



**American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, Inc.**

A Member Board of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS)

# 2020

# Information for Applicants

  

## Initial Certification Examination

### in

## Epilepsy

**The information contained in this document and the 2020 ABPN Board Policies Manual supersedes all previously printed publications concerning Board requirements, policies, and procedures. For the most current information, please visit our website at [www.abpn.com](http://www.abpn.com).**

# Initial Certification Exam in Epilepsy

Dates Choices	October 19-30, 2020
Application Deadline	May 7, 2020
Late Deadline	May 7, 2020

## 2020 Fee Schedule\*

Application fee**	\$700
Examination fee	\$1200
<b>Total Fee</b>	<b>\$1900</b>
<b>Miscellaneous Fees</b>	
Late application fee (in addition to the above)	\$500
Reexamination fee***	\$1200
International testing fee	\$100
Application/licensure appeal fee****	\$350
Examination appeal fee****	\$300
Irregular behavior appeal fee****	\$350
Application for testing accommodations appeal fee****	\$350
Duplicate certificate fee	\$150
Returned check charge	\$50
*All fees must be submitted in U.S. currency	
**Fee is non-refundable	
***Reexamination fees are in addition to any appeal fees	
****Appeal fees are refundable if the decision is in the appellant's favor	
Please note: The ABPN reserves the right to revise fee schedule at any time. Throughout this publication, the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, Inc. may be referred to as "the Board" or as "ABPN". ATTENTION VETERANS: Some or all of your exam fees may be reimbursed through the Department of Veterans Affairs. Please contact the DVA for further information.	

## Important Dates for Initial Certification Exam in Epilepsy

Exam Date Choices	October 19-30, 2020
Applications Available	January 7, 2020
Deadline for required certification in neurology or child neurology	December 31, 2019
Applicant completing training after July 31, 2020 should contact the Board regarding eligibility	January 15, 2020
Application Deadline	May 7, 2020
Late Application Deadline	May 7, 2020
Deadline for Application for ADA Accommodations	May 9, 2020
Applicant should contact the Board if they have not received notification regarding their application	July 1, 2020
Graduation verification due to the Board for residents graduating June 30, 2020	July 15, 2020
Graduation verification due to the Board for residents graduating July 31, 2020	August 15, 2020
Scheduling Instructions Emailed	August 20, 2020
Deadline for Nursing Mother Accommodations	August 20, 2020
Pearson VUE Registration Opens	August 24, 2020

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# I. Training Information for the Epilepsy Certification Exam

## A. General Training Requirements

Applicants for certification in epilepsy must be certified by the Board in general neurology by December 31 of the year prior to the examination. All training requirements must be met by July 31 of the year of the examination.

All epilepsy training must be completed in programs accredited by the ACGME. Training programs approved by the Residency Review Committees and accredited by the ACGME can be found on the ACGME website, [ACGME.org](http://ACGME.org).

The exposure to epilepsy given to neurology residents as part of their basic neurology curriculum does not count toward the one year of training.

The required one full-time equivalent (FTE) year of specialized training in epilepsy may be completed on a part-time basis, as long as it is not less than half time; credit is not given for periods of training lasting less than one year, except under special circumstances that must be approved by the ABPN Credentials Committee. In such cases, it is the responsibility of the applicant to provide detailed documentation from the respective training directors, including exact dates (month/day/year to month/day/year) outlining training content, duties, and responsibilities. Each case is considered on an individual basis.

The ABPN recommends that all programs allow a minimum of four weeks of leave time (including vacation, sick time, maternity/paternity leave, etc.) during training per year. Leave or vacation time may NOT be used to reduce the total amount of required residency training or to make up deficiencies in training.

## B. Specific Requirements during the Practice Pathway Period (2013 through 2018 Examination)

During the practice pathway period (2013-2018), as an alternative to one FTE year of ACGME-accredited fellowship training in epilepsy, applicants may qualify for examination in epilepsy if they can provide the following:

- Documentation of satisfactory completion of 12 months of fellowship training in a non-ACGME-accredited epilepsy program affiliated with an ACGME-accredited neurology or child neurology residency training program. The epilepsy fellow must have satisfactorily completed an ACGME-accredited neurology, child neurology, or ABPN-approved neurology combined residency prior to entering the epilepsy fellowship program. Training or exposure to epilepsy given to neurology or child neurology residents as part of their basic neurology or child neurology curriculum does not count toward the one year of epilepsy fellowship training. Training must be completed by July 31 of the year of the examination.

