

American Board of Colon & Rectal Surgery Remedial Training Guidelines

These guidelines represent the readmission policy of the American Board of Colon and Rectal Surgery for physicians who were originally accepted into the examination process but failed to pass either the Written (Part I) or Oral (Part II) Examination within the customary time period established by the Board. Each request for readmission will be considered on an individual basis. The guidelines below govern the retraining process:

1. All applicants requesting additional training must have a currently valid, registered, full and unrestricted license to practice medicine in a state, territory, or possession of the United States or in a Canadian province. They must continue to be licensed throughout the certification process. Applicants must hold a current certificate from the American Board of Surgery.
2. The additional training period is four months in duration and must be conducted in a full-time ACGME approved colon and rectal surgery residency program. All such training must be approved (in advance) by the Board. A list of programs can be found on our website at www.abcrs.org/residencyprograms.htm. It is the responsibility of the applicant to contact Program Directors to determine their willingness to participate.
3. The Program Director will serve as the Preceptor and will assign duties and responsibilities to the Trainee with assistance from the faculty.
4. The curriculum must be comprehensive but should place special emphasis on any specific areas of weakness identified in the Trainee's prior examinations. The program will emphasize patient management and clinical problem solving skills. The use of patient care algorithms is recommended to demonstrate appropriate data collection with logical application toward diagnosis and therapy in a systematic manner.
5. The program will require the Trainee to actively participate in daily patient rounds and new patient evaluations in the office and hospital settings.
6. The Trainee's attendance will be mandatory at departmental teaching conferences such as: (1) Tumor Boards, (2) Morbidity/Mortality Conferences, (3) Preoperative Conferences, (4) Pathology Conferences, etc. The Trainee should be actively involved in the conferences. The Program Director should assign primary responsibility for appropriate teaching and presentations by the Trainee.
7. Operative experience is not necessary but is permitted if the Preceptor feels it is appropriate for teaching and does not draw away the experience of the accredited residents.
8. The Trainee should keep up-to-date with current colon and rectal literature and complete the latest ASCRS CARSEP Program. The Trainee should be quizzed for cognitive content at regular intervals, but preferably, at the end of the second, third, and fourth months. These efforts should be monitored and critiqued by the Program Director.

9. The Trainee will be evaluated by the Program Director at regular intervals. An evaluation form must be submitted to the Board at the end of the second month, and at completion of the training period.
10. Following successful completion of training, physicians must apply for readmission to the certification process within one year. They must take the examination within two years following approval of their application for readmission. A fully completed Application for Examination and required fee must be submitted by July 15 of each year. A timetable listing subsequent examination dates is available on the Board's website. www.abcrs.org
11. The Credentials Committee of the Board will review all applications in the fall of the application year. Following the review process, applicants will be informed of their acceptance/rejection for examination. Regardless of their previous failure domain, (Part I or Part II), readmitted physicians will be required to take and pass both the Written (Part I) and the Oral (Part II) Examinations to achieve certification by the American Board of Colon and Rectal Surgery.
12. Once an applicant is accepted for examination, all the Board's established rules and regulations governing its examination process must be observed. This information is contained in the Board's General Information Booklet published in the ABCRS web site, DISEASES OF THE COLON AND RECTUM, and THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.
14. Candidates will have seven years to complete the examination process following completion of their retraining and official approval for examination. If they fail to pass the written or oral portion of the examination within three attempts during that time interval, they will not be eligible for additional retraining or reentry into the ABCRS certification process.

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