all requirements for certification within the prescribed time period, the candidate must reestablish eligibility for the ABA examination system (see Section 3.15).

The ABA does not recognize “Board Eligible” as a physician status relative to the ABA Primary Certification Examination System. Therefore, physicians should refrain from making any representations of being “Board Eligible” (See Section 1.05).

3.15 REESTABLISHING ELIGIBILITY FOR CERTIFICATION

If a candidate does not satisfy all requirements for certification within the prescribed time period specified in Section 3.14, the ABA will declare the candidate’s registration void. Physicians whose registrations have been voided may submit a new registration after reestablishing eligibility for certification. Such registration shall be subject to the fees, rules, privileges and entrance requirements that apply at the time of reregistration. Physicians will only be allowed to reestablish eligibility for certification once.

To reestablish eligibility for certification, physicians must take and pass the BASIC Examination to reenter the ABA examination system for primary certification. After reestablishing eligibility, candidates must satisfy all requirements for certification, including successfully completing the ADVANCED Examination and both
the Standardized Oral Examination and Objective Structured Clinical Examination components of the
APPLIED Examination, by Dec. 31 of the fourth year following the successful completion of the BASIC
Examination. Physicians will be considered candidates in the ABA examination system when their
registration for the ADVANCED Examination is accepted.

Physicians who completed residency training prior to Jan. 1, 2012, who will not satisfy all of the
traditional requirements for certification (Part 1 and Part 2 Examinations) by Dec. 31, 2018, must take and
pass the BASIC Examination to re-enter the ABA examination system for primary certification. After
reestablishing eligibility, candidates must satisfy all requirements for certification, including successfully
completing the ADVANCED Examination and both the Standardized Oral Examination and Objective
Structured Clinical Examination components of the APPLIED Examination, by Dec. 31 of the fourth year
following the successful completion of the BASIC Examination. Physicians will be considered candidates in
the ABA examination system when their registration for the ADVANCED Examination is accepted. See the
last page of this section for examination dates and deadlines.

3.16 REESTABLISHING ELIGIBILITY (FORMER DIPLOMATES)

MOCA PARTICIPATION EXCEEDING 13 YEARS FOR TIME-LIMITED CERTIFICATE HOLDERS

Former diplomates who do not complete all MOCA requirements within three years of the expiration of their
most recent primary certificate in anesthesiology or certificate for Maintenance of Certification in the specialty
of Anesthesiology must complete the following steps to reestablish their status as an ABA diplomate.
Physicians will only be allowed to reestablish eligibility for the ABA examination system once.

- Meet the requirements for entering the examination system of the ABA (see Section 2.09);
- Register for admission to the examination system of the ABA; and
- Pass the ADVANCED Examination; and
- Pass both the Standardized Oral Examination and Objective Structured Clinical Examination components
  of the APPLIED Examination under the new registration.

Candidates must successfully complete the requirements for certification in anesthesiology within seven years of
the last day of the year in which their registration was accepted.
## STAGED EXAMINATIONS DEADLINES & EXAMINATION DATES

### SUMMER 2018 BASIC EXAMINATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Examination Dates</th>
<th>June 8 – 9, 2018</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registration</td>
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<td>*Late Registration</td>
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### FALL 2018 BASIC EXAMINATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Examination Dates</th>
<th>Nov. 9 – 10, 2018</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Registration</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Late Registration</td>
<td>Sept. 28 – Oct. 11, 2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### SUMMER 2018 ADVANCED EXAMINATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Examination Dates</th>
<th>July 27 – 28, 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>March 1 – May 31, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Late Registration</td>
<td>June 1 – June 28, 2018</td>
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### 2018 APPLIED EXAMINATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Examination Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 5 - 8, 2018</td>
<td>April 23 - 26, 2018</td>
<td>June 11 - 14, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 19 - 22, 2018</td>
<td>May 7 - 10, 2018</td>
<td>Oct. 1 - 4, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 9 - 12, 2018</td>
<td>May 21 - 24, 2018</td>
<td>Oct. 22 - 25, 2018</td>
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### SUMMER 2019 BASIC EXAMINATION

<table>
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<th>Examination Dates</th>
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### FALL 2019 BASIC EXAMINATION

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<th>Examination Dates</th>
<th>Nov. 15 – 16, 2019</th>
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### WINTER 2019 ADVANCED EXAMINATION

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<th>Jan. 25 – 26, 2019</th>
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### SUMMER 2019 ADVANCED EXAMINATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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### 2019 APPLIED EXAMINATIONS

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<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Examination Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 4 - 7, 2019</td>
<td>April 15 - 18, 2019</td>
<td>June 10 - 13, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 18 - 21, 2019</td>
<td>May 6 - 9, 2019</td>
<td>Sept. 9 - 12, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 1 - 4, 2019</td>
<td>May 20 - 23, 2019</td>
<td>Sept. 23 - 26, 2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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*There is an additional $500 fee for any registration submitted during the late registration period.*
Beginning in 2017, there is only one set of MOCA 2.0 requirements, no matter how many certificates a diplomate is maintaining (See Section 4.03).

- All diplomates with current time-limited certificates in anesthesiology or anesthesiology subspecialty can register for MOCA 2.0 in their ABA portal account, as can diplomates with non-time limited certificates in anesthesiology (those certified before 2000) and/or non-time limited certificates in critical care medicine who are participating in MOCA.

- Diplomates with non-time limited certificates in anesthesiology or critical care medicine who are not enrolled in MOCA can voluntarily register for MOCA 2.0.

- Newly certified diplomates can register for MOCA 2.0 in their portal account immediately after the ABA awards them certification.

- Time-limited certificate holders whose anesthesiology certificates expired on Dec. 31, 2015, must complete the traditional MOCA requirements before being eligible to register for MOCA 2.0 (see Section 3.1).

- Time-limited certificate holders whose subspecialty certificates in pain medicine or critical care medicine expired on or before Dec. 31, 2016, must successfully complete the subspecialty recertification exam before being eligible to register for MOCA 2.0.

- Time-limited anesthesiology certificate holders whose certificates expired from Dec. 31, 2010 to Dec. 31, 2014, must complete a portion of the staged examinations requirements before being eligible to register for MOCA 2.0 (see Section 4.04.A).

4.01 MAINTAINING SPECIALTY AND SUBSPECIALTY CERTIFICATION

ABA diplomates who choose to maintain both primary certification in anesthesiology and subspecialty certification will benefit from one set of program requirements for all parts of MOCA 2.0.

4.02 MAINTAINING ONLY SUBSPECIALTY CERTIFICATION

ABA diplomates may choose to maintain their subspecialty certification without maintaining their primary certification in anesthesiology (once they are both obtained). However, when a time-limited anesthesiology certification expires, the physician is no longer Board certified in the specialty. Should this occur, the information on the ABA Diplomate and Candidate Directory will indicate that their primary certification in anesthesiology is no longer valid. The ABA will also advise the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) that they no longer hold a valid primary certificate in anesthesiology.

Although ABA diplomates may choose to maintain only their subspecialty certification, the ABA strongly encourages diplomates to maintain their primary certification in anesthesiology. The ABA does not recommend maintaining only a subspecialty certificate and wants diplomates to consider any imponderable repercussions before choosing to let their primary certification in anesthesiology expire.
**A. ANNUAL MOCA 2.0 REGISTRATION**

All eligible diplomates will complete an annual registration process to participate in MOCA 2.0, and to gain access to the MOCA Minute pilot questions.

To register, diplomats must complete the following activities within their ABA portal accounts:

- Confirm their personal contact information
- Verify their medical licenses
- Electronically sign the following forms:
  
  **o Acknowledgement and Release**

  I, the undersigned registrant (“registrant”), hereby agree to participate in the American Board of Anesthesiology, Inc.’s (ABA) Maintenance of Certification in Anesthesiology™ Program (MOCA®). I acknowledge that my participation is subject to the ABA rules and regulations, all of which may be amended from time to time without further notice. I further acknowledge and agree that all MOCA fees paid to the ABA are non-refundable.

  I represent and warrant to the ABA that all information I provide to the ABA is true, correct and complete in all material respects. I understand and acknowledge that any material misstatement or omission over the course of my MOCA cycle shall, at any time, constitute cause for disqualification from the MOCA program or from the issuance of an ABA certificate or to forfeiture and redelivery of such ABA certificate to the ABA.

  I agree that this acknowledgement, as submitted by me, shall survive the electronic submission of the registration, regardless of whether or not the information or data provided during my participation in the program has been reformatted in any manner by the ABA. I also agree that this acknowledgement is a part of and incorporated into the annual registration, whether submitted along with the registration or not.

  I acknowledge that I have read a copy of the ABA Policy Book. I agree to be bound by the policies, rules, regulations and requirements published in the book, in all matters relating to consideration of and action upon my participation in the MOCA program, and certification should it be granted. I understand that ABA certificates are subject to ABA rules and regulations, all of which may be amended from time to time without further notice. In addition, I understand and acknowledge that in the event I have violated any of the ABA rules governing my registration and/or certification, such violations shall constitute cause for disqualification from the ABA MOCA program or from the issuance of an ABA certificate or for revocation of certification and indication of such action in the ABA Diplomate and Candidate Directory.

  In connection with my status in the MOCA program, I authorize all persons holding testimony, records, documents, opinions, information and data relevant to or pertaining to my professional competence and ethical conduct and/or behavior (the “Background Information”) to release such Background Information to the ABA, its employees and agents. This authorization applies whether or not such persons are listed as a reference on my registration. Background Information includes anything relating to any abusive use of alcohol and/or illegal use of drugs, and any medical or psychiatric treatment or rehabilitation related thereto. I understand that such Background Information may be used to determine or verify my qualifications as a diplomate in the ABA MOCA program. A copy of this release may accompany any request made by the ABA for such Background Information.

  I authorize the ABA to: (1) report my participation status in the MOCA program, and (2) use a
pattern of responses in psychometric analyses to confirm observations and reports of suspected irregularities on the answering of MOCA Minute questions. I understand and agree that once I elect to participate in the MOCA program, my consent cannot be withdrawn for prior obtained and reported information. To withdraw from the MOCA program and the prospective reporting of information, I understand that I must notify the ABA in writing to the attention of MOCA@theABA.org.

I also understand that the ABA may use any and all Background Information for the purpose of conducting longitudinal studies to assess the ABA certification process or the Maintenance of Certification program. I further understand that the ABA, alone or in collaboration with other researchers, may use information from the registration, testing, assessment, and certification process, including my participation in the MOCA program (the “Assessment Information”), to conduct scientific research relating to anesthesiologists, the practice of anesthesiology and/or the education of anesthesiologists. Any and all information used for research may be reported or released to the public only in the aggregate without any individual identification.

Use of any Background Information or Assessment Information for analysis or research will not impact in any way my registration, MOCA participation or certification status. I understand and agree that should I not wish for my information to be used for research purposes, I must notify the ABA in writing to the attention of researchoptout@theABA.org to opt out and withdraw consent for my information to be used as part of research studies. I cannot opt out and consent cannot be withdrawn once my information has been de-identified and/or aggregated as part of any research study.

I release and agree to hold harmless each person from any liability to me arising out of the giving or releasing of information to the ABA. This release and agreement includes liability for the inaccuracy or untruth of the information, so long as such Information is provided in good faith. I also release and agree to hold harmless the ABA and its agents and employees, including but not limited to its directors, officers and examiners, from any liability to me as a result of any acts or proceedings undertaken or performed in connection with my participation in the MOCA program, provided such acts or proceedings are made or conducted in good faith.

CME Release

In connection with the American Board of Anesthesiology® Inc.’s (ABA) Maintenance of Certification in Anesthesiology™ program (MOCA®), the ABA allows certain continuing medical education (CME) providers to electronically submit verification of a Diplomate’s program participation in order to make it easier for ABA Diplomates to document fulfillment of their CME requirements. CME activities submitted to the ABA from a CME provider are NOT subject to audit by the ABA.

On occasion, the ABA is contacted by CME providers to obtain or verify certain Diplomate identifying information to submit program participation data to the ABA. Before the ABA may provide this information to a CME provider, the ABA must obtain authorization directly from the physician.

I hereby authorize the ABA to release my name, date of birth, date of medical school graduation, and ABA unique identification number to ABA registered CME providers. Please note that the ABA identification number is not my Social Security number.

I understand that the ABA does not review, evaluate, or monitor data received from registered CME providers.
Copyright Policy

MOCA Minute questions are proprietary information of the American Board of Anesthesiology (ABA) and are the ABA’s copyrighted material. By your registration for MOCA, you agree not to share, copy, create derivative works, or otherwise distribute the questions to any third party for profit without the ABA’s explicit written consent. MOCA Minute questions are the sole property of the ABA.

Diplomates are expected to participate in MOCA Minute with the highest level of professionalism and integrity, and as such are required to answer their own MOCA Minute questions and not assist other diplomates in answering theirs or seek the assistance of others.

Diplomates found to have violated the copyright protection by engaging in the aforementioned activities, received or gave assistance in the answering of MOCA Minute questions, or in some other conduct or manner, will be subject to disciplinary actions by the ABA, which may include permanent disqualification from MOCA.

