

# ABR CERTIFICATION OF MEDICAL PHYSICISTS

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AAPM Annual Meeting  
July 22, 2014




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## CERTIFICATION

- Part of a life-long process
- From Initial Training to Retirement

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## AMERICAN BOARD OF RADIOLOGY



- One of 24 member boards of the  
***American Board of Medical Specialties***
- Board of Trustees: 25 members  
16 Radiologists, 6 Radiation Oncologists,  
3 Physicists: Jerry Allison, Geoffrey Ibbott, Tony Seibert
- Offices in Tucson, AZ
  - Executive Director: Valerie Jackson, MD
  - Associate Executive Director for Physics:  
Don Frey, PhD

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## ABR MISSION

"To serve patients, the public,  
and the medical profession. . ."

"By certifying that its diplomates  
have acquired, demonstrated,  
and *maintained* a requisite  
standard of knowledge, skill,  
and understanding. . ."

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## ABR Certification



- Diagnostic Radiologists
- Interventional Radiologists
- Radiation Oncologists
- Medical Physicists

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## ORGANIZATION OF EXAMS

- Part 1
  - General
  - Clinical
- Part 2 (Practice - Specific)
- Part 3 (Oral Exam)

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## PART 1 EXAM REQUIREMENTS



- As announced in 2002, effective 2012:
- The candidate must be enrolled in or have graduated from a CAMPEP-accredited medical physics program
- Program must be accredited at, or within a year after, graduation
- Program director must provide letter attesting that application has been submitted

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## EXPERIENCE



Must be working in a clinical medical physics environment under the supervision of a certified medical physicist.

Satisfied if enrolled in a CAMPEP-accredited program

Volunteer position may be accepted if formal structure




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## WRITTEN EXAM PART 1



- Written Exam
- Administered at Pearson VUE
- General and Clinical
- Must pass within 5 years of admission




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## WRITTEN EXAM PART 2



- Education - must have completed graduate degree
- Cannot be taken until passed Part 1
- Experience (as of 2014) - CAMPEP-accredited residency.




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## WRITTEN EXAMS



100 Type A questions (multiple choice, one correct answer)

- 75 Simple (limited calculations)
- 25 Complex (calculator often required)
  - Computer-based
  - Pearson VUE
  - Requires MS Windows calculator

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## EXPERIENCE - PART 2



If applied for Part 1 before 10/31/2012:

You must have had at least 3 years (36 months) of full-time equivalent clinical experience in ... an approved department or practice in the area(s) in which certification is sought under the supervision of a certified medical physicist.

This requirement must be satisfied by Aug. 31 of the year in which the Part 2 exam is to be taken.

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## EXPERIENCE



- Clinical component of educational program:
  - MS  $\leq$  6 months, PhD  $\leq$  12 months
- Postgraduate internship or residency
- Postdoctoral research with clinical component
- Postgraduate employment

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## "BOARD ELIGIBLE"



- ABR now recognizes the term "board eligible"
- Physicist candidate is "board eligible" after:
  - Passing Part 1, and
  - Being admitted to take Part 2 exam or completing residency (whichever occurs first)
- Permitted 6 years to pass Parts 2 & 3

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## REQUIREMENTS FOR ORAL EXAM

- Must have passed Parts 1 and 2
- Must travel to Louisville




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## ORAL EXAM



5 Examiners

5 Areas (Therapeutic Medical Physics)

- Radiation Protection & Safety
- Patient Related Measurements
- Image Acquisition, Processing, & Display
- Calibration, Quality Control, & Quality Assurance
- Equipment

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## ORAL EXAM



3 Committees

- Computer based
- Crowne Plaza



- Given in examiner's room
- Role of examiner

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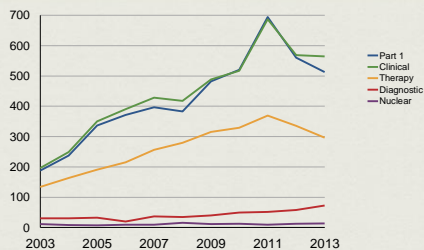
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## CANDIDATES: WRITTEN EXAMS




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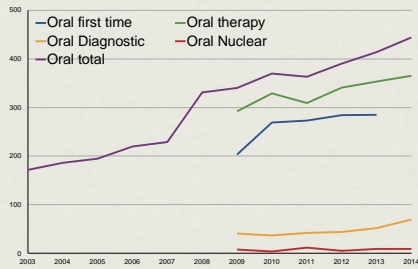
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## CANDIDATES: ORAL EXAMS




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## MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION

- Ensures that the diplomate maintains 6 key competencies:
  - Medical knowledge
  - Patient care and procedural skills
  - Interpersonal and communication skills
  - Professionalism
  - Practice-based learning and improvement
  - Systems-based practice

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## MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION

- Through the 4 MOC components:
  1. Professional standing
  2. Lifelong learning and self assessment
  3. Cognitive expertise
  4. Practice quality improvement

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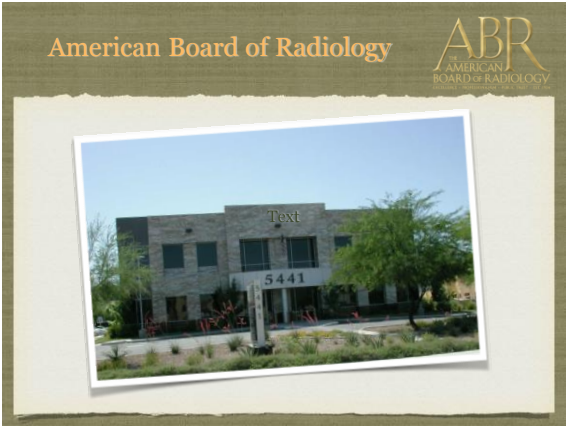
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