

**Specialty-specific References for DIOs:
Board Certification Requirements and Pass Rate Information**

June 2011

Common Program Requirement language:

V.C.1.c) - [The program must document formal, systematic evaluation of the curriculum at least annually. The program must monitor and track each of the following areas:] graduate performance, including performance of program graduates on the certification examination.

Specialty	Specialty-specific Requirements Specifying Board Pass Rates
Allergy and Immunology	II.B.10 - One outcome measure of the quality of a residency program is the performance of its graduates on the certifying examinations of the American Board of Allergy and Immunology. In its evaluation of residency programs, the RRC will take into consideration the information provided by the American Board of Allergy and Immunology regarding resident performance on the certifying examinations. A program will be judged deficient if a program's pass rate is significantly below the national average over a five-year period.
Anesthesiology	V.C.3 - As part of the overall evaluation of the program, the Review Committee will take into consideration the information provided by the ABA regarding resident performance on the certifying examinations over the most recent five-year period. The Review Committee will also take into account noticeable improvements or declines during the period considered. Program graduates should take the certifying examination, and at least 70% of the program graduates should become certified.
Colon and Rectal Surgery	V.C.1.d).(3) - Within three years of completing their residency education, at least 70% of a program's graduates from the preceding five years must take both the qualifying and certifying examinations for colon and rectal surgery offered by the ABCRS. V.C.1.d).(4) - At least 70% of a program's graduates from the preceding five years taking the ABCRS qualifying and certifying examinations for the first time must pass.
Diagnostic Radiology	V.C.3 - For residents entering diagnostic radiology training before July 1, 2010, at least 50% of a program's graduates should pass the oral examination either on the first attempt or, if only one section is failed, should pass that section at the first opportunity. For residents entering diagnostic radiology training on July 1, 2010 or thereafter, during the most recent five year period, at least 50% of a program's graduates should pass the ABR Core Examination either on the first attempt, or if only one section is failed, should pass that section at the first opportunity.
Dermatology	<i>Not yet, but the RRC will discuss adding a specific requirement that the pass rate for first-time takers for the prior x years be within y of the national average.</i>

Specialty	Specialty-specific Requirements Specifying Board Pass Rates
Emergency Medicine	<p>V.C.3 - The RRC will take into consideration performance of program graduates over a period of several years.</p> <p>RRC WEBPAGE GUIDELINES - RRC Use of ABEM Data “Successful attainment of board certification by program graduates is an objective measure used by the RRC- EM to evaluate program quality. Program graduates are expected to take the ABEM Written and Oral certifying examinations. Over the 5-year period immediately preceding program review at least 70% of program graduates taking the Written Examination and at least 80% of graduates taking the Oral Examination should become certified on their first attempt. The RRC-EM will take into account improvement or declines during the period considered and will consistently monitor programs according to these criteria.”</p>
Family Medicine	<p>V.C.3. - One measure of the quality of a residency program is the performance of its graduates on the certifying examination of the American Board of Family Medicine. In its evaluation of residency programs, the Review Committee will take into consideration the information provided by ABFM regarding resident performance on the certifying examinations over a period of several years.</p> <p>V.C.4. - The committee will use scores for a minimum of three and a maximum of five years and will take into consideration noticeable improvements or declines during the period considered. Poor performance will be cited if more than 10% of a program's candidates fail on the first examination over a period of consecutive years and/or the program's composite score is consistently at or below the 25th percentile in the nation.</p>
Medical Genetics	<i>None</i>
Internal Medicine	<p>V.C.1.c).(1) - A program's graduates must achieve a pass rate on the certifying examination of the ABIM of at least 80% for first-time takers of the examination for the most recently defined 3-year period.</p> <p>V.C.1.c).(2) - At least 80% of those completing their training in the program for the most recently defined three year period must have taken the certifying examination.</p>
Neurological Surgery	<p>V.C.3 - The number of residents completing training and taking and passing the certification examinations will be part of the Review Committee's evaluation of the program. All residents must pass the ABNS primary examination before completing the program</p>
Neurology	<p>V.C.3 - One measure of the quality of a residency program is the proportion of its residents who take and pass the ABPN certifying examination. This information must be used in the evaluation of the educational effectiveness of the program.</p> <p>V.C.3.a) - Sixty percent of a program's eligible graduates over the past five years must pass the certifying examination of the ABPN.</p>

