



2026 Specialty Qualifying Examination



Certification demonstrates to the public that a physician and medical specialist meets nationally recognized standards for education, knowledge, experience, and skills and maintains their certification through continuous learning and practice improvement in order to provide high quality care in a specific medical specialty. Once board certified, OB-GYNs will be referred to as a Diplomate of the board and will be able to proudly display the ABOG Board-Certified badge.

This Bulletin, issued in September 2025, represents the official statement of the requirements in effect for the 2026 Specialty Qualifying Examination. All associated [dates and fees](#) can be found on the ABOG website.

All questions and inquiries can be submitted [here](#).

[Disclaimers](#)

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	3
Eligibility Requirements	3
Residency Training Attestations	5
Overview of Fees and Deadlines.....	6
Application Process	6
Scheduling Process.....	6
Exam Content.....	7
Exam Administration.....	7
Results and Scoring	8

Introduction



ABOG certification is a two-step process that is completely voluntary. The Qualifying Examination is the first of the two steps in ABOG's initial certification process.

Eligibility Requirements

1. **Medical Degree** All applicants must hold a Doctor of Medicine or Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree.
2. **Unrestricted Medical License (if applicable)** It is not necessary to have a medical license to sit for the Qualifying Examination. However, if a medical license is held, it must be unrestricted without conditions (see further information [here](#) for Disqualification from the Qualifying Examination.)
3. **Length of Training** Candidates for certification are required to complete 48 months of graduate medical education in an Obstetrics and Gynecology residency program(s) that is ACGME- accredited at the time of completion of training. The candidate must have completed OB-GYN residency no later than **September 30** of the same year the Qualifying Examination is taken. If a candidate's situation changes, and they do not successfully complete their residency by September 30, they will not be eligible to take the Qualifying Examination in that year. Any candidate who takes the Qualifying Exam without successfully completing residency by September 30 of the year of the examination will have their results voided, and they will not receive a refund.

Alternately, this requirement can be met by completing no fewer than 60 months in a clinical Obstetrics and Gynecology program(s) accredited by the Council of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (CRCPSC) no later than September 30 of the same year the Qualifying Examination is taken. A minimum of 48 months of that training must be in Obstetrics and Gynecology. No credit for training outside of Canada may be counted toward meeting the 60-month training requirement.

Residents who complete 48 months in an AOA-accredited (American Osteopathic Association) program that achieves ACGME initial accreditation before their graduation are eligible to take the ABOG Qualifying Examination.

No credit will be given for residency training in programs accredited by any other organization, including ACGME-International.

4. **Allocation of Time** Either the PGY3 or PGY4 year of a residency program must include the responsibilities of a chief (senior) resident in accordance with the description of the program as accredited by the ACGME. Residents who receive credit for time spent in a non-ACGME-accredited residency program must serve their senior year as a PGY4. (*See requirement in *Flexibility in Training* below.)

When a resident's graduate education and clinical experience have been gained in more than one residency program, the satisfactory performance at the previous program(s) must first be verified before an application to take the Qualifying Examination will be made available for the resident to complete. Fewer than 6 months in any OB-GYN residency program will not count toward meeting the 48-month requirement.

5. **Flexibility in Training** A resident who has a firm commitment to a position in an ACGME-accredited subspecialty fellowship may be allowed flexibility in their residency training program. To be eligible, ABOG and ACGME must receive a request from the residency Program Director before the start of the PGY3 year. If approved by ABOG and ACGME, the PGY3 year must be served as a senior resident, with duties and responsibilities similar to those of a PGY4 resident. If the resident satisfactorily completes the PGY3 senior resident year, they may begin the subspecialty fellowship in the PGY4 year. If the fellowship is not completed successfully, the physician must return to a residency program and complete a full 12-month PGY4 year.

Residents who have received credit for training (*up to six months as detailed below) in a non-OB-GYN ACGME-accredited residency training program are not eligible for the flexibility option.

*Up to six months credit for previous training in a non-OB-GYN ACGME-accredited residency may be granted for residents entering an ACGME-accredited OB-GYN residency. The OB-GYN residency Program Director must request approval for a specific number of months, not to exceed six, before the start of the PGY4 year.

6. **Leave of Absence** All leave time must be in accordance with the [ABOG Residency Leave Policy](#) outlined on the ABOG website. Extensions of training must have an educational plan for the continued training with specific educational and clinical experience goals and objectives to be achieved, including for the chief (senior) resident year. This educational plan must include a description of what training was missed, how the missed training is being attained, and a block diagram that covers the entire length of training. This plan must be submitted to ABOG for approval [here](#).

Foregoing vacation time or necessary sick leave to shorten the required months of training or to "make up" for time lost due to sickness or other absence is not permitted.

Residents who have their residency extended may sit for the Specialty Qualifying Examination in July if they will have completed all 48 months by September 30 of the same year. The results of their examination will not be released unless and until all Residency Training Attestations have been completed. If a resident does not complete residency by September 30, the results of their examination will be voided. Additionally, if ABOG does not receive all completed Residency Training Attestations by January 1 of the next year, the results of the examination will be voided.