Independent Practice Requirement

Although admission into the MOCA program and success with components of the program are important steps in the ABA maintenance of certification process, they do not by themselves guarantee maintenance of certification. The Board reserves the right to make the final determination of whether each diplomate meets all of the requirements for maintenance of certification, including Professional Standing and the ability to perform independently in the specialty or subspecialty, with or without reasonable accommodation for disabilities, before awarding maintenance of certification.

- Request nonstandard accommodations (if applicable)
- Answer substance abuse statement
- Complete their practice profiles by selecting a practice location and practice areas by topic
- Pay the annual MOCA 2.0 fee ($210 for the first certificate maintained and $100 for each additional certificate maintained)

B. PART I: PROFESSIONALISM AND PROFESSIONAL STANDING

The ABA assesses a diplomate’s professional standing continually as one means to assess professionalism. Acceptable professional standing to be designated as participating in MOC includes, at minimum, holding an active, unrestricted license to practice medicine in at least one jurisdiction of the United States or Canada. Further information regarding professionalism and professional standing requirements is found in Section 8.06.

Diplomates have the affirmative obligation to advise the ABA of any and all restrictions placed on any of their medical licenses and to provide the ABA with complete information concerning such restrictions within 60 days after their imposition. Such information shall include, but not be limited to, the identity of the medical board imposing the restriction as well as the restriction’s duration, basis, and specific terms and conditions. Diplomates discovered not to have made disclosure may be subject to sanctions on their diplomate status.

C. PART II: LIFELONG LEARNING AND SELF-ASSESSMENT

ABA diplomates should continually seek to improve the quality of their clinical practice and patient care through self-directed professional development. This should be done through self-assessment and learning opportunities designed to meet the diplomate’s needs and the MOCA requirement for Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment (LLS).

The LLS requirement is 250 credits for continuing medical education (CME) activities.
(1) All credits must be:
   a. ACCME/AMA PRA-approved Category 1
   b. American Osteopathic Association Category 1-A
   c. Accredited CPD credits issued by the Royal College of Physicians of Canada and the
      Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada

(2) During the period from 2006 to 2012, no more than 70 credits for CME programs and activities may
    be completed in the same calendar year. Effective as of 2013, no more than 60 credits for CME
    programs and activities may be completed in the same calendar year. Some CME activity must be
    completed in at least five years of each 10-year MOCA cycle. Participants are encouraged to complete
    some CME activity in each of the six general competencies for physicians.

(3) Half of the CME requirement (125 credits) must be completed by the end of Year 5 of the diplomates’
    10-year cycles (see Section 4.01.F).

(4) Beginning in 2016, self-assessment CMEs are no longer required for Part II: Lifelong Learning
    and Self-Assessment. However, diplomates who previously completed self-assessment CMEs or who
    wish to in the future will receive credit for them in MOCA 2.0.

Patient Safety CME Credit Requirements
(1) All diplomates and non-time limited diplomates who register for MOCA 2.0 are required to complete
    20 Category 1 credits of patient safety CME. A list of the approved activities is available on the
    ABA website and on physicians’ portal accounts.

CME sponsors may submit CME activities and credits to the ABA electronically for ABA diplomates. Diplomates may self-report their CME activities and credits to the ABA electronically. Whereas provider-reported CME activities do not require verification by the ABA, self-reported CME activities are subject to audit and verification by the ABA within three years of their submission. Therefore, diplomates must keep documentation of every self-reported CME activity for at least three years after their submission for LLS credit.

D. PART III: ASSESSMENT OF KNOWLEDGE, JUDGMENT, AND SKILLS

MOCA Minute® is being piloted to replace the MOCA and MOCA-SUBS exams as the Part III: Assessment
of Knowledge, Judgment, and Skills. MOCA Minute questions are multiple-choice questions with a single
best answer, like those presented on previous MOCA and subspecialty recertification exams. This expanded pilot will allow diplomates to assess their knowledge, fill knowledge gaps and demonstrate their proficiency continuously throughout their 10-year MOCA cycle.

Diplomates must complete 30 MOCA Minute pilot questions per calendar quarter (120 per year by
11:59 p.m. EST on Dec. 31) and maintain an MDT p-value of ≥ 0.10 every year. Diplomates can answer
all 30 questions at once; however, they cannot answer more than 30 questions per day. Diplomates who
miss answering questions in the first three quarters of the year can make up the missed questions in
subsequent quarters. Diplomates who answer questions incorrectly will receive similar questions on the
same topic over time to gauge whether they have learned the material.

The Board will waive as many as two calendar quarters of MOCA Minute questions (60 questions) when:
   • Active military diplomates personally submit a written request to the ABA Secretary attesting to
     their deployment and lack of computer access or
   • Diplomates have a current severe illness and personally submit a written request to the ABA
     Secretary including a letter from their treating physician substantiating their illness.

Other reasonable requests or justifiable hardships will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

MOCA Minute questions are based on the certificates diplomates are maintaining.
• Diplomates only maintaining anesthesiology certification will receive general anesthesia questions that represent the base of knowledge every physician anesthesiologist should know and questions about new knowledge areas that the Board believes diplomates need to learn quickly (i.e., Ebola). Additionally, they will receive questions based on the areas of practice they select in their practice profile during the MOCA 2.0 annual registration.

• Diplomates only maintaining critical care medicine, pain medicine or pediatric anesthesiology certification will receive some subspecialty-specific questions representative of what certified diplomates should know and some questions based on the areas of practice they select in their practice profile during the MOCA 2.0 annual registration.

• Diplomates maintaining multiple certifications in anesthesiology, critical care medicine, pain medicine and/or pediatric anesthesiology will receive questions related to each certification area.

• Diplomates maintaining hospice and palliative medicine or sleep medicine certification will receive questions based on general anesthesia knowledge as well as areas selected in their practice profile. MOCA Minute is optional for these diplomates as they have to take and pass the subspecialty recertification exam to fulfill the MOCA Part III requirement.

Diplomates may access MOCA Minute questions via their portal account, weekly ABA email reminders with a link to MOCA 2.0, or the MOCA Minute mobile app. Once diplomates access a question, they have one minute to answer it and will learn immediately whether they answered correctly or not. Diplomates will receive the questions’ rationale, a critique and associated references and educational materials. Participants may also submit feedback to the ABA on the question and the question’s relevancy to their practice. Questions not answered within the time allotted will be counted as incorrect answers.

The ABA is using Measurement Decision Theory (MDT) to evaluate diplomates’ MOCA Minute performance. MDT is a statistical model that estimates the likelihood or probability that diplomates are keeping their specialty-specific knowledge up-to-date based on their pattern of responses to MOCA Minute questions. **Diplomates who maintain an MDT probability or p-value of ≥ 0.10 are meeting the standard for MOCA Part III.**

• Diplomates must answer 120 MOCA Minute questions each year by 11:59 p.m. EST on Dec. 31 and maintain an MDT p-value of ≥ 0.10 every year.

OR

• Answer less than 120 MOCA Minute questions each year by 11:59 p.m. EST on Dec. 31 and maintain an MDT p-value of ≥ 0.10 every year. Any unanswered MOCA Minute questions will be considered incorrect and will negatively impact diplomates’ MDT p-value.

Diplomates will be informed on a continuous basis in their ABA portal account whether they are meeting the Board’s standard for Part III. The ABA will use the MOCA Minute data to make judgments about diplomates who fall below a minimum standard for too long or too frequently. Diplomates who do not meet the standard should use the MOCA Minute Knowledge Gaps Report and the CME Explorer to create a remediation plan to address their knowledge gaps. If after remediation, a diplomate still does not meet the criteria for certification, the Board may not issue the diplomate a new certificate when the current one expires. The ABA will make decisions about diplomates’ certification status based on their performance in all four components of the MOCA 2.0 program, not just MOCA Minute.

**Anesthesiology Special Purpose Exam (ASPEX)**
Diplomates who are not meeting the MOCA Minute standard in the year their certification expires can take the ASPEX as a secondary assessment for the certificate(s) they are maintaining (anesthesiology, critical care medicine and/or pain medicine). The ABA will notify diplomates via email of their eligibility for ASPEX.
Diplomates certified in anesthesiology in 2006, 2007 or 2008:

- Diplomates who passed the MOCA examination will not be required to participate in the MOCA Minute pilot until their current certificates expire and will not have to pay the annual MOCA 2.0 fee until 2026. However, they will still need to register annually for MOCA 2.0 beginning in 2016.

- Diplomates who failed their most recent MOCA examination will be required to register annually for MOCA 2.0 and participate in the MOCA Minute pilot starting in January 2016, but will not be required to pay the annual MOCA 2.0 fee until 2026.

Diplomates whose subspecialty certification in pain medicine or critical care medicine expires in 2017, 2018 or 2019:

- Diplomates who took and passed the pain medicine or critical care medicine recertification examination in 2014, 2015 or 2016, will not be required to complete any MOCA 2.0 requirements for their subspecialty certification, including participating in the MOCA Minute pilot and paying the MOCA 2.0 annual fee, until their certificate expires in 2017, 2018 or 2019. However, if these diplomates are also maintaining their primary certificate in anesthesiology that expires on or after Dec. 31, 2016, they will need to complete MOCA 2.0 requirements for that certificate.

- Diplomates with non-time limited primary certification and time-limited subspecialty certification must complete all MOCA 2.0 requirements before their current subspecialty certificate expires. These diplomates must pay the annual MOCA 2.0 fee every year they participate in the program.

E. PART IV: IMPROVEMENT IN MEDICAL PRACTICE

ABA diplomates should be continually engaged in a self-directed program of Improvement in Medical Practice (IMP). The Board made changes to the requirements based on diplomate feedback and changes to the ABMS standards that allow for greater flexibility to provide diplomates with options to participate in activities that are most relevant to their practice.

Beginning in 2016, simulation is an optional Part IV activity. The ABA has developed a point system for Part IV that weighs activities based on the time and effort associated with completing them. Diplomates must earn **25 points per five-year period for a total of 50 points during the 10-year MOCA cycle**. They may choose activities from the Part IV activity list to accumulate points. Diplomates may not receive credit for more than 25 points in one year, therefore diplomates may not complete all IMP requirements in one year. Part IV activity submissions are subject to audit. An attestation, when the ABA solicits references to verify diplomate’s clinical activity and participation in practice improvement activities, is still required, but does not provide points.

The list of Part IV activities with reporting templates for all self-reported activities is available on the ABA website at [www.theABA.org](http://www.theABA.org). This list is subject to change.

F. PARTICIPATING IN MOC REQUIREMENTS

The ABA will report the status of **all diplomates** as it relates to their participation in one or more ABA Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Program (Anesthesiology, Critical Care Medicine, Hospice and Palliative Medicine, Pain Medicine, Pediatric Anesthesiology, Sleep Medicine) based on the below criteria. Diplomates certified prior to the year 2000 have certificates that are not time-limited, and are not required to participate in MOC.

“Participating in MOC”

Diplomates are considered to be participating in MOC if they are making continuous progress toward completing all of the requirements as measured by:

1. Maintaining professionalism and professional standing satisfactory to the ABA, which includes:
a. Holding an active, unrestricted license to practice medicine in at least one jurisdiction of the United States or Canada. Further, all U.S. and Canadian medical licenses that a diplomate holds must be unrestricted.
b. Updating the current expiration date(s) of their medical license(s) no later than 60 days after renewal via the ABA website.
c. Informing the ABA of any actions taken against their medical license(s) within 60 days of the final action.

(2) Actively participating in Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment (LLS) activities, which includes:
a. Completing and reporting to the ABA one half (125 credits) of the total LLS requirement by the end of Year 5 of the 10-year MOCA cycle.
b. Completing and reporting to the ABA the total LLS requirement of 250 credits by the end of Year 10.

(3) Actively participating in Assessment of Knowledge, Judgment, and Skills, which includes:
a. Answering 120 MOCA Minute questions per calendar year and/or maintaining an MDT probability or p-value of ≥ 0.10.
b. Answering a total of 1,200 questions by the end of Year 10 and/or maintaining an MDT probability or p-value of ≥ 0.10.

(4) Actively participating in Improvement in Medical Practice (IMP) activities, which includes:
a. Satisfactory completion of 25 points worth of Part IV: IMP activities by the end of Year 5.
b. Satisfactory completion of 25 points worth of Part IV: IMP activities by the end of Year 10.

“Not Participating in MOC”
Diplomates are considered to not be participating in MOC if they are unable to complete the above requirements in the specified timeframes. If diplomates are unable to complete the program requirements by the expiration date of their current time-limited certificate, then they will be classified as “Expired” and “Not Board Certified.”

“Not Required to Participate in MOC”
Diplomates certified prior to the year 2000 have certificates that are not time-limited. These diplomates are not required to recertify or participate in the MOCA program or its subspecialties, but are strongly encouraged to do so. The ABA Diplomate and Candidate Directory on the ABA website will note that these diplomates are not required to participate in MOC.

