

**American Board of Pediatrics (ABP)
Credentials Committee**

Guide for the department chair when nominating an individual for consideration for the
Alternative Pathway for Academic Faculty

A. Eligibility:

The chair of the Department of Pediatrics nominates the candidate for special consideration since he/she does not meet the usual eligibility criteria for admission to the certifying examination in *general pediatrics*. The individual must:

1. have completed three years of nonaccredited general pediatrics training (i.e., trained in a program not accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) or the Canadian equivalent – the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons)
2. have been a member of the full-time faculty (not voluntary) for a minimum of five years **OR** have achieved the rank of associate professor.
3. provide clinical care in a department that sponsors an ACGME accredited general pediatrics training program
4. have teaching responsibilities
5. be engaged in scholarly activity

B. Phase I - Nomination by the Chair:

Materials submitted to the ABP must include:

1. A letter from the Chair which:
 - a. verifies that the candidate has been a member of the full time academic faculty for five years or has achieved the rank of associate professor or higher
 - b. documents the candidate's contribution to the academic mission
 - c. states the reasons the candidate merits special consideration for certification (such as their reputation as an outstanding clinician or consultant)
 - d. Includes a detailed plan for prospective evaluation (see below)
2. The current CV of the candidate
3. Letter(s) from the director(s) of the non-accredited training program which must:
 - a. confirm the candidate's satisfactory completion of at least three years of general pediatrics training
 - b. document the exact dates of training
 - c. provide a brief description of the training
 - d. confirm the candidate's clinical competence

NOTE: If the candidate has completed training in a nonaccredited subspecialty training program and wishes to seek subspecialty certification via this alternative pathway, submission to the ABP should also include letter(s) from the program director(s) of the nonaccredited training program which must include the components listed above.
4. The Chair must outline a *detailed plan for a prospective evaluation* of the candidate's clinical competence to be carried out over a two-year period in their institution. If there is difficulty in assessing clinical competence in general pediatrics, verifying competence in the area of subspecialty expertise will be sufficient. The evaluation must incorporate a structured, rigorous assessment by supervisors, peers and learners:
 - a. There must be a multifaceted method for the objective evaluation and documentation of clinical competence such as a multi-source evaluation or similar documentation gathered from an institution's credentialing department or promotions committee.
 - b. The evaluation must assess all six physician core competencies agreed upon by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) and the ACGME. The proposing program must define the specific knowledge, skills, and attitudes required for its candidate to demonstrate competence in these six areas,

provide opportunities for clinical practice/consultation, as needed, and develop methods of evaluation of the competencies.

- c. The letter of nomination should identify the criteria and process for assessment to be utilized during the two year evaluation period.

NOTE: The ABP Credentials Committee must approve the nomination prior to initiation of the proposed two-year prospective evaluation.

C. Phase II – Final Review by the ABP:

Submission to the ABP should include:

1. Documentation that the structured two-year prospective evaluation of clinical competence was successfully completed with evaluations available to the ABP if requested
2. Documentation that the candidate's clinical competence has been assessed and verified by the chair
3. Names of three ABP diplomates who could be asked by the Board to provide letters of endorsement attesting to the candidate's *clinical* competence
4. Documentation that the candidate has achieved the rank of associate professor or higher

NOTE: The documentation and the letters of endorsement will then be reviewed by the ABP Credentials Committee; if acceptable the individual will be approved to take the certifying examination in general pediatrics. The Credentials Committee *of the appropriate Subboard* will judge whether the candidate meets the requirements for subspecialty certification. The approved candidate will have seven years from the time of the Credentials Committee's action to become certified.

Date: February 4, 2011