

# THE AMERICAN BOARD OF ANESTHESIOLOGY, INC.

## ALTERNATE ENTRY PATH INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES

**OBJECTIVES FOR THE ALTERNATE ENTRY PATH (AEP):** The ABA will provide an alternate entry path that could result in the addition of outstanding anesthesiology academicians moving to the United States to become productive members of U.S. academic anesthesiology programs. Internationally trained and certified anesthesiologists may spend four years in an academic anesthesiology training program as fellows, researchers or faculty members. The ABA will judge the success of its 7-year pilot program and the continued ability of departments to participate in the process on the basis of the certification success and subsequent academic productivity of their participants in the alternate entry path. Participants are expected to actively participate in departmental educational activities, to take the In-Training examination annually and to otherwise retain or gain basic anesthesiology knowledge and experience that would help them to attain ABA certification.

**QUALIFICATIONS:** To be considered for entry into the AEP program, applicants must have a pre-existing track record of scholarship as represented by the scholarship of discovery, dissemination and application. The scholarship of **discovery** is accomplished by obtaining peer-reviewed funding or by publication of original research in peer-reviewed journals. The scholarship of **dissemination** is accomplished by publication of review articles in peer-reviewed journals or chapters in text books. The scholarship of **application** is accomplished by publication of case reports or clinical series at local, regional, or national professional and scientific society meetings. High-quality ongoing scholarship is critical to acceptance into the AEP program.

Internationally trained and certified anesthesiologists interested in using the alternate entry path must complete a total of 4 years of continuous experience in one anesthesiology department that commences on or after July 1, 2007. The ABA must prospectively approve the 4-year program planned for the international medical graduate. At the time the anesthesiology department enrolls the international medical graduate with the ABA, the department must have an ACGME-accredited anesthesiology residency or fellowship training program that has continued full accreditation and a review cycle of three years or more. **An anesthesiology department can have no more than two international medical graduates enrolled in the pilot program at one time.**

The chair of the anesthesiology department that sponsors the internationally certified anesthesiologist must submit to the ABA a 4-year plan, co-signed by the physician, for prospective approval by the ABA Credentials Committee. **The ABA must receive the 4-year plan no later than 4 months before the department enrolls the internationally certified anesthesiologist with the ABA and the 4-year period of continuous experience commences.**

The experiences planned for the internationally certified anesthesiologist will consist of 4 years of fellowship training, research, or faculty experience, or combination thereof. During the 4-year period, these anesthesiologists shall demonstrate discovery of new knowledge in the specialty, excellence in teaching and excellence in clinical anesthesiology. The 4-year experience must be in the same institution in which the anesthesiology program resides. The 4-year plan should be specifically designed and identified for the candidate, including the anticipated research activity.

**PERIODIC EVALUATION REPORTS:** At 6-month intervals, the department chair must submit to the ABA attestations that the physician is currently a fellow in an ACGME-accredited program, or is actively engaged in research, or is a faculty member with a full-time primary appointment in the ACGME-accredited program. At the same time, the department chair will provide the ABA with an assessment of the physician's performance during the preceding six months relative to the ABMS- and ACGME-approved six general physician competencies. On an annual basis, the ABA will ask the department chair to provide an annual update of the AEP candidate's productivity to ensure that the objectives outlined in the approved AEP plan are being met.

## **ALTERNATE ENTRY PATH INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES (Continued)**

**REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTRANCE INTO THE ABA EXAMINATION SYSTEM:** Internationally trained and certified anesthesiologists practicing the specialty in the United States may use the alternate entry path once to qualify for admission to the ABA initial certification examination system. Before the ABA will accept a physician in the alternate entry path program as a candidate for examination and certification, the physician must complete satisfactorily the 4-year program of continuous experience in one anesthesiology department that was planned by the department chair and prospectively approved by the ABA. The ABA will permit the physician to apply for the Part 1 examination if he or she will complete the 4-year program by the end of the grace period (see Section 2.04.D of the ABA *Booklet of Information*, which can be found on the ABA web site at [www.theABA.org](http://www.theABA.org)). The *Booklet of Information* has complete policy information regarding the specific entrance requirements (see Section 5.08.D) all applicants must fulfill to be accepted as a candidate for initial certification.