G. MOCA REQUIREMENTS FOR CANDIDATES WHOSE PRIMARY CERTIFICATION IN ANESTHESIOLOGY HAS BEEN DEFERRED

Despite passing the primary certification examinations, some candidates will not receive initial ABA certification because their certification has been deferred. For candidates whose certification has been deferred, MOCA requirements shall be determined as follows:

- Candidate’s 10-year MOCA cycle will now begin once certification has been awarded; not at the time the candidate passes the Part 2 Examination.
- Candidates will not be allowed to participate in MOCA Minute until certification is awarded.
- Candidates will be allowed to accumulate as many as five years of MOCA Part II CME credit and as many as 25 points of MOCA Part IV activities that were accumulated prior to their certification date.
- Additional requirements may be determined by the ABA Credentials Committee.

H. MOCA REQUIREMENTS FOR DIPLOMATES WHO ARE NOT CLINICALLY ACTIVE

Diplomates who are not clinically active and hold time-limited certificates in anesthesiology or a related subspecialty can maintain their certification(s) by completing the following MOCA requirements:
Part I: Maintain Professionalism and Professional Standing acceptable to the ABA
Part II: Complete the required Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment activities
Part III: Demonstrate proficiency by participating in the MOCA Minute pilot for the Assessment of Knowledge, Judgment, and Skills.

The MOCA Part IV requirement is waived for diplomates who are designated as “Certified – Not Clinically Active.”

I. EXPIRED TIME-LIMITED CERTIFICATES

(1) Time-limited certificate holders who fail to meet the MOCA requirements by the expiration of their most recent primary certificate in anesthesiology or certificate for Maintenance of Certification in the specialty of Anesthesiology will have their certification status changed to “expired.” To regain their certification status of “diplomate,” they must complete all MOCA requirements as described below:

a. The ABA will move their 10-year MOCA cycle forward one year. Any activities that were completed in the original Year 1 (i.e., CME) are removed and they are required to redo those activities. If the Part III requirement was not completed, diplomates can be re-certified after answering 30 questions per quarter for four consecutive quarters.

b. Upon successful completion of all MOCA requirements (which are defined by their original MOCA cycle), the ABA will issue that physician a certificate for Maintenance of Certification in the specialty of Anesthesiology valid for 10 years from the date of completion of the program.

c. If the physician fails to complete the requirements within a year after the expiration of their certificate, then their MOCA cycle moves forward another year and they lose the activities that were completed in the original Year 2.

d. The ABA will move a MOCA cycle forward, one year at a time, for up to three years.

(2) Reinstatement Fee: Effective Jan. 1, 2014, all former diplomates and non-time limited certificate holders who wish to complete the MOCA program in Years 11, 12 and 13 will be charged a fee for each year they continue in the program. The fee is cumulative, so former diplomates who do not pay until Year 12 will pay the fee for Years 11 and 12. Current fees for MOCA are posted on the ABA website at www.theABA.org. The Board reserves the right to change fees when necessary. All fees paid to the ABA are non-refundable.

4.04 REESTABLISHING ELIGIBILITY FOR PRIMARY CERTIFICATION

A. MOCA PARTICIPATION EXCEEDING 13 YEARS FOR TIME-LIMITED CERTIFICATE HOLDERS

Former diplomates who do not complete all MOCA requirements within three years of the expiration of their most recent primary certificate in anesthesiology or certificate for Maintenance of Certification in the specialty of Anesthesiology must complete the following steps to reestablish their status as an ABA diplomate. Physicians will only be allowed to reestablish eligibility for the ABA examination system once.

• Meet the requirements for entering the examination system of the ABA; provided in the Staged Examinations section
• Register for admission to the examination system of the ABA; and
• Pass the ADVANCED Exam;
• Pass both the Standardized Oral Examination and Objective Structured Clinical Examination components of the APPLIED Examination under the new registration.

Candidates must successfully complete the requirements for certification in anesthesiology within seven years of the last day of the year in which their registration was accepted.
B. MOCA PARTICIPATION EXCEEDING 13 YEARS FOR NON-TIME LIMITED CERTIFICATE HOLDERS

Non-time limited certificate holders who do not complete MOCA within 13 years of enrolling will be withdrawn from the program. If they wish to complete the program they must re-enroll and fulfill the program requirements.

4.05 MOCA 2.0® EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Medical societies and other healthcare organizations offering quality educational activities to enable physicians to fulfill the MOCA requirements may submit a proposal for their educational activities to be considered by the ABA for approval.

The ABA may also consider collaborating with medical societies and healthcare organizations to provide activities designed to help ABA diplomates fulfill the following requirements of the MOCA program: Part II: Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment and Part IV: Improvement in Practice.

Educational activity requirements and applications are available on the ABA website at www.theABA.org.
5.01 TRADITIONAL MOCA® REQUIREMENTS

Time-limited certificate holders whose certificates expired on Dec. 31, 2015, must complete the traditional MOCA requirements described below before being eligible to register for MOCA 2.0 and participate in the MOCA Minute pilot.

Time-limited certificate holders whose certificates expired from Dec. 31, 2010, to Dec. 31, 2014, must complete the Staged Examinations requirements before being eligible to register for MOCA 2.0 and participate in the MOCA Minute pilot.

A. PART I: PROFESSIONALISM AND PROFESSIONAL STANDING

The ABA assesses a diplomate’s professional standing continually as one means to assess professionalism. Acceptable professional standing to meet MOCA requirements includes, at minimum, holding an active, unrestricted license to practice medicine in at least one jurisdiction of the United States or Canada. Further information regarding professionalism and professional standing requirements is found in Section 8.06. Professionalism and professional standing acceptable to the ABA is a prerequisite qualification for maintenance of certification.

Diplomates have the affirmative obligation to advise the ABA of any and all restrictions placed on any of their medical licenses and to provide the ABA with complete information concerning such restrictions within 60 days after their imposition. Such information shall include, but not be limited to, the identity of the medical board imposing the restriction as well as the restriction’s duration, basis, and specific terms and conditions. Diplomates discovered not to have made disclosure may be subject to sanctions on their diplomate status.

B. PART II: LIFELONG LEARNING AND SELF-ASSESSMENT

ABA diplomates should continually seek to improve the quality of their clinical practice and patient care through self-directed professional development. This should be done through self-assessment and learning opportunities designed to meet the diplomate’s needs and the MOCA requirement for Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment (LLS).

The LLS requirement for maintenance of certification is 250 credits for continuing medical education (CME) activities.

(1) All credits must be:
   a. ACCME/AMA PRA-approved Category 1
   b. American Osteopathic Association Category 1-A
   c. Accredited CPD credits issued by the Royal College of Physicians of Canada and the Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada

(2) During the period from 2006 to 2012, no more than 70 credits for CME programs and activities may be completed in the same calendar year. Effective as of 2013, no more than 60 credits for CME programs and activities may be completed in the same calendar year. Some CME activity must be
completed in at least five years of each 10-year MOCA cycle. Participants are encouraged to complete some CME activity in each of the six general competencies for physicians.

(3) Half of the CME requirement (125 credits) must be completed by the end of Year 5 of the diplomates’ 10-year cycles.

CME sponsors may submit CME activities and credits to the ABA electronically for diplomates. Diplomates may self-report their CME activities and credits to the ABA electronically. Whereas provider-reported CME activities do not require verification by the ABA, self-reported CME activities are subject to audit and verification by the ABA within three years of their submission. Diplomates must keep documentation of all self-reported CME activity for at least three years after their submission.

C. PART III: ASSESSMENT OF KNOWLEDGE, JUDGMENT, AND SKILLS

Diplomates who participate in MOCA must demonstrate their cognitive expertise by passing an ABA assessment of knowledge, judgment, and skills (KJS). This MOCA examination is administered via computer under secure, proctored, standardized testing conditions. About 75 percent of the examination items are based on general anesthesia topics, and the remainder of the examination is fairly evenly distributed among the following areas: pediatric anesthesia, cardiothoracic anesthesia, neuroanesthesia, obstetric anesthesia, critical care medicine and pain medicine.

Examination prerequisites for the purpose of satisfying the MOCA program requirement are:

- Completion of 125 of 250 required CME credits (half of the total required)
- Completion of one Improvement in Medical Practice (IMP) activity acceptable to the ABA (see section 5.01.D).

(1) The MOCA Examination will be administered twice in 2018 at computer-based testing centers throughout the United States and Canada. Diplomates may take the MOCA examination as many as two times per year to satisfy the maintenance of certification requirement. The ABA will inform registered examinees of the procedure for making an examination appointment approximately four months prior to the examination date.

Examination dates and registration deadlines are available below. However, for the most current examination dates please visit the Board website at www.theABA.org, which is the official source of ABA examination dates and deadlines.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MOCA EXAM</th>
<th>SUMMER 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Examination Dates</td>
<td>July 14 - 28, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration Begins</td>
<td>Dec. 1, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration Deadline</td>
<td>May 31, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam Accommodation Request Deadline</td>
<td>March 15, 2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There is a single fee that diplomates must pay for each 10-year MOCA cycle. This fee, due upon registration for the examination, covers the administration of the MOCA program for the entire 10-year period and includes one opportunity to take the examination. There is a re-examination fee for those who do not pass the MOCA examination. Current fees for MOCA are posted on the ABA website at www.theABA.org. The Board reserves the right to change fees when necessary. See
The ABA must receive all documentation it requires to make a decision about a diplomate’s eligibility for examination by Oct. 31 of the preceding year for the winter examinations and by April 30 of the examination year for the summer examinations.

These deadlines are absolute, and the ABA must have documentation that the diplomate has met all of the prerequisites by the appropriate deadline. When the ABA does not have the required documentation by the appropriate deadline, it will evaluate the diplomate’s eligibility for the next MOCA examination. It is ultimately the responsibility of the diplomates to assure that the ABA receives documentation in a timely manner and that they have met all of the MOCA examination prerequisites.

(2) Notification and Cancellation of Examination Appointments

- A diplomate who cancels a scheduled MOCA examination appointment must submit a written request to cancel at least one week prior to the examination administration week. A cancellation fee must accompany the diplomate’s request to retain the examination fee for the next examination appointment. Additionally, it is the diplomate’s responsibility to cancel their exam appointment with the testing center. Current fees are posted on the ABA website at www.theABA.org.

- A diplomate who misses a scheduled MOCA examination appointment because of an unavoidable or catastrophic event must submit a written request with explanation and independent documentation of the event. To retain the examination fee for the next examination appointment, the ABA must receive the diplomate’s request and the cancellation fee no later than three days after the examination date. If a scheduled appointment is missed for a reason that does not represent an unavoidable or catastrophic event, the examination fee will be forfeited. Forfeiting of the examination fee is solely at the discretion of the Board.

- A diplomate who misses a scheduled MOCA examination appointment and does not cancel the scheduled examination appointment forfeits the examination fee.

D. PART IV: IMPROVEMENT IN MEDICAL PRACTICE

ABA diplomates should be continually engaged in a self-directed program of Improvement in Medical Practice (IMP). The IMP requirement consists of the following activities: An Attestation, a Case Evaluation (or equivalent alternative as listed in 1a, 1b and 1c) and/or a Simulation Education Course. Below is a detailed description of each activity.

(1) Case Evaluation: This evaluation is also known as a practice improvement project or quality improvement project. Diplomates assess their practice and develop a specific project to improve the quality of care they provide. A project may be completed in anesthesiology or an anesthesiology subspecialty, and may be completed by an individual, practice group or hospital. If completed by a group, each diplomate must submit his/her own documentation. Instructions and examples are available on the ABA website at www.theABA.org.

In lieu of a self-directed Case Evaluation, diplomates may complete one of the following:

a. Reciprocity for Diplomates: Diplomates may complete one Part IV activity through any other ABMS Board and submit it to the ABA to fulfill the MOCA Part IV Case Evaluation requirement as long as the date completed falls within the required timeframe as indicated in the chart below. Documentation of completion of the activity must be submitted with diplomates’ requests for Part IV credit. A Case Evaluation is the only requirement that may be replaced with a Part IV activity completed through another ABMS Board.
b. **Quality Improvement Project through the Multi-Specialty Portfolio Program:** Healthcare organizations apply and gain approval for group quality improvement activities. Diplomates may complete one quality improvement activity through the approved healthcare organizations. More information is available at [http://mocportfolioprogram.org/](http://mocportfolioprogram.org/).

(2) **Simulation Education Course:** A contextual learning opportunity to assess and improve one’s practice in areas such as crisis management in a simulation setting at a center endorsed by the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA). A simulation education course may be completed in a specialty or subspecialty of anesthesiology. Information on ASA-endorsed simulation centers is available on the ABA website at [www.theABA.org](http://www.theABA.org).

(3) **Attestation:** The ABA solicits references to verify diplomate’s clinical activity and participation in practice improvement activities.

During their 10-year MOCA cycle, diplomates must complete the IMP activities as defined in the following chart, based on the year they were certified. Diplomates may not complete two IMP activities in the same year (with the exception of non-time limited diplomates who are completing MOCA on an expedited basis can complete an attestation and case evaluation or simulation during Year 9).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Improvement in Medical Practice Requirements by Year Certified/Recertified</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year Certified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>2004 - 2005</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

One activity must be completed between Years 1 to 5, and the second between Years 6 to 10.

