

The American Board of Plastic Surgery, Inc. ®

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Policy for Exceptional Surgeons with International Training

In unusual circumstances, exceptional plastic surgeons with outstanding international reputations may emigrate to the United States and desire to apply for certification by The American Board of Plastic Surgery, Inc.

An individual who applies for consideration as a “specifically qualified individual who does not meet the Board’s requirements” must submit the following documentation for review by the Credentials and Requirements Committee:

1. Original Medical School transcript, translated into English if currently in another language.
2. Verification of completion of general surgery training or completion of the essential requirements of the Integrated Pathway from the program director.
3. Verification of completion of plastic surgery training from the program director.
4. Verification of completion of seven years of continuous participation as a full-time plastic surgery faculty member which must be in the same institution. Attainment of the ranking of a level of Associate Professor or above at the time of application in an institution recognized by the Association of American Medical Colleges. Must be actively engaged in the teaching of medical students and/or plastic surgery residents in an ACGME – approved plastic surgery residency training program.
5. Five letters of reference verifying that the individual’s professional career has involved significant clinical activities, indicating a high probability that clinical teaching and scholarly activities will continue. At least two letters must be from peers outside the surgeon’s practice group.
6. A complete, current Curriculum Vitae and bibliography indicating substantial and significant contributions to the knowledge of plastic surgery through published scholarly work.
7. Documentation of active practice of plastic surgery in the United States for at least seven years.
8. Completion of the Resident Registration and Evaluation of Training Form and submission of the required documents and Processing Fee.
9. Documentation of 150 hours in Continuing Medical Education (CME) over a three year period including a minimum of 75 hours in Category I educational activities in plastic surgery and 20 hours in patient safety.

10. Hospital privilege letters from all hospitals verifying current plastic surgery appointments, including active inpatient admitting privileges in plastic surgery.
11. Current membership documentation from at least one of the Board's Sponsoring Organizations OR professional medical organizations, including regional and local plastic surgery societies.
12. Documentation of all valid, full and unrestricted state medical license(s).
13. Peer Review Evaluation Forms completed by the Chief of Surgery or Chief of Staff at each hospital where plastic surgery privileges are held. Two additional evaluations completed by peers in any of the following four categories: Chief of Plastic Surgery, Anesthesiologist, Nursing Supervisor, ABPS board certified plastic surgeon.
14. The Credentials and Requirements Review Fee.
15. If the request is approved by the Committee, the candidate must appear for a personal appearance/interview before the Credentials and Requirements Committee for a FINAL decision regarding candidacy for examination. Submission of an Administrative Fee must be submitted.
16. If approved, then the candidate will be offered five years of admissibility to take and pass both the Written and Oral Examinations to achieve certification.
17. After that period of admissibility, if certification is not achieved then the candidate will be required to complete the Reapplication process, followed by the Re-Entry process, if needed.