OR

- Attestation of 25% of practice time in the United States devoted to epilepsy beyond completion of residency training in the primary specialty for a minimum of two years.
- One year of full-time equivalent subspecialty residency training must be completed in a continuous block of not less than one-half time.

During the temporary or the practice pathway period, fellowship training in clinical neurophysiology (CNP) may be used in lieu of fellowship training in epilepsy provided that the clinical neurophysiology training has not been used in the credentialing process for CNP or for any other ABPN subspecialty examination. If clinical neurophysiology training is used to credential for certification in epilepsy, it cannot subsequently be used to credential for certification in clinical neurophysiology.

### **C. Training Pathway (Specific Training Requirements after the Practice Pathway Period -- after 2018)**

After the practice pathway period, applicants for certification in epilepsy must:

- Be certified by the ABPN in neurology or neurology with special qualification in child neurology by December 31 prior to the examination administration.
- Submit documentation of successful completion of one year of fellowship training in epilepsy completed in an ACGME-accredited epilepsy program. The epilepsy fellow must have satisfactorily completed an ACGME-accredited neurology, child neurology, or ABPN-approved neurology combined residency prior to entering the epilepsy fellowship program. Training or exposure to epilepsy given to neurology or child neurology residents as part of their basic neurology or child neurology curriculum does not count toward the one year of epilepsy fellowship training. All licensing and training requirements must be met no later than July 31 of the year of the examination.
- One year of full-time equivalent subspecialty residency training must be completed in a continuous block of not less than one-half time.

NOTE: Candidates who applied under the temporary criteria who fail the examination may reapply for the examination after the temporary criteria has expired.

**Epilepsy training that was credited toward training requirements for admission into another examination may not be used to fulfill the training requirements for admission to the ABPN epilepsy examination.**

## II. Requirements for Admission to the Epilepsy Certification Exam

### A. General Requirements for All Applicants

#### To qualify to sit for examination, an applicant must:

1. Be a graduate of an accredited medical school in the United States or Canada or of an international medical school listed by the World Health Organization.
2. Have an active, full, unrestricted medical license as defined in the **separate Board Policies Manual** on the ABPN website. Applicants are required to update their active, full, unrestricted medical licenses in their ABPN Physician Folios account.
3. Be certified by the Board in neurology or neurology with special qualification in child neurology by December 31 of the year prior to the examination administration.
4. Have satisfactorily completed the Board's specific training requirements in epilepsy, as described in Section I.
5. Submit a completed official online application including all required attachments and the appropriate application and examination fees by the specified deadlines. Applicants are required to apply online through their ABPN Physician Folios account at [www.abpn.com/folios](http://www.abpn.com/folios).

#### **All training must be confirmed by submitting documentation noting the completion of training requirements.**

If you are unable to activate your account, you may need to submit a request to apply for the examination. This process may take up to three business days. Therefore, we encourage applicants to allow enough time to submit the request prior to the deadline for applications.

#### **The deadline for submission of a completed application is April 9, 2020**

### B. Initial Certification in Epilepsy

The ABPN, in concurrence with the ABMS, established a Committee on Certification in the subspecialty of Epilepsy in 2011. This was done to officially establish the field of epilepsy as a definite area of subspecialization in neurology and child neurology and to provide a means of identifying properly trained and experienced epileptologists.

The actual mechanics of certification of qualified candidates have been delegated by the Board to the Committee, which operates under the supervision of and in accordance with the policies of the Board.

Candidates have two consecutive opportunities to pass the examination on each application. Currently, there is no limit on the number of times an applicant may apply to take the initial certification in the subspecialty of epilepsy examination.