- Diplomates have the option of completing a Simulation Course in lieu of completing an Attestation.
- Diplomates who elect to complete a Simulation Course in lieu of an Attestation must complete a Case Evaluation in Years 6-10.
- Completion of one IMP activity acceptable to the ABA is a prerequisite for the MOCA Exam.

E. **MOCA REQUIREMENTS FOR DIPLOMATES WHO ARE NOT CLINICALLY ACTIVE**

Diplomates who are not clinically active and hold time-limited certificates in anesthesiology or a related subspecialty can maintain their certification(s) by completing the following MOCA requirements:

- Part I: Maintain Professionalism and Professional Standing acceptable to the ABA
- Part II: Complete the required Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment activities
- Part III: Demonstrate proficiency by passing the MOCA Assessment of Knowledge, Judgment, and Skills.

The MOCA Part IV requirement is waived for diplomates who are designated as “Certified – Not Clinically Active.”

F. **EXPIRED TIME-LIMITED CERTIFICATES**

(1) Time-limited certificate holders who fail to meet the MOCA requirements by the expiration of their most recent primary certificate in anesthesiology or certificate for Maintenance of Certification in the specialty of Anesthesiology will have their certification status changed to “expired.” To regain their certification status of “diplomate,” they must complete all MOCA requirements as described below:
a. The ABA will move their 10-year MOCA cycle forward one year. Any activities that were completed in the original Year 1 (i.e., CME) are removed and they are required to redo those activities. If the Cognitive Examination requirement was not completed, diplomates may take the examination as many as two times per year to satisfy this requirement.

b. Upon successful completion of all MOCA requirements (which are defined by their original MOCA cycle), the ABA will issue that physician a certificate for Maintenance of Certification in the specialty of Anesthesiology valid for 10 years from the date of completion of the program.

c. If the physician fails to complete the requirements within a year after the expiration of their certificate, then their MOCA cycle moves forward another year and they lose the activities that were completed in the original Year 2.

d. The ABA will move a MOCA cycle forward, one year at a time, for up to three years.

(2) Reinstatement Fee: Effective Jan. 1, 2014, all former diplomates and non-time limited certificate holders who wish to complete the MOCA program in Years 11, 12 and 13 will be charged a fee for each year they continue in the program. The fee is cumulative, so former diplomates who do not pay until Year 12 will pay the fee for Years 11 and 12. Current fees for MOCA are posted on the ABA website at www.theABA.org. The Board reserves the right to change fees when necessary. All fees paid to the ABA are non-refundable.

5.02 REESTABLISHING ELIGIBILITY FOR PRIMARY CERTIFICATION

A. MOCA PARTICIPATION EXCEEDING 13 YEARS FOR TIME-LIMITED CERTIFICATE HOLDERS

Former diplomates who do not complete all MOCA requirements within three years of the expiration of their most recent primary certificate in anesthesiology or certificate for Maintenance of Certification in the specialty of anesthesiology must complete the following steps to reestablish their status as an ABA diplomate. Physicians will only be allowed to reestablish eligibility for the ABA examination system once. Physicians will be considered candidates in the ABA examination system when their registration for the ADVANCED Examination is accepted.

• Meet the requirements for entering the examination system of the ABA; provided in the Staged Examinations section
• Register for admission to the examination system of the ABA; and
• Pass the ADVANCED Exam;
• Pass both the Standardized Oral Examination and Objective Structured Clinical Examination components of the APPLIED Examination under the new registration.

Candidates must successfully complete the requirements for certification in anesthesiology within seven years of the last day of the year in which their registration was accepted.

Current requirements for admission to the examination system are provided in the Staged Examinations section.

B. MOCA PARTICIPATION EXCEEDING 13 YEARS FOR NON-TIME LIMITED CERTIFICATE HOLDERS

Non-time limited certificate holders who do not complete MOCA within 13 years of enrolling and wish to complete the program must take and pass the MOCA Assessment of Knowledge, Judgment, and Skills before they will be allowed to fulfill the remaining program requirements.
The ABMS has authorized the ABA and other ABMS Member Boards to award certification in the subspecialties of critical care medicine, pain medicine, hospice and palliative medicine, sleep medicine and pediatric anesthesiology.

A. The discipline of critical care medicine (CCM) has evolved over the last few decades in parallel with the development of techniques and technology for acute and long-term life support of patients with multiple organ system derangement. Because problems encountered in the critically ill patient encompass aspects of many different specialties, critical care medicine is a multidisciplinary endeavor that crosses traditional department and specialty lines.

The critical care medicine physician is a specialist whose knowledge is broad, involving all aspects of management of the critically ill patient, and whose primary base of operation is the intensive care unit (ICU). This physician has completed training in a primary specialty and has received additional training in critical care medicine aspects of many disciplines. This background enables the physician to work in concert with the various specialists on the patient care team in the ICU; to utilize recognized techniques for vital support; to teach other physicians, nurses and health professionals the practice of intensive care; and to foster research.

B. Pain medicine (PM) is the medical discipline concerned with the diagnosis and treatment of the entire range of painful disorders. Because of the vast scope of the field, pain medicine is a multidisciplinary subspecialty. The expertise of several disciplines is brought together in an effort to provide the maximum benefit to each patient. Although the care of patients is heavily influenced by the primary specialty of physicians who subspecialize in pain medicine, each member of the pain treatment team understands the anatomical and physiological basis of pain perception, the psychological factors that modify the pain experience and the basic principles of pain medicine.

C. Hospice and palliative medicine (HPM) is based on expanding scientific knowledge about symptom control when a cure is not possible, and on appropriate care during the last stages of life. Research, teaching and practice efforts in this field have led to a vast increase in knowledge in the effort to relieve suffering of seriously ill patients and their families. Physicians who acquire subspecialist-level knowledge and skills in hospice and palliative medicine largely practice in one of two distinct professional roles: 1) hospice medical director, and 2) institution-based palliative care practice.

The competencies emphasized in the subspecialty of hospice and palliative medicine are needed so that the health care system can better respond to the steadily increasing number of patients with life-threatening illnesses characterized by prolonged courses during which the burden of illness increases, quality of life declines, suffering from multiple sources becomes manifest, and caregivers experience increasing burden and distress. Many in this population pose complex problems, which the specialist in hospice and palliative medicine is uniquely trained to address. Subspecialists may take on the primary management of patients, during which they will work with a team to address patient and family problems in multiple domains, typically including the management of active dying. Subspecialists also function as consultants, working with the attending physician to accomplish the same goals by providing expertise, particularly where symptoms, ethical issues or communication issues are complex.

D. Sleep medicine (SM) is the medical discipline concerned with the care of patients with sleep problems
and specific sleep disorders. Sleep medicine encompasses a multidisciplinary body of knowledge regarding the anatomy, physiology, biochemistry, pathophysiology and pharmacology of sleep and wakefulness, and their disorders.

**E. Pediatric anesthesiology (PA)** is a discipline of anesthesiology that includes the evaluation, preparation and management of pediatric patients undergoing diagnostic and therapeutic procedures in operative and critical care settings. In addition, this discipline also entails the evaluation and treatment of children with acute and chronic painful disorders.

### 6.02 CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

At the time of initial subspecialty certification by the ABA, the candidate must:

**A.** Be a diplomate of the ABA.

**B.** Fulfill the licensure requirement for certification as follows: Hold an unexpired license to practice medicine or osteopathy in at least one state or jurisdiction of the United States or province of Canada that is permanent, unconditional and unrestricted. Further, every United States and Canadian medical license the registrant holds must be free of restrictions.

ABA diplomates have the affirmative obligation to advise the ABA of any and all restrictions placed on any of their medical licenses, and to provide the ABA with complete information concerning such restrictions within 60 days after their imposition or notice, whichever first occurs. Such information shall include, but not be limited to, the identity of the State Medical Board imposing the restriction as well as the restriction’s duration, basis, and specific terms and conditions. Candidates and diplomates discovered not to have made disclosure may be subject to sanctions on their candidate or diplomate status.

**C.** Have fulfilled the subspecialty training requirement as defined by the ABA.

**D.** Have satisfied the subspecialty examination requirement as defined by ABA.

**E.** Have a professional standing satisfactory to the ABA (see Section 8.06).

**F.** Be capable of performing independently the entire scope of subspecialty practice without accommodation or with reasonable accommodation.

**G.** For initial subspecialty certification, diplomates must be meeting the ABA’s MOCA® requirements. (Please see the MOCA 2.0 section.)

Although admission into the ABA examination system and success with the examination are important steps in the ABA certification process, they do not by themselves guarantee certification. The Board reserves the right to make the final determination of whether each candidate meets all of the requirements for certification, including B, E and F above, after successful completion of examinations for subspecialty.

The Board, acting as a committee of the whole, reserves the right not to accept an exam registration. The registrant has the right to seek review of such a decision (see Section 8.05). The Board reserves the right to correct clerical errors affecting its decisions.

The ABA awards subspecialty certification only to qualified ABA diplomates who do not hold a valid certificate in the same subspecialty from another ABMS Member Board. ABA subspecialty certificates are valid for 10 years after the year the candidate passes the subspecialty examination. Diplomates with a time-limited certificate in sleep medicine and hospice and palliative medicine may take the subspecialty recertification examination as early as the seventh year of their most recent certification.

ABA subspecialty certificates are subject to ABA rules and regulations, including its policy book, all of which may be amended from time to time without further notice.
**6.03 FELLOWSHIP REQUIREMENT**

**A.** The **continuum of education** in an anesthesiology subspecialty consists of 12 months of full-time training. The training must be in a subspecialty program in the United States or its territories accredited by the ACGME from the date the training begins to the date it ends. The training must follow completion of the continuum of education in anesthesiology (i.e., clinical base and CA 1-3 years) unless the Credentials Committee of the ABA prospectively approves a different training sequence for the fellow (see below for details).

The ABA grants a fellow credit toward its subspecialty training requirements in two successive six-month increments, each of which ends with a satisfactory Certificate of Clinical Competence. To receive credit from the ABA for a period of subspecialty training that is not satisfactory, the fellow must immediately complete six months of uninterrupted subspecialty training in the same program with receipt of a satisfactory Certificate of Clinical Competence. If more than one six-month period of subspecialty training ends with a Certificate of Clinical Competence that is not satisfactory, the Credentials Committee of the ABA shall determine the number of months of additional training the fellow will have to complete to satisfy the training required for admission to the ABA examination system.

The ABA grants credit for subspecialty fellowship training in more than one ACGME-accredited training program within a single subspecialty under the following conditions:

- The training occurs in no more than two ACGME-accredited subspecialty training programs.
- The period of training as an enrolled fellow of any single program is at least six months of uninterrupted training.
- The six-month period of subspecialty training in any one program must end with receipt of a satisfactory Certificate of Clinical Competence.

The ABA will accept no more than two months of training in institutions not recognized by the ACGME as part of the accredited subspecialty program. Therefore, the ABA requires that fellows complete a minimum of 10 months of training in their ACGME-accredited subspecialty program.

The Credentials Committee of the ABA will assess individually requests for part-time training. Prospective approval is required for alteration in the number of hours per week of training or alteration in the temporal distribution of the training hours (e.g., substantially different night and weekend hours) from other fellows in the program. It is expected that fellows will take not more than twice the “standard time” to achieve the level of knowledge and clinical experience comparable to a full-time fellow completing the program in standard time. Fellows who train on a part-time basis are expected to meet all the program’s didactic requirements before training is complete.

**B. Requests for part-time training** must be in writing from the program director and countersigned by the department chair (if that is another person), the hospital’s designated institutional officer (DIO), and the fellow. The letter must include: (1) the reason for the part-time training request, (2) documentation about how all clinical experiences and educational objectives will be met, (3) assurance that the part-time training program will teach continuity-of-care and professionalism and (4) an explanation about how the part-time training program will maintain the overall quality, content and academic standards/clinical experiences of the training program required of a full-time trainee.

**6.04 ABSENCE FROM TRAINING**

The total of any and all absences during a subspecialty fellowship may not exceed the equivalent of 20 working days (four weeks) per year. Attendance at scientific meetings, not to exceed five working days during the year of training, shall be considered part of the training program. Absences in excess of those specified will require lengthening of the total training time to the extent of the additional absence.

Training in an anesthesiology subspecialty must not be interrupted by frequent or prolonged periods of
absence. When there is an absence for a period in excess of two months, the Credentials Committee of the ABA shall determine the number of months of training subsequent to resumption of the program that are necessary to satisfy the training requirement for admission to the ABA subspecialty examination system.

6.05 CERTIFICATE OF CLINICAL COMPETENCE

The Board requires every anesthesiology subspecialty training program to file, on forms provided by the Board, an Evaluation 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. The program director or department chair must not chair the Clinical Competence Committee.

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

Fellows who wish to appeal an Evaluation of Clinical Competence must do so through the reporting institution’s grievance and due process procedures.

