



Absences from Training Policy

In order to meet the training requirements to apply for certification by the ABP, an individual must train in an accredited program, and the program director must certify that the individual has met the training requirements.

The duration of general pediatrics residency and fellowship training is 36 months. Satisfactory completion of 33 months of clinical training is required. One month of absence is allowed each year for time away from training which includes, vacation, sick, or family leave. Training must be extended to make up any absences greater than three months during the three years of residency/fellowship. However, the program director has the discretion to submit a petition to the ABP requesting a waiver of up to two months of elective training only in the following circumstance if the trainee:

- Had a medical or family leave;
- Is deemed competent by the Clinical Competency Committee;
- Has met all training requirements except elective training; and
- Has met the scholarly activity requirement, if the trainee is a fellow.

The request for a waiver must be submitted no earlier than the final three months of training. The ABP encourages trainees to take yearly vacation, and strongly discourages “banking” vacation from year to year as it negatively affects trainees’ health and well-being. The ABP recognizes that leave policies vary from institution to institution and expects the program director to apply local requirements within these guidelines to ensure trainees have completed the requisite period of training. The ABP views educational leave, which includes attendance at training-related seminars as bona fide educational experiences, and it need not be counted as part time away from training. Trainees in combined training or special training pathways are not eligible for a waiver of pediatric training.