Specialty	Specialty-specific Requirements Specifying Board Pass Rates
Nuclear Medicine	V.C.3 - At least 50% of a program's graduates from the preceding five years taking the American Board of Nuclear Medicine certifying examination for the first time should pass.
Obstetrics and Gynecology	<i>None</i>
Ophthalmology	V.C.1.c).(1) - In its evaluation of residency programs, the Review Committee will take into consideration the information provided by the American Board of Ophthalmology (ABO) regarding the resident performance on the certifying examination. The program should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) maintain a pass rate on both the written and oral examination of the American Board of Ophthalmology for first-time examinees from the program that is equal to or greater than 60% averaged over the past five years, and (b) have 80% or more of those eligible to take the examination over the past five years actually take the examination.
Orthopaedic Surgery	V.C.3 - Program graduates should take both Part I and Part II of the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery examinations and at least 75% of those who take the exams for the first time should pass.
Otolaryngology	V.C.2.b) - The program director should also monitor the performance of program graduates on examinations of the American Board of Otolaryngology.
Pathology	<i>None</i>
Pediatrics	V.C.3 - One outcome measure of the quality of a residency program is the performance of its graduates on the certifying examinations of the American Board of Pediatrics. In its evaluation of residency programs, the Review Committee will take into consideration the information provided by the American Board of Pediatrics regarding resident performance on the certifying examinations. A program will be judged deficient if, during the most recent five years, the rate of those passing the examination on their first attempt is less than 60% and/or if less than 80% of those completing the program take the certifying examination.
Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation	V.C.3 - A program will be judged deficient by the Review Committee if during the most recent five-year period less than 75% of its graduates taking the examination pass either part of the Board examination on the first try. At least 75% of graduates should take the examination.
Plastic Surgery	<i>None</i>
Preventive Medicine	V.C.5. - At least 50% of those completing their education in the preceding five years must take the American Board of Preventive Medicine certifying examination. V.C.6. - 75% of a program's graduates from the preceding five years who took the certifying examination for preventive medicine for the first time must have passed. In those programs having fewer than 10 graduates in the past five years, at least 75% of the 10 most recent graduates must have passed.

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Psychiatry	V.C.3 - In its evaluation of residency programs, the Review Committee will take into consideration the information provided by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology regarding resident performance on the certifying examinations during the most recent five years. The expectation is that the rate of those passing the examination on their first attempt is 50% and that 70% of those who complete the program will take the certifying examination
Radiation Oncology	<p>V.C.1.e) -The Review Committee will use graduate performance data for the most recent five- and ten- year periods in its assessments, and will take into consideration notable improvements or declines during the period considered. Poor performance will be cited if the proportion of candidates passing both the written and oral board examinations on the first opportunity is consistently low.</p> <p>RRC FAQ (on our website) - ABR EXAMINATION How does the RRC assess performance of a program's residents on the ABR certifying examination? The RRC considers all aspects of a program's performance, including performance on the written and oral examinations, the number of failures and conditions, and any trends toward improvement. In general, however, the RRC looks at statistics regarding the proportion of first-time examinees that successfully completed the entire exam (written and oral) on the first attempt. Residents who "condition" a part of the examination are considered not to have passed the examination. Residents who fail the examination repeatedly are considered only once. Programs that fall in the lowest 25th percentile are cited for poor performance. In general, the programs that fall below the 25th percentile have failed to pass more than half of the residents taking the examination in a five-year period.</p>
Surgery	V.C.3 - The performance of program graduates on the certification examination should be used as one measure of evaluating program effectiveness. At minimum, for the most recent five-year period, 65% of the graduates must pass each of the qualifying and certifying examinations on the first attempt.
Thoracic Surgery	<i>None</i>
Urology	<i>None</i>

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