6.06 PROGRAM DIRECTOR REFERENCE FORM

The Board requires every fellowship program director to file, on forms provided by the Board, a Program Director Reference Form on behalf of each fellow upon graduation from the fellowship program. Information is requested regarding the professional standing, abilities and character of the fellow. This evaluation will be used as a part of the process by which the Board judges whether the candidate meets the standards of a board-certified anesthesiologist articulated in Section 1.02.D.

Entry into the ABA examination system is contingent upon the program directors’ recommendation. The Board, therefore, will deny entry into the ABA examination system until this requirement is fulfilled.

Fellows who wish to appeal a final recommendation from the program director or Department Chair must do so through the reporting institution’s grievance and due process procedures.

6.07 OVERVIEW OF SUBSPECIALTY CERTIFICATION EXAMINATIONS

The examination in an anesthesiology subspecialty is designed to test for the presence of knowledge that is considered essential for the ABA diplomate to function as a practitioner of the subspecialty. The examination analyzes the cognitive and deductive skills as well as the clinical judgment of the candidates.

A. Examination Administration

(1) Examination dates are available on the last page of this section. However, for the most current examination dates please visit the ABA website at [www.theABA.org](http://www.theABA.org), which is the official source of ABA examination dates and deadlines.

  a. The Critical Care Medicine Examination is administered once each year.
  b. The Pain Medicine Examination is administered once each year.
  c. The Hospice and Palliative Medicine Examination is administered once every other year.
  d. The Sleep Medicine Examination is administered once every other year.
  e. The Pediatric Anesthesiology Examination is administered once each year.
ABA examinations are administered to all candidates under the same standardized testing conditions at computer-based testing centers located throughout the United States and Canada. The Board will consider a candidate’s complaint about the testing conditions under which an ABA examination was administered only if the complaint is received within one week of the examination date.

The ABA policies regarding irregular examination behavior, unforeseeable events and examination under nonstandard conditions may be found at Sections 8.11, 8.12, and 9.01, respectively.

6.08 REGISTRATION ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

At the time of registration to enter the subspecialty examination system of the ABA, the registrant must:

A. Be certified by the ABA.

B. Have fulfilled the licensure requirement for certification (see Section 6.02.B). Registrants must inform the ABA of any conditions or restrictions in force on any active medical licenses they hold. Registrants who have a medical license restriction will be permitted to register for and take a subspecialty certification examination; however, certification will be deferred until the nature of the restriction is reviewed by the ABA Credentials Committee.

C. Have on file in the ABA office documentation of having satisfactorily fulfilled the subspecialty training requirement or, if applicable, Temporary Criteria in lieu of formal training in an accredited subspecialty program. A grace period will be permitted so that registrants completing the subspecialty training requirement by Sept. 30 may register for the immediately preceding subspecialty certification examination.

D. Have on file with the Board documentation attesting to the registrant’s current privileges and evaluations of various aspects of the registrant’s current practice of the subspecialty. Such evaluations will include verification that the registrant meets the Board’s clinical activity requirement by practicing the subspecialty, on average, at least one day per week during 12 consecutive months over the previous three years. The ABA may use such documentation and evaluations as part of its assessment of the registrant’s qualifications for admission to its subspecialty examination system. The ABA may solicit such documentation and evaluations from the fellowship program director or others familiar with the registrant’s current practice of the subspecialty and use them in determining the registrant’s qualifications for admission to the examination system. The Clinical Competence Report from the department and the evaluation from the program director and others will be used as the basis for assessing admission qualifications.

E. Be capable of performing independently the entire scope of anesthesiology subspecialty practice without accommodation or with reasonable accommodation.

F. Be meeting the ABA’s MOCA program requirements. (Please see the MOCA 2.0 section.)

The ABA shall determine that entry into the subspecialty examination system is warranted when required information submitted by and on behalf of the registrant is satisfactory. The ABA will notify a registrant who is accepted as a candidate for subspecialty certification via email after approval of all requirements.

6.09 REGISTRATION PROCEDURE

A. Registration for admission to the ABA examination system must be made using the ABA Physician Portal, which can be accessed via the ABA website at www.theABA.org.

B. Registrations may be completed at any time during the registration period. (Please see the Deadlines and Examination Dates available on the last page of this section.) Current fees are published on the ABA website at www.theABA.org.
The registration deadlines are absolute. Regardless of the reason, the ABA will not consider a registration for a subspecialty certification examination that is received after the deadline.

C. The ABA must receive all documentation required to make a decision about a registrant’s qualifications for admission to a subspecialty certification examination by the decision deadline. (Please see the Deadlines and Examination Dates available on the last page of this section.) This includes, but is not limited to, references and verification that the training requirement is met. A registration will not be accepted if the required documentation is not received by that date. It ultimately is the responsibility of every registrant to ensure that the ABA receives all required documentation in a timely manner. Physicians will be considered candidates in the ABA examination system when their registration for a subspecialty examination is accepted.

D. Registration includes the following Acknowledgement and Release forms, which the registrant shall be required to sign by electronic signature:

1. I, the undersigned registrant (“registrant”), hereby agree to participate in the American Board of Anesthesiology, Inc.’s (ABA) subspecialty certification program. I acknowledge that my participation is subject to the ABA rules and regulations. I further acknowledge and agree that if I withdraw my registration or the ABA does not accept it, the ABA will retain the registration fee and any late fee.

I represent and warrant to the ABA that all information I provide to the ABA is true, correct and complete in all material respects. I understand and acknowledge that any material misstatement or omission over the course of my subspecialty certification program shall, at any time, constitute cause for disqualification from the ABA examination system or from the issuance of an ABA certificate or to forfeiture and redelivery of such ABA certificate to the ABA.

I agree that this acknowledgement, as submitted by me, shall survive the electronic submission of the registration, regardless of whether or not the information or data provided in the registration has been reformatted in any manner by the ABA. I also agree that this acknowledgement is a part of and incorporated into the registration whether submitted along with the registration or not.

I acknowledge that I have read a copy of the ABA Policy Book. I agree to be bound by the policies, rules, regulations and requirements published in the book, in all matters relating to consideration of and action upon this registration and certification should it be granted. I understand that ABA certificates are subject to ABA rules and regulations, all of which may be amended from time to time without further notice. I understand and acknowledge that in the event I have violated any of the ABA rules governing my registration and/or certification, such violations shall constitute cause for disqualification from the ABA examination system or from the issuance of an ABA certificate or for revocation of certification and indication of such action in the ABA Diplomate and Candidate Directory.

2. I, the undersigned registrant (“registrant”), hereby agree to participate in the American Board of Anesthesiology, Inc.’s (ABA) subspecialty certification program. I acknowledge that my participation is subject to the ABA rules and regulations, all of which may be amended from time to time without further notice.

In connection with my registration, I authorize all persons holding testimony, records, documents, opinions, information and data relevant to or pertaining to my professional competence and ethical conduct and/or behavior (the “Background Information”) to release such Background Information to the ABA, its employees and agents. This authorization applies whether or not such persons are listed as a reference on my registration. Background Information includes any information relating to any abusive use of alcohol and/or illegal use of drugs, and any medical or psychiatric treatment or rehabilitation related thereto. I understand that such Background Information may be used to determine or verify my qualifications for entrance into the ABA entrance examination and ABA certification. A copy of this release may accompany any request made by the ABA for such Background Information.

I authorize the ABA to: (1) report my status in the examination system; (2) use any score in psychometric analyses to confirm observations and reports of suspected irregularities in the conduct of an examination;
and (3) respond to any inquiry about my status in the ABA examination system. I understand and agree that once my examination registration is completed and granted, this consent cannot be withdrawn.

I understand that the ABA may use any and all Background Information for the purpose of conducting longitudinal studies to assess the ABA certification process. I further understand that the ABA, alone or in collaboration with other researchers, may use information from the registration, testing, assessment and certification process (the “Assessment Information”) to conduct scientific research relating to anesthesiologists, the practice of anesthesiology and/or the education of anesthesiologists. Any and all information used for research may be reported or released to the public only in the aggregate without any individual identification.

Use of any Background Information or Assessment Information for analysis or research will not impact in any way my individual registration, test results or certification status. I understand and agree that should I not wish for my information to be used for research purposes, prior to taking the exam I must notify the ABA in writing to the attention of researchoptout@theABA.org to opt out and withdraw consent for my information to be used as part of research studies. I cannot opt out and consent cannot be withdrawn once my information has been de-identified and/or aggregated as part of any research study.

I release and agree to hold harmless each person from any liability to me arising out of the giving or releasing of information to the ABA. This release and agreement includes liability for the inaccuracy or untruth of the information, so long as such information is provided in good faith. I also release and agree to hold harmless the ABA and its agents and employees, including but not limited to its directors, officers and examiners, from any liability to me as a result of any acts or proceedings undertaken or performed in connection with my registration, provided such acts or proceedings are made or conducted in good faith.

E. Registrants must also attest to their clinical activity every three years while in the examination system.

6.10 EXAMINATION REGISTRATION, SCHEDULING & CANCELLATION

(1) Examination Registration and Scheduling

Candidates will register for the examination in the year of the subspecialty certification examination and will pay a single fee upon registration. Registration for subspecialty examinations begins March 1 of each year. See Deadlines and Examination Dates on the last page of this section.

The ABA will notify candidates of their eligibility to register for a subspecialty examination via their email address on file in the ABA office. Candidates who register for an examination by the established deadline must pay the registration fee at that time. Current fees are posted on the ABA website at www.theABA.org.

Once candidates have registered for an examination and paid the fee via their ABA portal account, they will be notified via email with instructions on how to schedule examination appointments with the examination administration vendor.

(2) Notification and Cancellation of Examination Appointments

(1) A candidate who cancels a scheduled examination appointment must submit a written request to cancel at least one week prior to the examination administration week. A cancellation fee must accompany the candidate’s request to retain the examination fee for the next examination appointment. Current fees are posted on the ABA website at www.theABA.org.

(2) A candidate who misses a scheduled examination appointment because of an unavoidable or catastrophic event must submit a written request with explanation and independent documentation of the event. The ABA must receive the candidate’s request and the cancellation fee no later than three days after the examination date to retain the examination fee for the next examination appointment. If a scheduled appointment is missed for a reason that does not represent an unavoidable or catastrophic event, the examination fee will be forfeited. Forfeiting of the examination fee is solely at the discretion of the Board.
(3) A candidate who misses an examination appointment and does not cancel the scheduled examination appointment forfeits the examination fee.

The ABA office is not responsible for an interruption in communication with a candidate that is due to circumstances beyond its control. Candidates must immediately notify the ABA of a mailing or email address change via the ABA website at www.theABA.org, or by writing the ABA office. The candidate’s ABA identification number should be included on all correspondence to the Board solely for identification purposes.

6.11 DURATION OF CANDIDATE STATUS

The duration of candidate status is limited as follows:

(1) The ABA will no longer limit the number of opportunities candidates will be given to satisfy an examination requirement.


(3) Candidates who complete subspecialty training on or after Jan. 1, 2012, must satisfy all requirements for certification within seven years of the last day of the year in which subspecialty training was completed.

(4) Candidates who registered for the Pediatric Anesthesiology Examination with temporary criteria must satisfy all requirements for subspecialty certification by Dec. 31, 2018.

6.12 REESTABLISHING ELIGIBILITY FOR SUBSPECIALTY CERTIFICATION

If a candidate does not satisfy all requirements for subspecialty certification within the initial seven-year prescribed time period (as described in Section 6.11), the ABA will declare the candidate’s registration void. Physicians whose registrations have been voided may submit a new registration for the subspecialty certification examination. At the time of registration, the registrant must meet the eligibility requirements (as described in Section 6.08). Prior to submitting a new registration, in addition to meeting the requirements in Section 6.08, the physician must complete four additional consecutive months of training in the subspecialty. The training must be in an ACGME-accredited anesthesiology subspecialty program and must be completed satisfactorily before the physician can register to enter the subspecialty examination system.

Physicians reestablishing eligibility for subspecialty certification must satisfy all requirements for subspecialty certification by Dec. 31 of the fourth year following the successful completion of four consecutive months of training in the subspecialty. Physicians will only be allowed to reestablish eligibility for the subspecialty certification once.

Physicians who qualified previously by Temporary Criteria must meet all eligibility requirements (as described in Section 6.08) at the time of registration to reestablish eligibility for subspecialty certification.
## Subspecialty Certification Deadlines & Examination Dates

### 2018 Examinations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subspecialty</th>
<th>Examination Date</th>
<th>Registration Period</th>
<th>Late Registration Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pain Medicine</td>
<td>Sept. 8, 2018</td>
<td>March 1 – June 28, 2018</td>
<td>June 29 – Aug. 9, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospice and Palliative Medicine</td>
<td>Nov. 20, 2018</td>
<td>March 1 – June 28, 2018</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sleep Medicine</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pediatric Anesthesiology</td>
<td>Aug. 11, 2018</td>
<td>March 1 – June 28, 2018</td>
<td>June 29 – July 12, 2018</td>
</tr>
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### 2019 Examinations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subspecialty</th>
<th>Examination Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Critical Care Medicine</td>
<td>Oct. 12, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pain Medicine</td>
<td>Sept. 14, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospice and Palliative Medicine</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sleep Medicine</td>
<td>Nov. 6, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pediatric Anesthesiology</td>
<td>Oct. 26, 2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*There is an additional $500 fee for any registration submitted during the late registration period.*
7.01 SUBSPECIALTY RECERTIFICATION

The subspecialty recertification program has transitioned to MOCA 2.0® for all diplomates whose certificates expire in 2017 or later (see the MOCA 2.0 section).