# III. Epilepsy Certification Exam: Application Process, Procedures, Format and Content

## A. Application Process Information

**Information in this section is important for all candidates. Please read carefully.**

Applicants are required to apply online through ABPN Physician Folios at [www.abpn.com/folios](http://www.abpn.com/folios). If you are unable to activate your account, you may need to submit a request to apply for the examination. This process may take up to three business days. Therefore, we encourage applicants to allow enough time to submit the request prior to the deadline for applications.

The Information for Applicants publication and the associated Application for Initial Certification are revised each year. The Information for Applicants document may be downloaded from the ABPN website.

**The applicant will receive an email confirming that the application was received.**

Applications are reviewed in the order of receipt. Applicants who do not receive any notification from the Board regarding their applications by July 1, 2020 should contact the Board office to inquire about the status of their application. Applicants are required to keep their email, mailing address, and license information up to date in ABPN Physician Folios.

Applicants denied admission to the examination are notified of their deficiencies in meeting the requirements of the Board.

Applications remain active for two consecutive examinations only. Candidates who fail to present themselves for the first scheduled examination following the date of acceptance of their applications are required to reapply by submitting a new online application, current application fee, and the examination fee.

Application fees are not refunded for any reason.

## B. Applicants with Disabilities

The Board recognizes that physicians with disabilities may wish to take the examinations and will attempt to make accommodations for applicants with verified disabilities. The Board supports the intent of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and amendments thereto. The Board will provide reasonable accommodations during testing to provide equal opportunity for persons with disabilities. Applicants are reminded that modifications, accommodations, auxiliary aids and/or services can only be offered if they do not “fundamentally alter the measurement of the skills or knowledge the examination is intended to test” (28 C.F.R. §36.309(b)(3)).

Any applicant who requests accommodations during the application process because of a disability must advise the Board electronically or in writing no later than the deadline for submitting applications for examination and complete:

- An [Application for Testing Accommodations pdf form](#),
- All appropriate checklists,
- All documentation, and
- All other evidence substantiating the disability.

All items must be submitted to the Board no later than one month after the application deadline regardless of previous requests and/or granted accommodations.

### **C. Applicants who are Nursing**

Diplomates who will be nursing at the time of their examination may request an [application for nursing mother accommodations](#) during the application process. The request may be emailed to [questions@abpn.com](mailto:questions@abpn.com) no less than 60 days prior to the first day of the examination.

### **D. Computer-Administered Examination Procedures**

*Note: ADA candidates will receive individual scheduling and instructions.*

Approximately two months prior to the examination, scheduling information is emailed to candidates whose applications have been approved. Candidates are urged to contact Pearson VUE as soon as scheduling opens to make an appointment for the examination. A delay in contacting Pearson VUE can result in fewer available openings for the examination in a candidate's choice of date and location. ABPN does not guarantee the availability of locations, dates and/or times of Pearson VUE test centers.

ABPN candidates may schedule an exam at a Pearson VUE center outside the United States or Canada for an additional \$100 fee. Candidates choose international testing during the application process. The Board will contact candidates by email regarding the additional payment and with information concerning testing outside the United States or Canada. Those who schedule themselves for international testing without first paying the additional fee may have their testing appointment with Pearson VUE canceled by the Board or may have grades withheld until payment is received. ABPN does not guarantee the availability of locations, dates and/or times of International Pearson VUE test centers.

If the first and last name that the candidate applied under is different than the first and last name that appears on their identification, certified, legal documentation (marriage license, name change determination, etc.) verifying the name change must be submitted to the Board office prior to the date of the examination. Address and/or email address changes must be updated through the ABPN Physician Folios at [www.abpn.com/folios](http://www.abpn.com/folios).

Candidates are required to present two forms of identification upon arrival at the testing center. One of the forms of identification must be government issued and must display a recent, permanently affixed photograph. Both forms of identification must be signed, and both must be valid (not expired). The first and last names on both identifications must match the name on file with the ABPN. Failure to comply with these requirements may result in the candidate's inability to gain admission to the examination. If a name change has recently occurred, it is recommended to bring a copy of legal documentation to the testing center on the appointment date. Government-issued identification includes military identification, passports, driver's licenses, and state identification cards. Secondary Identification includes a Social Security card, valid credit card, bank automated teller machine card.

