

5+1 Joint Plastic Surgery and Hand Surgery Accelerated Fellowship

As of July 1, 2022, the Board has established a training pathway through which plastic surgery residents who complete 5 progressive years of plastic surgery training plus 1 year of a hand fellowship accredited by the ACGME RC-PS or the RC-Orthopaedic Surgery in the same institution, will be considered eligible for both ABPS primary certification in Plastic Surgery and Subspecialty Certification in Hand Surgery. Only Integrated Plastic Surgery programs with a Hand Fellowship accredited through the ACGME RC-PS or the RC-Orthopaedic Surgery may participate in this pathway. The program must apply to both the Board and the RC-PS for approval **prior to** designating residents into this pathway. The resident must be identified by PSY-IV year and must complete all plastic surgery requisite requirements and graduate from plastic surgery training at the end of their PSY-V year. Plastic surgery training and hand fellowship training must be completed sequentially, at the same institution in this 5+1 model. Residents who complete this 5+1 Joint Plastic Surgery and Hand Surgery Accelerated Fellowship program are eligible to take the ABPS Plastic Surgery Written Examination in the final year of plastic surgery residency training (year 5) and prior to the start of the hand fellowship. Once successful on the ABPS Written Examination, the resident has the opportunity to sit for the Hand Surgery Examination following hand surgery fellowship graduation and prior to the ABPS Oral Examination.

RESIDENTS WHO TRAIN IN CANADA

It is the responsibility of residents in Canada to ensure their training is approved by the ABPS. The Resident Registration and Evaluation of Training Form must be submitted for review. If approved, the ABPS will issue a Preliminary Confirmation of Approval Letter. This initial evaluation of training is required and pertains to all residents applying for admission to The American Board of Plastic Surgery, Inc. certification process. To be eligible for entry into a United States ACGME-accredited Plastic Surgery Residency Training Program, the following provisos and documentation must be completed:

I. Canadian Surgical Residents who complete one of the approved alternate surgical residency pathways and intend to apply to an ACGME-accredited Independent Plastic Surgery Training Program in the United States:

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 (IMGs) will be accepted only if the resident matches directly into a Canadian Surgical Residency through CaRMS (Canadian Residency Matching System), completing prerequisite training in one of the below accepted surgical specialties in Canada.
2. Must have entered an ABPS approved alternate surgical residency through the Canadian Resident Matching Service (CaRMS). The only surgical residencies approved are: General Surgery, Vascular Surgery, Neurological Surgery, Orthopaedic Surgery, Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, Thoracic and Cardiac Surgery, and Urologic Surgery.
3. Prerequisite training must be completed in no more than two residency training programs. Residents who are completing, or have completed, general surgery residency training (or one of the approved alternate surgical specialties) and applying for an **Independent** plastic surgery residency training position must:
 - complete the last three years of general surgery residency training, or training in the approved alternate surgical specialty, in the same program, with progressive responsibility.
 - provide a letter from the prerequisite surgical residency training Program Director or Department Chair attesting to the resident completing their prerequisite surgical residency training, including exact dates of training, the year levels completed/to be completed with expected graduation date, a complete clinical month by month rotation schedule, and a certificate of completion. The letter must also confirm the resident is in good standing.
 - obtain primary certification in the approved surgical specialty by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC).
 - obtain eligibility to the examination and certification process in the same surgical specialty from the United States ABMS surgical member board.

4. Complete 48 weeks of clinical training per year, averaged over the length of the training.
5. Have no more than 3 months of non-clinical or non-surgical training during the residency.
6. Have no more than 12 months of rotations outside of the primary specialty residency training.
7. Train in a residency program accredited by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC) for the entire length of residency training.

Residents will be approved as meeting the ABPS prerequisite training requirements after the satisfactory completion of a formal surgical training program in Canada, sufficient to qualify for certification, in one of the following ABMS specialties: general surgery (including the Vascular Surgery Board of the American Board of Surgery), neurological surgery, orthopaedic surgery, otolaryngology-head and neck surgery, thoracic and cardiac surgery, or urologic surgery. Prospective candidates, including residents trained in Canadian programs, must meet, and comply with the most current requirements in these specialties sufficient to qualify for certification by the respective ABMS Board.

Plastic surgery training is not required to be completed in the same institution as the approved alternate prerequisite pathway.

