



2026 Policy Book Updates

The ABA has approved the following updates to the Policy Book:

1.05 STATUS OF INDIVIDUALS

The Credentialing Committee recommended and the BOD previously approved updates to Section 1.05 during WI25. These changes came from the ABMS permitting only one retired status designation, whereas the ABA currently has two: “Certified-Retired” and “Retired.” Copy changes were made as seen below to remove the “Certified-Retired” status and update the “Retired” definition:

Diplomates designated as “Certified - Not Clinically Active” have attested that they do not meet the ABA’s definition of clinical activity. Diplomates designated by the ABA as “Retired” have attested that they **have an active certificate free of restrictions, and with an attestation they are no longer engaged in patient care and not performing any function for which board certification is required.** Diplomates with a status of “Retired” or “Revoked” must reapply with the ABA to re-attain “Certified” status [see Section 7.07].

3.03 ABSENCE FROM TRAINING

During SP25, the Credentialing Committee recommended, and the BOD previously approved, removing the requirement for the Department Chair’s signature on the Additional Absence From Training PDF form for FMLA-related absences located in the RTID, while retaining the requirement for the Program Director’s signature. Copy changes were made as seen below:

The request shall be completed by the program director using the designated form located in the Record of Training Information Database (RTID), ~~countersigned by the department chair (if that person is different than the program director),~~ and signed by the resident.

ADDITIONAL CHANGES

Removing instances of “maintain” when in conjunction with references to certification. We have continued phasing out “maintain” nomenclature in alignment with ABMS’ request for Member Boards to suspend use of this terminology, as the “Maintenance of Certification” moniker has fallen out of favor. The ABMS BOD voted to mandate this change during their October 2024 meeting.

Replacing “clinical base” and “clinical base year” with “twelve months of fundamental clinical skills” to maintain consistency with the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) language.

MOCA fee increase. Updated one instance of MOCA fees being referenced in Section 4.03(A). Exam fees are not referenced directly in the Policy Book, but rather link out to the ABA website.

Updated Board of Directors. Updated to reflect officer updates for 2026. Added Dr. McLoughlin to retired directors section and added Dr. Huang to 2025-2026.

Handling unprofessional behavior from candidates or diplomates. Added the following language to Sections 3.08, 3.10, 3.12: **We are committed to treating all individuals with respect.**

We expect the same in return. Abusive behavior toward our staff will result in cancellation of your examination.

Added the following language to Section 4.03(A): We are committed to treating all individuals with respect. We expect the same in return. Abusive behavior toward our staff may result in cancellation of your MOCA registration.

Applicant consent to address potential cheating. Legal counsel recommended and the ABA BOD approved adding the following language to Sections 3.08 and 3.12(D): Furthermore, I understand and agree that my examination will be invalidated and I will forfeit my registration fee if I: (i) use any image capturing or recording device during the examination; (ii) make any attempt to record, reproduce, transmit or transcribe any portion of the examination; and/or (iii) disclose to any third party any portion of the examination in any format or medium now known or later created (collectively, "Prohibited Uses"). I further understand and agree that the ABA reserves its right to take all legal action against me if I engage in any of the Prohibited Uses, including without limitation claims for copyright infringement, misappropriation of trade secrets, and breach of contract.