2016 Subspecialty In-Training Examination (SITE)

The 2016 SITE will be administered February 22-27. The examination is administered at Prometric's secure testing centers.

SITE is a 4-hour, computer-based exam that consists of approximately 150 multiple-choice questions. Because the SITE is designed as an abbreviated version of a subspecialty certifying exam and is based on the same content outlines, it provides a global assessment of one’s current knowledge in a subspecialty.

Fellows should schedule the examination well in advance of the testing window. Please note that if a fellow misses the appointment, the examination cannot be rescheduled.

Prometric offers ABP’s fellows courtesy arrangements during the administration of SITE, such as additional break time for nursing mothers and providing a locker. Prometric provides lockers for examinees to store personal items, including medications, water and food, that are not allowed in the testing room. If an examinee seeks to bring personal items that are not allowed into the testing room, a Personal Item Exception Form must be submitted. Click here to review Prometric’s pre-approved list.

A fellow must present an acceptable ID for admittance to the examination. Review what to expect on examination day so you are prepared in advance of the examination.

The American Board of Pediatrics (ABP) will notify fellows and their program directors by email when results are available, which is approximately 3 months after the examination. Program directors must log onto the ABP Program Portal and fellows must log onto their ABP Portfolio to access the results of SITE. Fellows may view/print personalized feedback reports, while program directors may view/print reports for all of their fellows.

Questions? Contact site@abpeds.org.

Eligibility Criteria for Subspecialty Certification

Updated criteria for all subspecialty disciplines have been posted to the ABP website. Review the criteria to ensure that you understand the requirements for subspecialty certification.

Fellows in disciplines that require three years of training must meet the requirement for scholarly activity. In consultation with the program director, the fellow must establish a Scholarship Oversight Committee (SOC) no later than the second year of fellowship. The fellow’s SOC members are an integral part of the ABP’s requirement for scholarly activity.

Each applicant is asked to provide the membership on the application for subspecialty certification, so that the ABP is assured that the SOC is fully aware of the fellow’s progress and has provided guidance throughout the final two years of fellowship.

Registration for Subspecialty Examinations

Please note that all subspecialty examinations, except sports medicine, are offered every other year. A candidate registered for a fall general pediatrics examination may apply for a subspecialty examination given the following spring, pending the results of the general pediatrics examination.

Examination and registration dates for examinations offered in 2016.
Evaluation of Fellow Performance

The ABP tracks fellows’ performance on an annual basis. Fellowship program directors are asked to report summary evaluations in clinical competence and professionalism at the end of each academic year. At the completion of training, program directors evaluate fellows on the six components of clinical competence identified by ABMS and ACGME.

The ABP will recognize no credit for a year in which clinical competence has been rated as unsatisfactory and will require a repeat year of training. A marginal evaluation in clinical competence indicates the need for remediation of certain portions of clinical training. A trainee may be advanced to a higher level of training under these circumstances as remediation is provided. It is expected, however, that the next year of training will result in a satisfactory evaluation for clinical competence in order for full credit be provided for the marginal year of training. Two consecutive marginal evaluations require a repeat year of training. A fellow who receives an unsatisfactory evaluation in any one of the competencies at the end of fellowship will not be accepted for a certifying exam.

An applicant who receives an unsatisfactory evaluation in professionalism at the end of training must complete an additional period of training of at least one year in an accredited program in the United States or Canada. Alternatively, upon the recommendation of the program director and at the ABP’s discretion, an applicant may be required to complete a period of observation in lieu of repeat training, before applying to the ABP. A plan of remediation must be submitted for review and approval by the ABP.

New Policy for ACHD Certification

Certification in ACHD is offered by the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) and is available to qualified pediatric cardiologists. ABIM requires pediatricians be certified in pediatric cardiology before s/he can sit for the ACHD certifying examination. Learn more about the admission requirements here.

Once a candidate passes the ACHD certifying exam, no other certification must be maintained in order to remain certified in ACHD by ABIM. ACHD certifications will be listed only on the ABIM website. If candidates for this examination wish to continue to be certified by the ABP and thus listed as a certified pediatrician, they must continue to maintain either a general pediatrics certificate or pediatric cardiology certificate to be listed as a certified pediatrician on the ABP’s website.