



AMERICAN BOARD OF DERMATOLOGY

Date: 7/31/2017
Sent From: ABD Staff
Subject: ABD Information for First Year Residents

The Directors of the American Board of Dermatology welcome you as you begin your career in dermatology. We anticipate that you will find the practice of dermatology to be fulfilling and rewarding.

We realize you are in the midst of being oriented to your new program, hospital, and clinical practice, but there are a few housekeeping items to cover.

WELCOME LETTER

You received a Welcome Letter (via email) from the ABD when your Program Coordinator registered you on our website (abderm.org). This message contained your credentials for accessing the website. Abderm.org contains resources to explain the process and meaning of certification and help you prepare for ABD exams. Please note that some of the resources are available only after log in. The "[Exam of the Future Information Center](#)" on our website serves as a central location for information about the new certification pathway, sample exam content, key facts, FAQs and a message archive. We will update this page regularly as more information is available.

HONOR CODE

When you apply to take each ABD exam, you will be required to read and sign the Honor Code. You must agree to abide by the honor code in order to sit for ABD exams. The [Honor Code](#) is available on our website for your advanced review.

EXAM STRUCTURE

Our exam structure has changed, as of this academic year. The new structure contains the following exams:

- * **BASIC** Exam – This exam covers fundamentals of dermatology and is given in the spring of the first year of dermatology training. It is NOT a pass/fail exam. Its purpose is to help you and your program director assess your progress.
- * **CORE** Modules – These emphasize knowledge base in medical, surgical, pediatric dermatology and dermatopathology. They are offered beginning in the spring of the second year of dermatology residency. A passing score in each of the four modules is required. You do not have to take all the modules at once. There will be several opportunities to take them.
- * **APPLIED** Exam – This exam emphasizes case-based application of knowledge. It is offered after successful completion of the CORE modules and residency training. Much more information about the new ABD exams is available on the website. Please note that the current second- and third-year dermatology residents (PGY3 and above) are on the old Certification pathway and will remain on that pathway.

If you have questions, the ABD office will be happy to assist you. You may contact the office via email by clicking [here](#).

Sincerely,
The American Board of Dermatology