

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 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 required content of training in these 3 plastic surgery years is documented under Requisite Training. **All training programs must be accredited 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 for the Competency Based Time Variable Training Pilot, by the Residency Review Committee for Plastic Surgery (RRC-PS) and the ABPS. Programs are required to identify all 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 ACGME 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 6 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 to potentially complete training in five years. Those residents who are required 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. If a resident in a Competency Based Program must repeat a PS year, the resident will no longer qualify for the Competency Based pathway. The resident must then move into the standard 6-year Integrated Program, repeat the PS year, and extend training by one additional year.

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 an ACGME accredited hand fellowship in the same ACGME-accredited Plastic Surgery program, 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 RRC-PS may participate in this pathway. The program must apply to both the Board and the RRC-PS for approval **prior** to designating residents into this pathway. The resident must be identified by PSY 4 year and must complete all plastic surgery requisite requirements and graduate from plastic surgery training by PSY 5. 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.

RESIDENTS WHO TRAIN IN CANADA

It is the responsibility of residents in Canada, to ensure their training is approved by the ABPS. The ABPS Resident Registration and Evaluation of Training Form must be completed and submitted to the Board to obtain ABPS approval. This requirement pertains to all residents applying for admission to The American Board of Plastic Surgery, Inc. certification process. A Preliminary Confirmation Letter must be obtained from the ABPS before:

I. Canadian Surgical Residents who complete an alternate prerequisite pathway and intend to apply to an ACGME-accredited Plastic Surgery Training Program in the US

To be eligible for entry into a United States, ACGME-accredited **Independent** Plastic Surgery Residency Training Program, or to be considered for a transfer prior to the last 3 years of a United States ACGME-accredited **Integrated** plastic surgery residency program., the following provisos and documentation must be completed:

1. Candidates 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 a non-Canadian international medical school will be accepted only if the resident matches directly into a Canadian Plastic Surgery Residency through CaRMS.
2. Medical degrees obtained through an international medical school (IMGs) will be accepted only if the resident matches directly into a Canadian Plastic Surgery Residency through CaRMS (Canadian Residency Matching System), completing prerequisite training in one of the below accepted surgical specialties in Canada. To be eligible to match into a United States Independent plastic surgery residency training program the resident must:
 - **Match** into an ABPS accepted prerequisite surgical training program through CaRMS;
 - **Obtain** Canadian Board certification by the RCPSC in the accepted surgical specialty; and
 - Be **eligible** for United States certification in the same surgical specialty. Submit a letter from the ABMS member board indicating eligibility to the examination and certification process.

3. Candidates must have entered a 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, or Urology.
4. Prerequisite training must be completed in no more than two residency programs. Residents who are completing, or have completed, general surgery residency training (and other surgical specialties) and applying for an **Independent** plastic surgery residency training position:
 - Residents must complete the last three years of general surgery residency training, or training in any other surgical specialty, in the same program, with progressive responsibility.
 - Residents must obtain certification by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC).
 - A letter must be provided from the prerequisite surgical Program Director or Department Chair attesting to the resident is completing their prerequisite residency training, including exact dates of training and the year levels to be completed and the resident is in good standing.
5. Residents must complete 48 weeks of clinical training per year, averaged over the length of the training.
6. There can be no more than 3 months of non-clinical or non-surgical training during the residency.
7. There can be no more than 12 months of rotations outside of the primary specialty residency training.
8. The residency program must be 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 urology. 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 alternate prerequisite pathway.

The Board requires a verification letter from the prerequisite training program director verifying 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 office two years before 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 of completion of training and an evaluation of performance. It is the resident's responsibility to determine that the form has been completed and returned to the ABPS office.

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.

Residents must submit the following:

1. Completed online ABPS Resident Registration and Evaluation of Training Form, medical school diploma and Processing Fee.
2. Letter from the prerequisite Program Director or Department Chair indicating the resident successfully completed their prerequisite residency training, including exact dates of training and the year levels completed, a complete clinical month by month rotation schedule from program director, and a certificate of completion.

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

Because of the differences in Canadian prerequisite training compared to ACGME-accredited training, transfers into ACGME-accredited Integrated Plastic Surgery training programs will only be allowed at the beginning of the PSY-II year, regardless of the number of years of Integrated plastic surgery training completed in Canada.

All resident transfers into a vacant AB position in an Integrated program must be approved by the accepting Program Director and The American Board of Plastic Surgery, Inc. The transferring resident must assume the responsibility to request approval from ABPS, and must provide the following to the Board before approval will be considered:

1. Completed online ABPS Resident Registration and Evaluation of Training Form, Evaluation of Training Fee, medical school diploma and Processing Fee.

2. Letter from the current program director indicating the exact dates of training, and the year levels completed and monthly rotation schedule that will be completed at the time of the transfer.
3. Letter from the accepting Integrated plastic surgery program director indicating the application and acceptance of the transferring resident and confirmation that the resident will start at the beginning of PSY II.

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

To meet the requirements for admissibility to the ABPS Examination and Certification process, the following provisos and documentation must be completed and submitted to the Board for approval:

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 a non-Canadian international medical school will be accepted only if the resident matches directly into a Canadian Plastic Surgery Residency through CaRMS.
2. Medical degrees obtained through an international medical school (IMGs) will be accepted only if the resident matches directly into a Canadian Plastic Surgery Residency through CaRMS (Canadian Residency Matching System), completing prerequisite training in the below accepted surgical specialties in Canada to be eligible to match into a United States Independent plastic surgery residency training programs only if the resident:
 - **Matches** into an accepted prerequisite surgical training through CaRMS;
 - **Obtains** Canadian Board certification by the RCPSC in the accepted surgical specialty; and
 - Is **eligible** for United States certification in the same surgical specialty. The resident must submit a letter from the ABMS member board indicating eligibility to the examination and certification process.
3. All residency training programs must be accredited by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC) for the entire length of training.
4. Pre-requisite training must be completed in no more than two residency programs. Residents who are completing, or have completed, general surgery residency training (and other 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 any other surgical specialty, in the same program, with progressive responsibility.
 - Obtain certification by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC).
 - Obtain a letter from the prerequisite Program Director or Department Chair attesting to the resident is completing their prerequisite residency training, including exact dates of training and the year levels to be completed and the resident is in good standing.
5. Residents must complete 48 weeks of clinical training per year averaged over the length of the 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.

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.