Candidates may NOT bring food, drink, cellular phones, pagers, other electronic devices, books, study materials, or other personal belongings, including watches and wallets, into the examination room. A secure locker is available to store personal items. Candidates may not access phones or other devices of any kind while on an unscheduled break. Accessing prohibited items during unscheduled breaks constitutes irregular behavior and may be cause for invalidation of examination result (See separate Board Policies Manual).

Candidates are NOT permitted to leave the testing center's building during a test section. Leaving the building during a test section constitutes irregular behavior and may be cause for invalidation of examination results (See separate Board Policies Manual).

Candidates are photographed and are required to provide an electronic signature at the computer test centers. For security purposes, candidates are required to place each hand on a palm vein device each time they enter or leave the computer test center. This information is stored electronically. Candidates must agree to the Pearson VUE Professional & Regulatory Candidate Rules. Candidates must agree to the *ABPN Nondisclosure Agreement* before taking the examination.

Candidates are observed at all times while taking the examination. This observation includes direct monitoring by testing center staff, as well as video and audio recording of the examination session.

General questions about requirements and logistics of ABPN examinations may be asked of ABPN staff by telephone. Verbal complaints to staff, directors, proctors, or examiners that continue after explanation of ABPN policy that rise to the level of harassment may be considered irregular behavior (See Policies Manual).

Candidates are required to sit for the examination for which they have applied. Candidates who fail to do so are required to reapply by submitting a new application form, copies of all medical licenses, meeting the current credentialing requirements and paying the application fee and the examination fee.

**Candidates withdrawing from an examination:**

The examination fee is refunded to candidates withdrawing from an examination, provided the President and CEO of the Board is notified in writing no less than 60 days prior to the first date of the examination date range. Failure to notify the Board in writing no less than 60 days prior to the first date of the examination date range results in forfeiture of the examination fees. Application fees are not refunded for any reason.

**Candidates unable to sit for an examination on the scheduled date:**

Candidates who are unable to sit for the examination on the date that they have scheduled must first contact Pearson VUE no less than 24 hours in advance to reschedule the examination. If Pearson VUE is unable to reschedule the examination date, candidates should then contact the Board office to determine the availability of rescheduling opportunities. Candidates may be rescheduled, provided there is still an opening in the testing date range. These candidates may be required to pay an additional \$200 reseating fee. If there is no other date available in the testing date range, they must sit for the originally scheduled date or forfeit their fees.

**Candidates unable to sit for their scheduled examination due to an unforeseen medical or other emergency:**

Candidates who are unable to sit for their scheduled examination due to an unforeseen medical or other emergency should submit a personal statement and supporting documentation of the emergency to the Board office, no later than 30 days after the date of the examination. The Board will then evaluate the documentation and determine whether the absence is excusable. In determining whether an absence is excusable, the Board will consider whether the claimed emergency could have been anticipated and/or foreseen prior to the examination. Candidates suffering from pre-existing and/or chronic conditions generally will not be excused for medical or other emergencies relating to such conditions. If the absence is determined excusable, the candidate is rescheduled for the next ABPN computer-administered examination, and the examination fee will be transferred. Such candidates will be responsible for paying a rescheduling fee of \$400 and may be responsible for paying any difference in the examination fee. In the event a candidate is granted two consecutive excused absences, subsequent requests for rescheduling will be denied, only the candidate's examination fee (but not rescheduling fees) will be refunded, and such candidates will be required to re-apply in order to sit for examination.

**Candidates who fail the computer-administered examination (except Pain Medicine and MOC Pain Medicine):**

Candidates who fail the initial computer-administered examination may pay a reexamination fee and repeat the examination at the next available administration. Candidates being reexamined and who fail or do not sit for the reexamination as scheduled are required to reapply online and pay the current application fee and the examination fee.

**E. Epilepsy Certification Examination Format and Content**

Examinations are administered at Pearson VUE testing centers. Details on examination format and content are available at <https://www.abpn.com/become-certified/taking-a-subspecialty-exam/epilepsy/>.

The Board recommends that examinees use the following resources for test preparation: peer-reviewed journals, current monographs and textbooks, review publications, practice guidelines, accredited CME programs, and attendance at professional meetings.