Each resident is required to maintain a record of the number and type of obstetric and gynecologic procedures performed during residency to demonstrate the adequacy of their operative experience.

7. **Limitation of Eligibility** All candidates must achieve board certification in Obstetrics and Gynecology within eight years of the completion of their residency training. Physicians who fail to become certified within eight years will be required to complete a minimum of six months of supervised practice at a hospital affiliated with an ACGME-accredited training program to regain eligibility to apply for the Specialty Qualifying Examination. For additional information on regaining eligibility, please see the policy [ABOG's Policy on Regaining Eligibility for Initial Certification](#). Once the supervised practice is completed, the physician will have four years to become certified.

Fellowship training in any program other than an ABOG- or ACGME-accredited Complex Family Planning, Urogynecology and Reconstructive Pelvic Surgery, Gynecologic Oncology, Maternal-Fetal Medicine, Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility, or government fellowship program will not extend the 8-year limit.

8. **Moral and Ethical Behavior** The candidate must have demonstrated good moral and ethical behavior in the practice of medicine and in interactions with peers, other medical personnel, and patients. A felony conviction, even if unrelated to the practice of medicine, will be considered evidence of failure to meet this standard.
9. **Falsification of Information** Falsification of any information or failure to disclose any adverse action will result in a deferral of a candidate's eligibility to sit for the Qualifying Examination for a period of at least three years. If the candidate is allowed to sit for the examination at the end of the deferral period, the candidate must meet all requirements in effect at that time

Residency Training Attestations

Resident

At the end of their training the resident will be expected to attest to the following:

1. Compliance with the [ABOG Professionalism, Professional Standing, and Professional Conduct Policy](#).
2. The educational objectives of their training program have been met.
3. They have demonstrated the knowledge, skills, and behaviors necessary to enter autonomous practice.

Program Director

Beginning 31 days prior to the completion of each resident's training, the Program Director will attest, on behalf of the program, that each resident has:

1. Demonstrated good moral and ethical character, medical professionalism, and professional conduct.
2. Demonstrated the knowledge, skills, and behaviors necessary to enter autonomous practice in Obstetrics and Gynecology.
3. Satisfactorily completed the requirements of this residency program.
4. Completed 48 months of graduate medical education in an Obstetrics and Gynecology residency program(s) that included at least two months of family planning experience to meet ABOG certification standards.
5. Taken leaves of absence and vacation within the limits described in the [ABOG Residency Leave Policy](#).
6. Spent at least 12 months as a chief resident within the final months of Obstetrics and Gynecology residency.

Results of the examination will not be released until all Residency Training Attestations are complete.

New attestations are not necessary for those candidates who have completed their residency training and sat for the Qualifying Examination in a prior year, as long as ABOG has record of the Residency Training Attestations or appropriate affidavits.

Overview of Fees and Deadlines

All [dates, fees, and deadlines](#) for the ABOG's Specialty Qualifying Examination can be found on the ABOG website.

If a decision is made by ABOG that a candidate has not met the requirements for admission to the examination, the candidate may appeal the decision by contacting ABOG through [our website](#). Such appeals will be forwarded to the appropriate ABOG Committee for reconsideration. If the appeal is successful, no late fees will apply. All appeals must be received no later than one month prior to the examination date. If the candidate's appeal is not successful, the application fee will not be refunded. Please refer to the [ABOG's Assessment Fees and Refunds Policy](#) for more information.

Application Process

A unique ABOG ID number is assigned to each resident when they are entered into the ABOG system. Once the ABOG ID number is created, the system will send an email to the resident with their ABOG ID and temporary password. If the resident does not receive this email, they should [contact us](#) to request this information. A resident must be logged into their ABOG portal and complete the Update Profile to Access Application task to access the Qualifying Exam application. The examination fee must be paid in full by credit card at the time of the application. All fees are quoted and must be paid in US dollars. Please visit the ABOG website to review the 2026 Specialty Qualifying Examination [Dates, Fees, and Deadlines](#).

An approval email will be sent to each applicant at the email address currently listed in the Profile Section of the applicant's personal ABOG portal when they are approved to take the Qualifying Examination.

Scheduling Process

The approval email will contain information for contacting a Pearson VUE Testing Center to schedule a seat for the examination. After the approval email from ABOG is received, the candidate must contact Pearson VUE to obtain a seat for the examination. Candidates are urged to obtain a seat as soon as possible after notification of approval to avoid long-distance travel to a site with an available seat since ABOG-reserved seats held at Pearson VUE centers will not be held past [seat block release deadline date](#). After that date, it will be harder for candidates to reserve a seat at their preferred site. Seats in individual cities are limited and are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. ABOG will not refund any portion of the test fee if a candidate is not able to reserve a seat at their preferred testing center. Once candidates have secured a seat, Pearson VUE will send a confirmation email with details to include the test center address. Candidates are encouraged to save this email as ABOG is unable to resend Pearson VUE seat reservation emails.

