



THE EVOLVED PATHWAY TO ABD CERTIFICATION

The American Board of Dermatology (ABD) has restructured the in-training and certification exams to better emphasize the application of knowledge using clinically relevant case scenarios.

There will be a staged evaluation with a **BASIC** exam designed for first-year residents, covering dermatology fundamentals; **CORE** exam modules testing more advanced knowledge of senior residents about dermatology's major clinical areas; and an **APPLIED** exam given after residency, which tests the ability to apply knowledge in clinical situations.

The graphic below provides an overview of the certification process as it will be experienced by graduating classes of dermatology residents.

	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	POST-GRADUATION
Residents who began dermatology training prior to July 2018.		ONLINE PRACTICE EXAM March	ONLINE PRACTICE EXAM March	CERTIFICATION EXAM July
Residents who began dermatology training July 2018 or later.	BASIC EXAM April	CORE EXAM February <i>1-2 modules may be taken</i>	CORE EXAM July, November & February <i>1-4 modules may be taken</i>	APPLIED EXAM July

BASIC EXAM

- Evaluates fundamental knowledge and skills
- Designed specifically for first-year residents
- Informational only, not pass/fail
- Four-hour exam
- Offered on one day in April
- Proctored by programs

CORE EXAM

- Part 1 of the Certification Exam process
- Tests more advanced knowledge appropriate for senior residents
- Four modules: medical, pediatric, surgical, and dermatopathology
- Modules are pass/fail
- Candidates must pass all four modules to go on to take the APPLIED Exam
- Each module is a stand-alone exam of about two hours
- Offered in late winter of 2nd year: 1-2 modules may be taken
- Offer three times during the 3rd year: 1-4 modules may be taken at each sitting
- Residents choose which module(s) to take at each sitting
- May take after graduation if not completed prior to graduation
- Taken via online proctor in a private location on a webcam-equipped computer

APPLIED EXAM

- Part 2 of the Certification Exam process
- Tests application of knowledge in clinically relevant scenarios
- Must successfully complete residency and CORE modules to qualify
- Full day exam
- Offered yearly in July
- Taken at Pearson VUE test centers