



News and Comments - ABR Initial Certifying Requirements

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AAPM Annual Meeting
San Antonio, 2019

Changes in the Part 1 Requirements

For the 2021 Exam
i.e. Registration in 2020

Justification

- In reviewing the candidate performance on Part 1 we noted that some candidates had not completed appropriate basic medical physics courses.
- Proposed changes were discussed in 2018
 - AAPM Leadership
 - CAMPEP Leadership
 - SDAMPP Leadership (CC)
 - IC Advisory Committee
- The ABR Board of Trustees and the Board of Governors approved these changes at the 2019 Winter Retreat



Part 1 – Graduate or DMP

- Candidate must either be enrolled in a CAMPEP accredited graduate program or DMP program
 - Candidate must be in good standing in the program
- Or Completed such a program
- **If the candidate is applying based on enrollment in a graduate or DMP program, his or her program director must attest that he or she has completed the required six core courses at the time of application**



Part 1 – Certificate Program

- **Candidate must have completed a CAMPEP approved certificate program**



Part 1 – Residency Program

- **Must be enrolled and in good standing**
 - No change

Part 1 – Structured Mentorship

- Must be enrolled and in good standing
 - No change

Complex Questions

- Complex questions have been removed for Psychometric reasons
- No complex questions this year or going forward
- Increased use of other question types

All Written Exams – SI Units

- While most current questions use SI units some clinical questions are conventional
- For the written exams starting in 2021 all questions will be SI exclusively
 - (Almost i.e. Mev)
 - We will publish guidance
- This will not require memorizing odd conversions

All Written Exams – Calculators

- We now allow a specific calculator – examinees should review the exam instructions

All Exams – Professionalism and Ethics

A small number of questions
Based on AAPM Document

Blueprint – Content Guide

No significant changes
Major Audit of Content this Year

Starting in 2018 feedback is provided

Category	Standard Met
Radiation Measurement	YES
Therapeutic Medical Physics	YES
Diagnostic Medical Physics	YES
Radiation Protection & Professionalism	YES
Atomic/Nuclear Physics	NO
Informatics	NO
Nuclear Medical Physics	NO

You can fail to meet the standard in individual categories but still pass the exam.
This is not like the Oral

Part 1 - Clinical Physics: FAIL

Category	Standard Met
Human Physiology	YES
Anatomy	YES
Radiation Biology	YES
Clinical Procedures	NO
Pathology	NO
Terminology	NO

Locations

- Part 1 & Part 2 Remain at PearsonVue Centers
 - Encourage registration ASAP
- Part 3 (Oral)
 - Moved to Tucson
 - Very successful this year
 - BOG studying creating a dedicated Oral Exam Center

PearsonVue Centers are not operated by the ABR and sometimes the local center will not follow ABR requirements. It is important that all examinees know that if they feel that ABR policies are not being followed they should insist that the local center contact the ABR via PearsonVue

PearsonVue

- Is a very large international corporation
 - If you live abroad and wish to take the exams at international centers please contact the board
- PearsonVue administers many exams
 - **Register early to get the exam center of your choice**
- If you wish an ADA accommodation contact the ABR as early as possible

Read the details so you are not surprised

Part 2 Changes

- No complex this year and going forward.
- Increased use of new question types

NMP	Category: Clinical
Reference and relative dosimetry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reference dosimetry: Absolute calibration for photons, electrons, protons, and low energy x-rays • Ion chamber and electrometer design, characteristics, application and QA • Other dosimeters design, characteristics, application and QA • Survey detectors design and application • Film design, characteristics, application and QA
Treatment machines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photon and electron medical accelerators • Proton units • Specialized machines (design and function) • Therapy imaging (including physics, equipment design, application, image reconstruction, acceptance testing, and commissioning) • Shielding and radiation safety
External beam treatment planning, uncertainty management, and treatment planning system QA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photon treatment planning • Electron treatment planning • Management of uncertainties • Treatment planning for specialized machines • Treatment planning system QA
Brachytherapy, radiation protection, radiation biology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brachytherapy • Treatment room shielding • Brachytherapy treatment planning • Radiation protection • Radiation biology
Patient safety, data transfer and integrity, professionalism and ethics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient-specific treatment delivery QA • Quality control and error prevention • Incident learning systems and medical event reporting • Computing & IT • Professionalism and Ethics

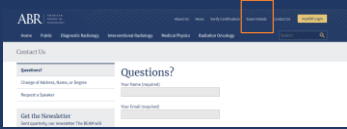
Part 3 Changes 2020

TMP only
 NMP & DMP were changed several years ago
 Posted on the ABR Website
 Previously Conditioned Candidates will use current categories



Always Ask the ABR First

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We have a booth here Stop By!!

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