The Board requires a verification letter from the prerequisite training program director documenting completion of all training requirements, including the chief year, sufficient to qualify for certification by the specific ABMS specialty board. Residents considering plastic surgery training in the United States should notify the ABPS two years prior to the expected completion of their Canadian surgical training. The Board Office will forward an ABPS Verification Form to the Canadian surgical training program director for completion. This step is required to obtain written primary source verification from the program director to the completion of training and an evaluation of performance. It is the resident's responsibility to determine that the form has been submitted to the Board office and approved. In lieu of the ABPS Verification Form, evidence of current admissibility to the examination process, or certification by, the respective ABMS specialty boards in the United States is acceptable.

II. Canadian Plastic Surgery Residents who desire to Transfer into an ACGME-accredited Integrated Plastic Surgery Residency Program in the United States:

See the section on **TRANSFERS INTO INTEGRATED PROGRAMS**. No transfers are allowed into Independent Plastic Surgery programs.

III. Canadian Integrated plastic surgery residents who graduated from residency and are applying for ABPS eligibility:

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).
2. Medical degrees obtained through a non-Canadian international medical school will be accepted only if the resident matches directly into a Canadian Plastic Surgery Residency through CaRMS.
3. Must have entered Canadian Plastic Surgery Training through the Canadian Resident Matching Service (CaRMS).
4. Complete 48 weeks of clinical training per year, averaged over the length of the training.
5. Train in a residency program accredited by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC) for the entire length of residency training.
6. Must successfully obtain certification in plastic surgery by the RCPSC. (ABPS Written Examination results will not be provided until receipt of RCPSC certification).

7. ABPS Certification must be achieved within eight years after successful completion of plastic surgery residency training. Refer to the ABPS Admissibility Policy for details.

Canadian residents who obtain certification by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada

Canadian residents certified by the RCPSC prior to 2007 must be reviewed by the Board's Credentials and Requirements Committee. Additionally, they must complete the Professional Standing Requirements of the Board's Continuous Certification in Plastic Surgery Program prior to being approved for application to the Board. The Professional Standing requirements must be supported with documentation and must include:

1. Current, valid, full and unrestricted state, province or international medical license;
2. Verification of active, hospital inpatient admitting privileges in plastic surgery;
3. ABPS Peer Review Evaluations (at least one must be from a Chief of Surgery, Chief of Staff or Chief of Plastic Surgery at one of the hospitals where privileges are held. Two additional forms from any of the following categories: ABPS certified plastic surgeon, anesthesiologist, nursing supervisor, or Chiefs of Staff, Surgery, Plastic Surgery);
4. Accreditation Certificates for Outpatient Surgical Facilities, if applicable; and
5. Confirmation of completion of plastic surgery residency training and recommendation to the Board's examination process by the plastic surgery program director.

NON-APPROVED RESIDENCIES

The Board grants no credit for training, residency and/or experience in disciplines other than the approved surgical specialties 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.

TRANSFERS DURING RESIDENCY TRAINING

TRANSFERS INTO INTEGRATED PROGRAMS – UNITED STATES AND CANADA

The following rules apply to residents requesting a transfer from either a United States or Canadian training program. The Board will allow residents to transfer from one Integrated program to another Integrated program at or below the beginning of the PSY-IV year. **No transfers will be accepted after the plastic surgery PSY-IV year because the last 3 years of an Integrated residency program must be completed in the same institution.**

All transfer requests must be approved by the ABPS **prior** to the resident transferring. Program Directors must request any anticipated transfers in writing and obtain prior approval by the Board 6 months in advance of any proposed transfers.

For the Board to approve a transfer from one integrated plastic surgery program to another integrated plastic surgery program, the resident must have successfully completed their training year(s) and be in good standing at the time of the transfer. The program director must provide a letter to the Board confirming the successful completion of training and that the resident was in good standing at the time of departure from the program.

Residents may not exchange accredited years of training between the two different models (i.e., independent and integrated) without prior approval by the Board. It is imperative that residents hold positions of increasing responsibility when obtaining training in more than one institution, and one full year of experience must be at the senior level. **The Board will only accept partial years of training for Integrated to Integrated transfers up to the beginning of the PSY-IV training year. Only full months of clinical training will be considered for transfers, not weeks of training.** Residents cannot use rotations completed during prerequisite training towards training to be completed in the Integrated plastic surgery residency training program.