If special accommodations are required, those requests must be received no later than the close of the application period and should be submitted [here](#). It may not be possible to accommodate requests received after the close of the application period. It is the candidate's

responsibility to complete all steps to confirm the accommodation with the Pearson VUE Accommodations Scheduling Department. A confirmed accommodation will be reflected on the seat reservation email sent by Pearson VUE. For more information, please review [ABOG's Accommodation Policies](#).

Exam Content

The candidate will be expected to demonstrate skills necessary to apply the appropriate knowledge to the management of clinical problems. These skills include:

1. obtaining needed information;
2. interpretation and use of data obtained;
3. selection, instituting, and implementing appropriate care;
4. management of complications; and
5. follow-up and continuing care.

The examination consists of 230 single-best answer, multiple-choice questions. Many of the questions are constructed to be thought-provoking and problem-solving. For most questions, all possible answers may be plausible, but only one answer is the most correct. The Qualifying Examination will only be given in English.

Approximately 33% of the questions on the test will be in Obstetrics, 33% in Gynecology, and 33% in Office Practice. The approximate percentage in each domain is shown below.

<u>Obstetrics (33%)</u>	<u>Gynecology (33%)</u>	<u>Office Practice (33%)</u>
Preconception/Prenatal/Antenatal Care (4%)	Preoperative Evaluation (4%)	Well-Woman Preventive Care (10%)
Evaluation/Diagnosis of Antenatal Conditions (8%)	Perioperative Care (3%)	Office Management – Medical Problems (4%)
Intrapartum Care, Complications, and Obstetrical Procedures (18%)	Surgical Complications (4%)	Office Management – Gynecology (15%)
Postpartum Care (3%)	Postoperative Care (8%)	Office Procedures (4%)
	Gynecologic Emergencies (9%)	
	Surgical Procedures (5%)	

ABOG does not sponsor or recommend review courses in preparation for the qualifying examination. However, ABOG does publish [common abbreviations](#) that may be used in ABOG Examinations, as well as [Content Outlines \(Exam Blueprints\)](#) that list specific topics assessed on the Qualifying Examination.

Exam Administration

The Specialty Qualifying Examination is scheduled to last approximately 3 hours and 45 minutes. Candidates will receive information after registering on the [Pearson VUE Testing Center](#) website concerning the location of their examination, as well as the time they must arrive. Candidates will be required to schedule their examination seat reservation with an 8:00 am start time in their time zone and at a Pearson VUE location in the United States or Canada. Requests to take the examination at a Pearson VUE location outside of the US or Canada will be considered if the reason for the request is out of the control of the candidate (e.g., military deployment).

Specific conduct and expectations on day of testing at the Pearson VUE Testing Center can be found [here](#), including the Test Security agreement.

In the event of unforeseen circumstances on the day of testing, such as early termination of

an examination or an interrupted examination, that may disrupt or cancel your scheduled appointment, Pearson VUE will offer an option to reschedule your appointment within 5 business days of the original date (on or before the Friday of the week of the exam), and will strive to accommodate your preferred location, date, and time – pending availability at a given center. If the candidate does not take their exam within the required timeframe, the examination fee will not be refunded and will not be credited toward future applications.

Results and Scoring

The results of the Specialty Qualifying Examination will be reported online to each candidate on or before the last Friday in October. We recognize waiting close to 12 weeks for these important results is difficult and the format of the examination creates an expectation for immediate feedback. Please be assured during this post-examination period, extensive quality assurance checks take place to ensure your test result is fair and accurate. For example, content on the exam is re-reviewed to identify potentially flawed questions. If ABOG determines a question with more than one correct answer (or no correct answer) was on the exam, test-takers will not be penalized for that item.

When results are released, ABOG will provide the candidate their scaled test score in addition to the result of “pass” or “fail.” Each candidate, regardless of whether they pass or fail, will be provided with the percent scored in each of the major topic areas. The cut-point for passing the exam is determined using standard setting methodology every 3-5 years and is equated statistically between that time.

In order for ABOG to release a result, the individual and their program director must have completed the Residency Training Attestations verifying completion of training. Additionally, **if these attestations are not completed by January 1 of the following year, the results of the examination will be voided.**

As part of the application process, the applicant will be required to irrevocably agree that the results of the applicant’s examination may be made available to the Program Director of any residency program in which the applicant may have participated or in which the applicant is currently involved, and/or the American Council of Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) for any and all purposes. The candidate will also be given the opportunity to release their scaled score on the examination to their current Program Director. Furthermore, the applicant will be required to release and agree to indemnify and hold the ABOG and its officers, directors, and employees harmless of and from any and all claims the applicant may have with regard to the effect or impact upon the applicant of the release of the applicant’s examination results to the applicant’s Program Director or the ACGME and waive any rights the applicant may have, if any, to have the examination results maintained in confidence.

For more information, see [ABOG’s Policy on Results, Rescores, Appeals](#), and [ABOG’s Policy for Requests for Re- Examination](#).