A. Diplomates whose critical care medicine or pain medicine subspecialty certification expired on or before Dec. 31, 2016, are eligible to register for a subspecialty recertification examination in 2018. Registrants must take and pass the subspecialty recertification examination before being eligible to register for MOCA 2.0. After 2018, these diplomates will be required to reestablish eligibility for entrance into the initial subspecialty certification examination system (see Section 7.07).

B. Diplomates whose hospice and palliative care medicine subspecialty certification expires on Dec. 31, 2018, may register for a recertification examination in 2018. Diplomates certified in hospice and palliative care medicine will participate in MOCA 2.0 beginning in 2017, but will continue to take the recertification exam to maintain their subspecialty certifications because the ABA does not administer the examination (see Section 4.03.D).

ABA subspecialty recertification programs include two major components: an evaluation of the quality of current practice conducted at the local level and a secure computer-administered examination.

Although admission into the ABA subspecialty recertification examination system and success with the examination are important steps in the ABA subspecialty recertification process, they do not by themselves guarantee subspecialty recertification. The Board reserves the right to make the final determination of whether each candidate meets all of the requirements for subspecialty recertification after successful completion of examinations for subspecialty recertification (see Section 7.03 and Section 8.09).

The Board, acting as a committee of the whole, reserves the right not to accept a registration. The registrant has the right to seek review of such a decision (see Section 8.05). The Board reserves the right to correct clerical errors affecting its decisions.

ABA subspecialty recertification certificates are subject to ABA rules and regulations, including its policy book, all of which may be amended from time to time without further notice.

7.02 OVERVIEW OF SUBSPECIALTY RECERTIFICATION EXAMINATIONS

Subspecialty recertification examinations in critical care medicine, pain medicine and hospice and palliative medicine are designed to test for the presence of knowledge considered essential for the ABA diplomate to function as a practitioner of the subspecialty. The Critical Care Medicine and Pain Medicine Examinations are administered annually. The Hospice and Palliative Medicine Examination is administered every other year. The ABA shall determine that admission to a subspecialty recertification examination is warranted when required information submitted by and on behalf of the registrant is satisfactory. The ABA will notify a registrant who is accepted as a candidate for subspecialty recertification after approval of all credentials.

A. Examination dates are available on the last page of this section. However, for the most current examination dates please visit the ABA website at www.theABA.org, which is the official source of ABA
examination dates and deadlines.

B. ABA examinations are administered to all candidates under the same standardized testing conditions at computer-based testing centers throughout the United States and Canada. The Board will consider a candidate’s complaint about the testing conditions under which an ABA examination was administered only if the complaint is received within one week of the examination date.

C. The ABA policies regarding irregular examination behavior, unforeseeable events and examination under nonstandard conditions may be found at Sections 8.11, 8.12, and 9.01, respectively.

7.03 REGISTRATION ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

At the time of registration for an ABA subspecialty recertification examination, the registrant must:

(1) Be a physician to whom the ABA previously awarded certification in the subspecialty.

(2) Have fulfilled the licensure requirement for certification (see Section 6.02.B). Registrants must inform the ABA of any conditions or restrictions in force on any active medical license they hold. Registrants who have a medical license restriction will be permitted to register for and take a subspecialty recertification examination; however, certification will be deferred until reviewed by the ABA Credentials Committee.

(3) Have on file in the ABA office documentation solicited by the ABA from the hospital/facility chief of staff, or equivalent, attesting to the registrant’s current privileges where a substantial portion of the registrant’s practice takes place. The documentation includes evaluations of various aspects of the registrant's current practice and verification that the registrant meets the Board’s clinical activity requirement by practicing the medical discipline for which subspecialty recertification is being sought, on average, at least one day per week during 12 consecutive months over the previous three years (see Section 6.08.D). If the registrant’s practice is entirely office-based, three letters of reference solicited by the ABA from referring physicians should be on file.

(4) Be capable of performing independently in the subspecialty, without accommodation or with reasonable accommodation.

The ABA shall determine that entry into the subspecialty recertification examination system is warranted when required information submitted by and on behalf of the registrant is satisfactory. The ABA will notify a registrant who is accepted as a candidate for subspecialty recertification after approval of all credentials.

7.04 REGISTRATION PROCEDURE

A. Registration for admission to the ABA subspecialty recertification examination must be made using the ABA Physician Portal, which can be accessed via the ABA website at www.theABA.org.

B. Registrations may be submitted at any time during the registration period. (Please see the Deadlines and Examination Dates available on the last page of this section). Please note that registration fees vary by filing date. Current fees are published on the ABA website at www.theABA.org. The registration deadlines are absolute. Regardless of the reason, the ABA will not consider a registration for a subspecialty recertification examination that is received after the deadline.

C. The ABA must receive all documentation required to make a decision about a registrant’s qualifications for admission to a subspecialty recertification examination by the decision deadline. (Please see the Deadlines and Examination Dates available on the last page of this section.) This includes, but is not limited to, verification of credentialing/hospital privileges. A registration will not be accepted if the required documentation is not received by that date. It is ultimately the responsibility of every registrant to
ensure that the ABA receives all required documentation in a timely manner.

D. The registration form includes the identical Acknowledgement statement included in the registration for specialty certification, which the subspecialty recertification registrant shall be required to sign by electronic signature (see Section 6.09.D). The registration also includes the identical Release statements included in the registration for subspecialty certification, which the registrant shall be required to sign by electronic signature (see Section 6.09.D).

E. The Board, acting as a committee of the whole, reserves the right not to accept a registration. The registrant has the right to seek review of such decision (see Section 8.05).

F. The Board reserves the right to correct clerical errors affecting its decisions.

7.05 EXAMINATION REGISTRATION, SCHEDULING & CANCELLATION

A. Candidates will register for the examination in the year of the subspecialty recertification examination and will pay a single fee upon registration. Registration for subspecialty recertification examinations begins March 1 of each year. See Deadlines and Examination Dates on the last page of this section.

B. The ABA will notify candidates of their eligibility to register for a subspecialty recertification examination via their email address on file in the ABA office. Candidates who register for an examination by the established deadline must pay the registration fee at that time. Current fees are posted on the ABA website at www.theABA.org.

Once candidates have registered for an examination and paid the fee via their ABA portal account, they will be notified via email with instructions on how to schedule examination appointments with the examination administration vendor.

C. The ABA policies regarding examination notices, acceptance and cancellation of examination appointments, and address changes are stated in Section 6.10.

7.06 DURATION OF CANDIDATE STATUS

The duration of candidate status is limited as follows:

(1) Candidates whose subspecialty recertification expires on or before Dec. 31, 2016, will have until Dec. 31, 2018, to satisfy all requirements for subspecialty recertification. Candidates have one examination appointment per calendar year until Dec. 31, 2018, to successfully complete the requirements for subspecialty recertification.

If a candidate does not satisfy all requirements for recertification within the prescribed time period, as described above, the ABA will declare the candidate’s registration void. Physicians whose registrations for subspecialty recertification are voided will be required to reestablish eligibility for subspecialty certification (see Section 7.07).

7.07 REESTABLISHING ELIGIBILITY FOR SUBSPECIALTY RECERTIFICATION

If a diplomate does not satisfy all requirements for subspecialty recertification within the prescribed time period (as described in Section 7.06), the ABA will declare the diplomate’s registration void. Physicians whose registrations have been voided must reestablish eligibility for subspecialty certification (as defined in Section 6.08).

After reestablishing eligibility, physicians must satisfy all requirements for certification including successfully completing the initial subspecialty certification examination by Dec. 31 of the seventh year following
registration. Physicians will only be allowed to reestablish eligibility for the subspecialty recertification once.
### SUBSPECIALTY RECERTIFICATION DEADLINES & EXAMINATION DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2018 EXAMINATIONS</th>
<th>EXAMINATION</th>
<th>REGISTRATION</th>
<th>*LATE REGISTRATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Pain Medicine</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sleep Medicine</td>
<td>Nov. 6, 2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*There is an additional $500 fee for any registration submitted during the late registration period.*
BOARD POLICIES

8.01 ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) protects individuals with a history of alcohol or substance use disorder who are not currently abusing alcohol or using drugs illegally. The ABA supports the intent of the ADA.

The ABA will admit qualified physicians with a history of alcohol abuse to its examination system and to the examination if, in response to its inquiries, the ABA receives acceptable documentation that they are not currently abusing alcohol.

The ABA will admit qualified physicians with a history of illegal use of drugs to its examination system and to the examination if, in response to its inquiries, the ABA receives acceptable documentation that they are not currently engaged in the illegal use of drugs.

After a physician with a history of alcohol abuse or illegal use of drugs satisfies the examination requirements for certification, the ABA will determine whether it should defer awarding its certification to the physician for a period of time to avoid certifying a physician who poses a direct threat to the health and safety of others. If the ABA determines that deferral of the physician’s certification is appropriate because the physician does currently pose a threat to the health and safety of others, the ABA will assess the specific circumstances of the physician’s history of alcohol abuse or illegal use of drugs to determine when the physician should write the Board to request issuance of its certification.

8.02 REVOCATION OF CERTIFICATION

A certificate is issued by the Board with the understanding that it remains the property of the Board. Any certificate issued by the Board shall be subject to revocation in the event that:

A. The issuance of such certificate or its receipt by the person so certified shall have been contrary to, or in violation of, any rule or regulation of this Board; or

B. The person certified shall not have been eligible to receive such certificate whether the facts making him or her ineligible were known to, or could have been ascertained by, the Board or any of its Directors at the time of issuance of such certificate; or

C. Persons certified shall have made any misstatement or omission of fact in their registration for such certificate or in any other statement or representation to the Board or its representatives; or

D. The person certified shall fail to maintain a professional standing (see Section 8.06) satisfactory to the Board.

The Board shall be the sole judge of whether the evidence or information before it is sufficient to require or permit revocation of any certificate issued by the ABA, and the decision shall be final. The individual has the right to seek review of such a decision (see Section 8.05).

8.03 CERTIFICATION BY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

The ABA will make no statement about the comparability of the Board certificate and another organization’s certificate. The ABA will not accept certification by another entity as meeting the requirements for entrance into the ABA examination system for primary certification in anesthesiology or subspecialty certification or recertification.
8.04 RECORDS RETENTION

The ABA retains certain documents pertaining to an individual’s residency training, registration for certification, examination opportunities, and examination results (certification records) for the sole purpose of determining that its requirements for admission to the ABA examination system, certification, recertification, or maintenance of certification are fulfilled and are precise and accurate.

A complete copy of the Certification Records Retention Policy is available upon written request. The following is a summary of the ABA’s Certification Records Retention Policy:

(1) Records regarding registrant’s completion of residency programs, records pertaining to the ABA entrance requirements, registrations for ABA examinations and correspondence or communication with the ABA are retained indefinitely.

(2) Certification records corroborating the results of a candidate’s or diplomate’s examination are retained for one year following the examination.

(3) Certification records pertaining to adverse Board actions, including termination or other sanctions, are retained indefinitely.

(4) Certification records corroborating a diplomate’s completion of an ABA Maintenance of Certification program are retained as long as needed to verify that a requirement has been met. Results of MOCA Part III: Assessment of Knowledge, Judgment, and Skills completed through participation in MOCA Minute are retained for one year.

(5) Certification records pertaining to a physician’s completion of an ACGME-accredited anesthesiology residency program are retained indefinitely. This certification record includes entries that identify the training program, the dates of training and the faculty’s overall evaluation of the resident’s performance during training.

(6) Certification records for candidates issued an ABA certification are retained indefinitely. These certification records include documents and entries attesting that each certification requirement was met.

(7) Certification records pertaining to requests for examination under nonstandard testing conditions, including any supporting documentation, evaluations, medical records or expert reports, are retained indefinitely in the individual’s ABA file.

The ABA sees to the secure destruction of the documents in its file for an individual when the period specified for retention of the documents has expired.

8.05 REQUESTS FOR RECONSIDERATION

The ABA, being dedicated to the principles of fairness and consistency in its dealings with its registrants, candidates and diplomates, has established a policy for review of certain ABA decisions. The only actions of the ABA that are reviewable are a decision to deny exam registration, a denial of assessment under nonstandard conditions, or revocation of a certificate issued by the ABA. When the ABA makes such a decision, it shall notify the physician in writing and such notice shall contain a concise statement of the reasons for the decision, including copies or references to pertinent ABA policies, procedures and deadlines; the established criteria and procedure for seeking reconsideration; and a clear statement that any right to reconsideration will be waived if not exercised by the stated deadline.

