INTEGRATED MODEL
MATCHING DIRECTLY FROM MEDICAL SCHOOL

The Integrated plastic surgery model begins with a match directly from medical school into a plastic surgery program for at least 6 years under the direction of the plastic surgery program director. The resident who desires to enter plastic surgery training directly from medical school may elect to participate in the National Resident Matching Program (www.nrmp.org).

The training includes the Required Clinical and Strongly Suggested Clinical Experiences listed above. The exact rotations are determined by the Plastic Surgery Program Director and must occur at programs accredited by the RRC-PS. No less than 3 years of the Integrated program must be concentrated in plastic surgery, and the final 12 months must entail senior clinical plastic surgery responsibility. The last 3 years of Integrated training must be completed in the same program. The content of training in these 3 plastic surgery years is documented under Requisite Training.

All training programs must be approved by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) during all years of training completed.

Competency Based Integrated Plastic Surgery Programs

As of July 1, 2018, the Board accepts plastic surgery residents who complete less than 6 years of training in an Integrated Plastic Surgery Competency Based Residency Program approved by the Residency Review Committee for Plastic Surgery (RRC-PS).

Programs are required to identify these residents to the Board Office upon acceptance into the program. Residents are required to complete no less than 5 years of plastic surgery residency training.

Should a Competency Based Program receive a “warning” from the RRC-PS, all residents in that pathway are required to move from the Competency Based Program into the standard Integrated program and complete the entire six years. Once the “warning” has been removed and the program status is considered “Continued Full Accreditation”, then only new residents can enter the Competency Based Program and complete 5 years of training. Those residents who had to move into the standard Integrated program must remain there and complete the 6 years. Residents in a Competency Based Program who desire to transfer into another plastic surgery program must transfer into a full 6-year Integrated Program.

RESIDENTS WHO COMPLETE PLASTIC SURGERY TRAINING IN CANADA

The ABPS Resident Registration and Evaluation of Training Form must be completed during the first year of plastic surgery residency. It is the responsibility of residents in plastic surgery to ensure this training is approved by the ABPS. This requirement pertains to all residents applying for admission to The American Board of Plastic Surgery, Inc. examination process. To meet the requirements for admissibility to the Examination and Certification process of the American Board of Plastic Surgery, the following provisos and documentation must be completed by the plastic surgery resident:

1. Must be a graduate of a medical school in the United States or Canada approved by the Liaison Committee for Medical Education (LCME) or by the Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools (CACMS). Medical degrees obtained through an international medical school will be accepted only if the resident matches directly into a Canadian Plastic Surgery Residency through CaRMS.
2. Must have entered a surgical residency through the Canadian Resident Matching Service (CaRMS). Surgical residencies include General Surgery, Vascular Surgery, Neurological Surgery, Orthopaedic Surgery, Otolaryngology, Plastic Surgery, Thoracic and Cardiac Surgery, or Urology.
3. The residency program must be accredited by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC).
4. Must hold a current, valid, full and unrestricted state, province or international medical license (not required of senior residents).
5. Must successfully obtain certification in plastic surgery by the RCPSC. (ABPS Written Examination results will not be provided until receipt of RCPSC certification).

Canadian residents who have completed Canadian training in general surgery, neurological surgery, orthopedic surgery, otorhinolaryngology, thoracic and cardiac surgery, or urology as an alternate prerequisite pathway into an independent plastic surgery program or a transfer into the last 3 years of an Integrated program in the United States must have training sufficient to qualify for certification by the respective ABMS surgical board before beginning plastic surgery training. Plastic Surgery Training is not required to be completed in the same institution as the alternate pre-requisite pathway.

NON-APPROVED RESIDENCIES

The Board grants no credit for training, residency and/or experience in disciplines other than those named above. Residencies completed in locations other than the United States or Canada are not acceptable in lieu of those specified under the acceptable pathways. This in no way implies that quality training cannot be acquired elsewhere, but the Board has no method of evaluating the quality of such programs and must be consistent in its requirements.