1. How does the program work?

Participants will identify a preceptor who must be approved by KSTAR and the ABP. The preceptor will observe the participant’s practice, review charts, and provide feedback to KSTAR. Participants will complete knowledge assessments, maintain study logs, and review core knowledge in general pediatrics. KSTAR will review the preceptor reports, chart reviews, written knowledge assessments, and other relevant information about the participant, and will provide periodic feedback. At the end of the program, KSTAR will provide a recommendation to the ABP regarding the participant’s performance.

2. What is required to be a preceptor?

Preceptors must be certified by the American Board of Pediatrics in general pediatrics and must meet the requirements for Maintenance of Certification throughout the time serving as a preceptor and have no professionalism issues or performance concerns.

3. What are the responsibilities of the preceptor?

Preceptors are engaged to observe the participant’s direct patient care in daily general pediatrics practice and to provide an independent assessment to KSTAR of the participant’s contemporary competence to practice general pediatrics without supervision.

4. How long will it take to complete the program? Are there factors (part-time work, solo practice, etc.) that will impact the length of the experience?

The entire program takes an average of six to nine months to complete. KSTAR will provide individuals with additional information on the duration of the program once a plan is established.

5. What do I need to do to initiate the process?

Candidates interested in completing the Preceptor/KSTAR pathway should contact KSTAR at tladams@tamu.edu or 979-436-0407 to begin the process.

6. What information must I provide to KSTAR?

The participant must provide copies of score reports for all attempts on the General Pediatrics Certifying Examination. Copies of score reports for exams since 2004 are available in the ABP Portfolio.

7. Do I need to notify the ABP I am participating in KSTAR?

The participant is establishing an agreement with KSTAR and not the ABP; therefore, the participant must contact KSTAR first after identifying a preceptor. The preceptor’s credentials will require review and approval by KSTAR. If the preceptor is approved by KSTAR, KSTAR will notify the ABP of the approval. The ABP will then conduct its review of the participant’s and preceptor’s credentials and notify KSTAR of the outcome of the review. This will be the only engagement the ABP will have with KSTAR during the observation process.

8. May I remain in my home practice and complete KSTAR?

Yes, participants may remain in their home practice if a preceptor is identified who can observe the practice at that site and who is approved by the ABP and KSTAR.
9. I work in a rural setting/solo practice. Is this program still available to me?

The program is available, providing the participant can identify a preceptor to observe the practice.

10. May I complete KSTAR outside of the United States or Canada?

No, KSTAR must be completed in the United States or Canada.

11. May I apply for the general pediatrics certifying exam pending completion of the program?

Yes, but to be approved for the exam, participants must complete the KSTAR program in time for the ABP to process KSTAR’s assessment of your performance.

12. Am I board eligible if KSTAR states I successfully completed its program?

Board eligibility status is conferred by the ABP after it reviews the KSTAR assessment and ensures that a participant has met all requirements. To reinstate a participant’s board eligibility, the ABP requires the participant to:

- Apply for the General Pediatrics Certifying Examination;
- Undergo the credentialing process;
- Meet all exam admission requirements; and
- Satisfy the time-limited eligibility requirements.

If the participant meets all requirements for certification, the exam application will be accepted, and the participant will be eligible for certification for seven years from the year the KSTAR program was completed.

13. Once I regain eligibility, how long will I have to become certified?

An individual has seven years from the year of the successful completion of the KSTAR program to achieve certification or the time limit will expire. For example, if the KSTAR program was successfully completed in 2023 the final date to achieve certification will be December 31, 2030.

14. If I do not become certified within the seven years after completion of the KSTAR program, how do I regain eligibility?

The current policy states that Preceptor/KSTAR Pathway participants who do not become certified within seven years must enter an accredited general pediatrics residency and satisfactorily complete three additional years of training.

15. What is the fee to enroll in KSTAR?

KSTAR charges $13,700* for participation in the program. The participant must pay the fee directly to KSTAR. The ABP does not charge a fee nor collect the fee. KSTAR is a separate organization with no financial relationship to ABP, and KSTAR establishes the fees. The ABP does not have any role in determining fees charged by KSTAR, nor does the ABP receive any financial benefit from KSTAR or participants in the program. Any compensation required by a preceptor is in addition to the $13,700.

*Cost as of January 2023. Cost may vary over time.
16. How do I submit the fee to KSTAR?

If, after discussion with KSTAR, an individual decides to participate in the program, KSTAR will provide the individual with enrollment information and payment instructions.

17. Is the KSTAR fee refundable if I am unable to complete the program?

Participant fees are nonrefundable once the participant has enrolled in the Preceptor/KSTAR Pathway and completed the initial evaluation. KSTAR will provide a refund only if the preceptor cannot continue and a replacement cannot be found after the participant has made a good faith effort as determined by KSTAR. In such a case, KSTAR will terminate the individual’s participation and provide a partial refund.

18. Am I required to pay my preceptor?

This is a decision between the participant and the preceptor. Participants may discuss with KSTAR if payment is recommended or required for the preceptor. Any preceptor payments would be in addition to the KSTAR fee for participation in this pathway.

19. May I participate in KSTAR more than one time if I do not achieve certification within seven years after regaining eligibility for general pediatrics certification?

No, Preceptor/KSTAR Pathway participants who are unsuccessful in becoming certified during the additional seven years of eligibility must enter an accredited general pediatrics residency program and complete three years of training in order to regain eligibility.