Reconsideration requests for denials of exam registration will not be considered if the original denial was due to an incomplete registration, non-payment of applicable fees, or failure to meet the requirements for continuum of education, satisfactory professional standing (i.e., medical licensure) or clinical activity. An ABA decision to revoke certification is not subject to reconsideration if the revocation was due to unsatisfactory
professional standing which remains unresolved (i.e., the physician’s medical license(s) remain revoked, suspended or surrendered in lieu of revocation). Professional standing satisfactory to the ABA is a requirement for primary certification, subspecialty certification, and maintenance of certification. The only basis on which the ABA may consider your request for reconsideration of a decision to revoke certification is if you provide written documentation to the ABA that your medical license(s) has been restored without restrictions. Such documentation must be provided within the 30 day timeframe for submitting the request for reconsideration.

Physicians may exercise their right to request reconsideration by submitting a Request for Reconsideration Form within 30 days of receipt of the notice of the ABA decision in question. If the form is not received within the time and in the manner prescribed, the decision of the Board is considered final and not subject to further review. The form should be sent via email to credentialing@theABA.org, to the attention of “ABA Case Administration.” The form should include the reason(s) justifying reconsideration; including a concise rationale for why the physician believes the ABA’s decision was inconsistent with its policies and/or not supported by the evidence available to the Board at the time the decision was made. Upon receipt of the required form within the time and in the manner prescribed, the request will be evaluated by the appropriate ABA Committee. The Committee, in its discretion, may affirm, reverse or modify the initial decision. The ruling of the Committee shall be final and not subject to further review.

8.06 PROFESSIONAL STANDING

Professional standing satisfactory to the ABA is a requirement for primary certification, subspecialty certification, and maintenance of certification by the ABA.

Individuals with a medical license that is revoked, suspended or surrendered in lieu of revocation or suspension may be permitted to take ABA examinations under some circumstances. 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 Board reviews and approves awarding certification.

The ABA assesses the professional standing of residents, candidates, and diplomates continually. These individuals have the affirmative obligation to advise the ABA of any and all restrictions placed on any of their medical licenses, and to provide the ABA with complete information concerning such restrictions within 60 days after their imposition. Such information shall include, but not be limited to, the identity of the medical board imposing the restriction as well as the restriction’s duration, basis, and specific terms and conditions.

The ABA will initiate proceedings to revoke the certification(s) of diplomates with a medical license that is revoked, suspended or surrendered in lieu of revocation, suspension, inquiry or investigation, upon notice of such action. The ABA has the authority and may decide to undertake proceedings to take action against diplomates with other, less severe medical licensure restrictions (e.g., probation, reprimands or “conditions”), which may include revocation of the certification.

The ABA incorporates the AMA Code of Medical Ethics, Opinion E-2.06 (June 2000), regarding physician participation in capital punishment into its own professional standing policy. Specifically, it is the ABA’s position that an anesthesiologist should not participate in an execution by lethal injection and that violation of this policy is inconsistent with the professional standing criteria required for ABA certification and Maintenance of Certification in Anesthesiology or any of its subspecialties. As a consequence, ABA certificates may be revoked if the ABA determines that a diplomate participates in an execution by lethal injection.

8.07 RE-ATTAINING CERTIFICATION STATUS

The ABA established a registration procedure for diplomates with the designation of “Certified – Not Clinically Active,” “Certified – Retired,” or “Retired” to re-attain “Certified” status. There is also a procedure for physicians whose ABA certification is revoked to register with the ABA to re-attain certification. Interested physicians should contact the ABA office for details about these registration procedures.
The ABA considers registrations for re-attaining ABA certification on an individualized, case-by-case basis. The ABA may require the registrant to do one or more of the following in order to re-attain certification:

- Pass the ABA BASIC Examination.
- Pass the ABA ADVANCED Examination.
- Pass both the Standardized Oral Examination and Objective Structured Clinical Examination components of the ABA APPLIED Examination.
- Undertake continuing medical education.
- Complete additional training acceptable to the ABA.
- Complete other activities as deemed necessary by the ABA.

The ABA may choose to allow a registrant who has been certified in both anesthesiology and one or more anesthesia subspecialties, and who has changed their certification status to “Certified - Not Clinically Active,” “Certified – Retired,” “Retired” or who has had the certificates “Revoked,” to re-attain those certifications at different times. If a registrant had qualified under temporary criteria for a certificate, the status of which the diplomate has changed to either “Certified - Not Clinically Active,” “Certified – Retired,” “Retired” or which has been “Revoked,” the ABA may require the registrant to complete additional training or satisfy other additional conditions acceptable to the ABA.

Certifications that are re-attained are subject to the requirements for maintenance of certification and to the ABA rules and regulations, including its policy book, all of which may be amended from time to time without further notice.
The department enrolls the internationally certified anesthesiologist with the ABA 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 a 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.

The department chair also has to submit the following documents with the request for prospective approval of a four-year plan for an internationally trained and certified anesthesiologist:

1. Documentation of the physician’s anesthesiology certification in a country other than the U.S. that was preceded by postgraduate training in anesthesiology that is comparable in duration to training in the specialty provided by ACGME-accredited anesthesiology programs in the U.S.

2. Written verification satisfactory to the Board of the physician’s anesthesiology certification from the certifying body.

3. Evidence satisfactory to the Board that the physician has been awarded a medical or osteopathic degree acceptable to the ABA.

4. Evidence of one of the following:
   a. A permanent (valid indefinitely) certificate from the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates; or
   b. Comparable credentials from the Medical Council of Canada; or
   c. An active license to practice medicine or osteopathy in one state of the United States or in Canada that is permanent, unconditional and unrestricted.

5. Effective July 1, 2014, all applications for physicians’ participation in the AEP program will incur a $2,500 fee. This fee must be submitted by the training program at the time the Alternate Entry Path Plan Form and supporting documents are submitted for ABA approval.

C. PERIODIC EVALUATION REPORTS

At six-month intervals, the department chair must submit to the ABA attestations that the physician is 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 the ABA with an assessment of the physician’s performance during the preceding six months relative to the ABMS- and ACGME-approved six general physician competencies.

D. ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ABA PRIMARY CERTIFICATION EXAMINATION SYSTEM

AEP participants approved by the ABA to begin the program after Jan. 1, 2014, will be enrolled in the Staged Examinations System. Before the ABA will accept a physician in the alternate entry path program 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. The ABA will permit physicians to register for the BASIC Examination when they meet the eligibility requirements for registration (see Section 3.07). Participants must pass the BASIC Examination to qualify for the ADVANCED Examination. Upon completion of the four-year program an AEP participant will be permitted to register for the ADVANCED Examination (see Section 3.10). Upon successful completion of the ADVANCED Examination participants may register for the APPLIED Examination (see Section 3.12).

The internationally trained and certified anesthesiologist must register with the ABA for examination. In addition to submitting the registration electronically, the ABA requires that the physician:
(1) Have on file in the ABA office attestations from the department chair that the physician completed satisfactorily the four-year program planned by the department chair and prospectively approved by the ABA Credentials Committee.

(2) Provide evidence acceptable to the Board of having an unexpired license to practice medicine or osteopathy in at least one state or jurisdiction of the United States or province of Canada that is permanent, unconditional and unrestricted. Further, every United States and Canadian medical license the physician holds must be free of restrictions. Physicians must inform the ABA of any conditions or restrictions in force on any active medical license they hold. When there is a restriction or condition in force on any of the physician’s medical licenses, the Credentials Committee of the ABA will determine whether, and on what terms, the physician shall be admitted to the ABA examination system (see Section 3.01.A).

(3) Have on file with the Board documentation attesting to the physicians’ current privileges and evaluations of various aspects of their current practice of anesthesiology. Such evaluations will include verification that the physician meets the Board’s clinical activity requirement by spending, on average, at least one day per week during 12 consecutive months over the previous three years in the clinical practice of anesthesiology and/or related subspecialties. The ABA may solicit such documentation and evaluations from the chair of the anesthesiology department that enrolled the physician in the alternate entry path program and use them in determining the physician’s qualifications for admission to the examination system. The department’s assessment of the physician’s performance relative to the ABMS- and ACGME-approved six general physician competencies at six-month intervals and the evaluation of the anesthesiology department chair will be used as the basis for assessing admission qualifications.

8.09 INDEPENDENT PRACTICE REQUIREMENT

Physicians must be capable of performing independently the entire scope of practice in the specialty or subspecialty, with or without reasonable accommodation for disabilities.

The Board will investigate, examine and attempt to resolve any issues regarding a physician’s ability to meet the Independent Practice Requirement by investigating and examining relevant information in the ABA record, including any information provided by the physician, or submitted by the program director in the physician’s final evaluation.

The ABA routinely reminds all program directors that they will be required to attest to whether a physician meets all of the criteria for admission to the ABA examination system, including the independent practice requirement, at the time they complete their residency and/or fellowship training program.

The Board, as part of the registration process for ABA examinations and MOCA, presents all registrants with the ABA definition of independent practice and asks whether they satisfy the requirement, without accommodation or with reasonable accommodation.

The Board routinely advises all physicians that after successful completion of the certification examinations and MOCA, the ABA will make the final determination of whether the physician meets all of the criteria for certification, including the independent practice requirement. The Board may, at its discretion, gather additional information to assist in making this determination.

8.10 DATA PRIVACY AND SECURITY POLICY

In the course of registration, examination, certification, recertification and maintenance of certification processes (collectively, “certification processes”), the ABA must collect and utilize personal and professional information pertaining to its registrants, candidates and diplomates. The ABA has issued this Data Privacy and Security Policy to govern the collection, use and disclosure of such information. The Policy ensures that the ABA will protect the security and privacy of any information provided during the certification processes.
The ABA requires that registrants, candidates and diplomates provide certain personal information to be used by the ABA during the certification processes. In connection with performing activities relating to the certification processes, the ABA uses its best efforts to keep such information confidential and protected and will limit such disclosures to those who “need to know” the information to properly perform an ABA function or operation relating to the certification processes. With respect to external disclosures to third parties, the ABA may disclose certain registrant, candidate or diplomate personal information in response to lawful processes (such as a subpoena or court order) and make disclosures to the public regarding the registrant’s, candidate’s or diplomate’s certification status. In making such external disclosures to third parties, the ABA will only disclose such information that is minimally necessary to accomplish the purposes described above and require any receiving party to take proper security precautions, unless such information is already in the public domain. The ABA also may disclose certain registrant, candidate or diplomate information to research partners approved by the Board for the purpose of conducting studies to assess ABA certification processes or to conduct scientific research relating to anesthesiologists, the practice of anesthesiology and/or the education of anesthesiologists.

The ABA maintains physical, electronic and procedural safeguards to protect and secure all personal information in its possession. The ABA’s security measures protect the confidentiality of online communications, examination results and other data related to the certification processes. Examination results and sensitive registrant, candidate and diplomate data transmissions are encrypted and stored in secure areas of ABA systems accessible only by authorized Board personnel with a unique ID and password. ABA database servers used for transactions and communication with registrants, candidates and diplomates are located in a restricted, secure area accessible only by authorized personnel. Firewalls and monitoring devices are utilized to prevent unauthorized access via the Internet.

The ABA takes all reasonable precautions to ensure that personal information is never exposed to any unauthorized person. In the unlikely event that an unauthorized party gains access to personal information stored in the ABA’s computer systems, the Board will notify the affected person(s) without unreasonable delay and consistent with the legitimate needs of law enforcement, pursuant to North Carolina law 75-65 “Protection from security breaches.” In this event, the ABA will take all necessary steps to determine the scope of the breach and restore our systems to a reasonable level of security.

8.11 IRREGULAR EXAMINATION BEHAVIOR

The Board acts to maintain the integrity of its examination and certification process and to ensure the equitable and objective administration of its examinations to all candidates. Information about behavior that the Board considers a violation of the integrity of its examination and certification process is sent to all physicians scheduled for examination or participation in MOCA Minute. Statistical analyses may be conducted to verify observations and reports of suspected irregularities in the conduct of an examination or MOCA Minute. Those whose conduct, in the Board’s judgment, violates or attempts to violate the integrity of its examination and certification process will be invalidated and no results will be reported. Furthermore, the candidate will be subject to punitive action as determined by the Board. In that event, the candidate would be informed of the reasons for the Board’s actions and could request an opportunity to present information deemed relevant to the issue and to petition the Board to reconsider its decision.

Irregular examination/MOCA Minute behavior means any conduct that, in the ABA’s sole discretion, may jeopardize the integrity or validity of any ABA examination process or result, including but not limited to cheating, misappropriating, copying or reproducing any element of an examination for personal use or the use of a third-party without the explicit and specific written consent of the ABA. The ABA considers that irregular examination/MOCA Minute behavior demonstrates unsatisfactory essential attributes related to the competency of professionalism.

A. For residents found to have engaged in irregular examination behavior on the In-Training Examination:

(1) The ABA will give the resident an unsatisfactory rating for appropriate Essential Attributes and for overall clinical competence on the six-month Certificate of Clinical Competence report for the training
period that included the examination date for the In-Training Examination.