## **F. Grade Letters and Certificates**

### **1. Grade Letters**

The President and CEO of the Board notifies candidates in writing of their results no later than ten to twelve weeks from the last date of the testing date range

### **2. Certificates**

Successful diplomates receive their certificates approximately three months after grade letters are mailed. It is the diplomate's responsibility to notify the Board office, in writing, if he or she does not receive a certificate within six months. If a diplomate does not submit a written notification that the certificate was not delivered, the diplomate must request a duplicate certificate and pay the appropriate fee. (See Fees at the beginning of this document.)

### **3. Duplicate Certificates**

Photocopies of Board certificates are not available from the ABPN.

Requests for duplicates of ABPN certificates must specify the diplomate's:

- Name
- Address
- Phone number
- Birthdate
- Signature
- Preference of how their name will be printed on the certificate
- Specialty or subspecialty certification for which they are requesting a duplicate certificate

The diplomate must include:

- A copy of each current medical license held, showing the expiration date
- For security purposes, a copy of government-issued photo identification, such as a driver's license or passport
- The appropriate fee (See Fees at the beginning of this publication.)

NOTE: For any name changes on a certificate, the diplomate must submit certified, legal documentation (marriage license, name change determination, etc.) to the Board office.

A form for requesting a duplicate certificate may be obtained from the ABPN website at [www.abpn.com](http://www.abpn.com). Certificates are printed approximately four times per year. Depending on when a duplicate certificate is requested, it may be four to six months until the diplomate receives the duplicate certificate.

## **G. Computer-Administered Examination Appeal Procedures**

The Board provides applicants appeals procedures for certain negative determinations. Specifically, a candidate may appeal:

- The rejection of credentials for admission to an examination (See procedure 1 below)
- Invalidation of an examination score due to irregular behavior (See procedure 1 below)
- The denial of a request for disability accommodations (See procedure 1 below)
- A failing grade on a computer-administered examination (See procedure 2 below)

### **1. Appeal Procedure for Rejection of Credentials, Invalidation of Examination Score Due to Irregular Behavior, or Denial of a Request for Disability Accommodations**

An applicant may appeal the decision if:

- The applicant submitted a formal application and received a negative determination regarding the application
- The applicant's examination scores are invalidated because of irregular behavior
- The applicant's request for disability accommodations was denied

Such applicants or candidates must submit the following materials to the President and CEO at the Board office:

- Written request for a formal appeal
- Applicable appeal fee (See Fee Schedule)
- Additional written information that supports the appeal

The appeal materials must be sent in a single mailing that is post-marked within 30 days of the date indicated on the letter of negative determination. The materials are sent to the respective Appeals Committee, which reviews the materials, deliberates, and makes a determination. In all events, the Appeals Committee's determination is final and binding on both the Board and the candidate.

If the appeal is granted, the appeal fee will be returned to the candidate.

## **2. Appeal Procedure for Computer-Administered Examination Failing Grade**

A candidate who believes that there was a compromise in the administration of the examination may choose to appeal a negative determination. A failing grade on a computer-administered examination is considered a negative determination.

Appeals are limited to a review of an alleged compromise in the administration of the examination. Specifically, that the examination was administered in a manner that was atypical or did not meet the Board's guidelines. An appeal does not result in a review of a candidate's performance on an examination.

An appeal will never reverse a negative determination of a computer-administered examination. Rather, a successful appeal will result in the examination being invalidated and the candidate being rescheduled to sit for the examination at the next available administration.

Candidates who wish to appeal a negative determination must submit the following materials to the President and CEO at the Board office:

- Written request for a formal appeal of the negative determination
- Applicable appeal fee (See Fee Schedule)
- Additional written information in support of the appeal

The appeal materials must be sent in a single mailing that is post-marked within 30 days of the date indicated on the letter of negative determination.

The materials are sent to the respective Appeals Committee, which reviews the materials, deliberates, and makes a determination. In all events, the Appeals Committee's determination is final and binding on both the Board and the candidate.

If the appeal is granted, the appeal fee will be returned, the score for the examination will be invalidated, and the candidate will be rescheduled to sit for the examination at the next available administration.

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