(2) The ABA will first consider a registration for examination and certification from individuals no sooner than two years after the initial examination for which they otherwise could have qualified.

B. For ABA candidates found to have engaged in irregular examination behavior on an ABA certification examination:

(1) The ABA will declare the candidate’s registration void.

(2) The ABA will not consider a registration from the individual for re-admission to the ABA examination system for at least two years.

C. For diplomates found to have engaged in irregular examination behavior on the MOCA Examination:

(1) The ABA will declare the diplomate’s examination void and will withdraw the diplomate from MOCA.

(2) The ABA will not consider MOCA enrollment for at least two years.

D. For diplomates found to have engaged in irregular MOCA Minute behavior:

(1) The ABA will declare the diplomate’s responses void and will withdraw the diplomate from MOCA.

(2) The ABA will not consider MOCA enrollment for at least two years.

The above statements do not limit the Board’s ability to impose more severe actions. In its sole discretion, the Board may require an individual who is found to have engaged in irregular examination/MOCA Minute behavior to wait a longer period of time to apply to the ABA for re-examination/participation in MOCA Minute. These decisions are final and not subject to review.

8.12 UNFORESEEABLE EVENTS

In the event of a natural disaster, war, government regulations, strikes, civil disorders, curtailment of transportation facilities or other unforeseeable events which make it inadvisable, illegal or impossible for the ABA to administer an examination to a candidate at the appointed date, time and location, or to conclude a candidate’s examination, the ABA is not responsible for any personal expense the candidate may have incurred to be present for the examination, nor for any such expense the candidate may incur for any subsequent examination.

8.13 EXAMINATION RESCORING

The ABA offers a rescore service to physicians who wish for their exam to be reevaluated. However, examinees are strongly discouraged from requesting this service as the ABA employs extensive and rigorous quality control procedures to ensure the accuracy of results and has no record of a discrepancy ever being detected.

The rescore service is limited to verifying that the responses as scored were made by the examinee and were correctly transformed into a scaled score. It is not a review of the exam content, what the correct answer should be, the acceptability of testing conditions or a reconsideration of the passing standard.

Physicians who wish to request an examination rescore must send a completed request form with the rescore fee to the ABA postmarked within six weeks of the official release date of your exam results. The ABA will communicate results of the rescore to physicians within six weeks of receiving your request.

More information, including the request form and fee, is available for each examination on the ABA website.
REQUESTING ACCOMMODATION

The ABA supports the intent of the Americans with Disabilities Act. To accommodate individuals with documented disabilities who demonstrate a need for accommodation, the ABA will make reasonable and appropriate modifications to its assessment programs that do not impose an undue burden on its programs or fundamentally alter the measurement of skills or knowledge that the programs are intended to test.

9.01 REQUESTING ACCOMMODATION

Individuals must request assessment accommodation by submitting the ABA Request for Accommodation form for the assessment for which accommodation is sought. The ABA only reviews and responds to one assessment accommodation request at a time. Individuals seeking accommodation on more than one assessment must submit a separate request form for each assessment type at the time that they are eligible to take that assessment.

Requests for accommodation on the APPLIED or Part 2 Examination should only be submitted after the candidate has passed the ADVANCED or Part 1 Examination. The ABA will not consider a request for accommodation on the APPLIED or Part 2 Examination if the individual has not first satisfied the ADVANCED or Part 1 Examination requirement.

Request forms must be submitted by the request deadline as published on the ABA website at www.theABA.org. The request form must state the nature of the individual’s disabilities and all the modifications or auxiliary aids being requested. The ABA office must receive all documentation and other evidence substantiating the individual's disabilities no later than the published documentation deadline. The request form and applicable deadline dates are available on the ABA website. Individuals are highly encouraged to submit their request form and supporting documentation as early in the registration process as possible.

All individuals requesting accommodations should read the ABA Guidelines for Requesting Accommodation. The Guidelines are provided for examinees, evaluators, faculty and others involved in the process of documenting an individual’s request for accommodation. Individuals requesting accommodation are encouraged to share these guidelines with their evaluator, therapist, treating physician, etc., so that the appropriate documentation can be assembled to support the request for accommodation. The ABA’s Guidelines are available on the ABA website at www.theABA.org.

Documentation and other evidence of the nature, severity and impact of the individual’s disability must include an evaluation report from the professional who assessed the individual’s disability that explains why the testing results support the specific diagnosis and how the disability limits the individual’s ability to take the examination under standard testing conditions.

Documentation of the individual’s disability must include the results of tests performed when the individual is using mitigating measures (e.g., a medication, assistive device or prosthetic) or compensating behaviors that are available to control or correct the symptoms or limitations of the individual’s disability.

The nature and severity of a disability and its impact on the individual’s ability to take the assessment under standard testing conditions may change with time. Therefore, the ABA requires that the accompanying assessments of an individual’s disability and resulting functional limitations be based on testing results and evaluations that are sufficiently recent (i.e., generally performed within five years of the assessment for which accommodation is requested) to demonstrate the current nature and severity of the disability and its impact on the individual’s ability to take the assessment under standard testing conditions.

A prior history of accommodation does not, in and of itself, warrant accommodation by the ABA. If a candidate has previously been approved by the ABA for assessment under nonstandard conditions, the ABA reserves
the right to require the individual to provide additional or newer documentation to demonstrate a current need for accommodation.

The ABA reserves the right to verify independently, at its own expense, the nature and severity of an individual’s disabilities and their impact on the individual’s ability to take the assessment under standard testing conditions.

All requests for accommodations, including any supporting documentation, evaluations, medical records or expert reports, will become part of, and retained indefinitely in, the individual’s ABA file (see Section 3.04). The ABA reserves the right to utilize these Certification Records in connection with its determination of whether the registrant or candidate meets the requirements for entrance into the ABA examination system, or the requirements for certification, recertification or maintenance of certification including the independent practice requirement (see Section 8.09).

9.02 CONSIDERING A REQUEST

An ABA committee (hereinafter referred to as “the committee”) will consider the individual’s request and the documentation submitted to substantiate the basis for it, if the request and documentation are received by the appropriate deadline dates. If a request is received after the ABA’s published deadline dates, the request will not be considered for the current examination cycle.

At its own expense, the committee may obtain the professional opinion of experts of its choosing regarding the documentation of the individual’s disabilities and the accommodations requested.

The committee will make reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities when there is sufficient evidence of a disability that significantly impairs the individual’s ability to take the examination under standard testing conditions. However, auxiliary aids and services, and modifications to the ABA assessment programs, can only be offered if they do not fundamentally alter the measurement of skills or knowledge that the programs are intended to test or result in an undue burden on the ABA programs.

The ABA reserves the right to require an individual to provide additional information to verify the existence of a disability and the need for any modification or aid. The ABA will not delay an examination pending submission of any missing documentation.

The ABA will send the individual a letter of notification of the committee’s action. If the individual’s request is not granted, the letter shall include the basis for the committee’s action. The individual has the right to seek review of such decision (see Section 8.05).
GLOSSARY

**Policy Book** – Published by the ABA to inform all interested individuals of the policies, procedures, regulations and requirements governing its certification programs.

**Accreditation** – A review and approval process of residency training programs that have met certain standards.

**Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME)** – The organization that evaluates and accredits institutions and organizations offering Continuing Medical Education (CME) in the United States. ACCME is an Associate Member of ABMS.

**Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME)** – The organization that evaluates and accredits post-MD medical residency training programs in the United States. ACGME is an Associate Member of ABMS.

**Candidate** – An individual who has become eligible to register with the ABA for primary certification or subspecialty certification whose certification has not been granted yet.

**Certificate of Clinical Competence** – An assessment of a resident’s performance submitted to the ABA semi-annually by a training program over the course of residency.

**Certification Status** – An individual’s status relative to the ABA’s examination and certification system. “Status” is limited to the period of time the physician’s certification or registration for certification is valid.

**Clinical Base (CB)** – A one year curriculum consisting of clinical rotations during which a resident has responsibility for the diagnosis and treatment of patients with a variety of medical and surgical problems.

**Clinical Anesthesia (CA)** – A three-year curriculum consisting of experience in basic anesthesia training, subspecialty anesthesia training and advanced anesthesia training.

**Clinical Competence Committee** – A group comprised of active faculty members who review the progress of every resident in a training program.

**Clinically Active** – Physicians are considered clinically active if they spend on average, at least one day per week during 12 consecutive months over the previous three years in the clinical practice of anesthesiology and/or related subspecialties.

**Continuum of Education** – The continuum of education in anesthesiology consists of four years of full-time training subsequent to the date that the medical or osteopathic degree has been conferred. The continuum consists of a clinical base year and 36 months of approved training in anesthesia (CA-1, CA-2 and CA-3 years).

**Credentials Committee** – An ABA Committee responsible for determining whether residents’ training is acceptable to the ABA, registrants meet the ABA requirements for admission to examination, candidates meet the ABA requirements for certification and subspecialty certification, and diplomates meet the ABA requirements for recertification or maintenance of certification.

**Decision Deadline** – A time limit the ABA establishes for all documentation to be received to make a decision about admission into the examination system.

**Diplomate** – An ABA-certified physician.

**Diplomate and Candidate Directory** – The official source of verification for ABA certification status which can
be found on the ABA website at www.theABA.org.

**Duration of Candidate Status** – The time frame in which a physician must complete the requirements for certification relative to the physician’s satisfactory completion of an ACGME-accredited residency/fellowship program.

**Eligibility Requirements** – Necessary performance and information required by the ABA to determine entry into the ABA examination system.

**Independent Practice Requirement** – Requires residents/fellows and candidates for initial ABA specialty and subspecialty certification to be capable of performing independently the entire scope of practice in the specialty or subspecialty without accommodation or with reasonable accommodation.

**In-Training Examination (ITE)** – Formative examination developed to evaluate resident/fellow progress in meeting the educational objectives of a residency/fellowship program. These examinations may be offered by certification boards or specialty societies.

**Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME)** – Accredits programs of medical education leading to the M.D. in the United States and in collaboration with the Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools, in Canada.

**Licensure Restriction** – A candidate or diplomate of the ABA has had his/her medical license revoked, suspended or surrendered in lieu of revocation or suspension.

**Licensure Condition** – A candidate or diplomate of the ABA has a medical licensure restriction of less severe nature, such as special conditions or requirements imposed on the license (e.g., chaperoning, probation, supervision, or additional training).

**Maintenance of Certification in Anesthesiology™ (MOCA®) program** – A program that includes continuing assessment of Professionalism and Professional Standing; ongoing Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment; Assessment of Knowledge, Judgment, and Skills; and Improvement in Medical Practice, to assure that ABA diplomates demonstrate a commitment to quality clinical outcomes and patient safety. See the MOCA Policy Book for more information.

**Part 1 Examination** – The Part 1 Examination is designed to assess the candidate’s knowledge of basic and clinical sciences as applied to anesthesiology. Part 1 Examinations are held annually in locations throughout the United States and Canada. The Part 1 Examination is administered by computer through a third-party testing vendor. Passing the Part 1 Examination is required for primary certification.

**Part 2 Examination** – The Part 2 Examination is designed to assess the candidate’s ability to demonstrate the attributes of an ABA diplomate when managing patients presented in clinical scenarios. The attributes are sound judgment in decision-making and management of surgical and anesthetic complications, appropriate application of scientific principles to clinical problems, adaptability to unexpected changes in the clinical situations, and logical organization and effective presentation of information. The Part 2 Examination emphasizes the scientific rationale underlying clinical management decisions. Examiners are Directors of the Board and other ABA diplomates who assist as associate examiners. Passing the Part 2 Examination is required for primary certification.

**Program Director** – The one physician designated with authority and accountability for the operation of a residency/fellowship program.

**Program Director (PDIR) Reference Form** – A form provided by the ABA that requires program directors to file regarding the professional standing, abilities, and character of a resident upon graduation.

**Professional Standing** – ABA diplomates must hold an active, unrestricted license to practice medicine in at
least one jurisdiction of the United States or Canada.

Registration – The process a physician will complete prior to being allowed to take an ABA examination.

Request for Accommodation – The form a physician submits to request taking an ABA examination under nonstandard conditions to accommodate individuals with documented disabilities.

Resident – A physician in an accredited graduate medical education specialty or subspecialty program; also referred to as “intern.”

Residency – A period of training in a specific medical specialty that typically occurs after graduation from medical school.

Residency Program – A program accredited to provide structured educational experience to train physicians in a particular medical specialty.

Rotation – An educational experience of planned activities in selected settings, over a specific time period, developed to meet goals and objectives of the program.

State Medical Licensing Board – Responsible for issuing licenses to physicians within their respective geographic jurisdiction. Each state has its own board, with its own set of requirements for licensure. A license may be obtained by taking an examination in a particular state; by endorsement if the physician is already licensed in another state; or by taking Steps 1, 2 and 3 of the United States Medical Licensing Exam (USMLE). A license is not always required during residency, although in some states it is necessary to have a license after the first year or two of training. All physicians must be licensed to practice, whether they are Board certified or not.

Status of Individuals – Defining an individual’s status relative to the ABA’s examination and certification system.