



AMERICAN
SOCIETY FOR
MICROBIOLOGY

American Board of Medical Microbiology (ABMM) Eligibility Requirements

Table of Contents

Eligibility Requirements	2
PLAN I:	2
PLAN II:	2
PLAN III:	2
EDUCATION	2
EXPERIENCE	3
NON-CPEP MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH MICROBIOLOGY POST-DOCTORAL TRAINING	4

Eligibility Requirements

The ABMM Board uses the following criteria to evaluate your application to sit for the exam. If you fail to meet these criteria, your application will be denied and your application fee will not be refunded.

You must meet the criteria in one of the plans below to apply and sit in for the ABMM exam:

PLAN I: Applicants must possess a doctorate and complete a minimum of three years equivalence of full-time experience, as defined below.

PLAN II: Applicants must possess a doctorate and complete two years of postgraduate training in a medical microbiology and public health CPEP-approved program, as defined by the CPEP Essentials.

PLAN III: Applicants must possess a doctorate and complete:

- i. an ACGME-accredited fellowship program in Medical Microbiology or
- ii. a Canadian College of Microbiologists (CCM) Fellowship Training Program or
- iii. a Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada three-year medical microbiology/infectious disease or five-year medical microbiology residency.

All training and experience requirements must be met after the doctoral degree has been awarded.

EDUCATION

Applicants must possess a Doctorate of Philosophy or Doctorate of Science in microbiology or an equivalent degree in one of the related sciences acceptable to the ABMM Board. Other degrees (such as Doctor of Medicine, Doctor of Osteopathy, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, Doctor of Public Health, Doctor of Dental Medicine, Doctor of Dental Surgery or Doctor of Philosophy in Health Sciences) may be accepted if your additional special training and experience are approved by the ABMM Board. Doctor of Clinical Laboratory Sciences (DCLS) and Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) degrees are not acceptable degrees for ABMM eligibility.

- Applicants educated in the U.S.
 - All educational requirements must be earned from institutions accredited by a regulatory agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.
- Applicants educated in Canada
 - All educational requirements must be earned from institutions recognized by the Ministry of Education of the province in which each school is located.
- Applicants educated outside the U.S. or Canada
 - Degrees must be deemed equivalent to those earned at an accredited institution in the U.S. by World Education Services, Inc.

EXPERIENCE

Experience is defined as director-level laboratory experience which is directly relevant to the practice of medical and public health microbiology and its subspecialties. Appropriate experience requires an ongoing relationship with a medical and public health microbiology, reference or other microbiology laboratories that includes a diagnostic service component such that the applicant has devoted at least 75% of his/her time to management, medical and administrative activities during the three years of experience. Diverse professional experience means working at the director level or training (up to one year, see “Non-CPEP Training” below) in a CLIA-certified (or equivalent) medical/public health microbiology laboratory for at least three years, with the recommended distribution of experience in the following manner:

- Responsibilities and skills in the medical or public health microbiology laboratory (50-65%).
References should provide examples of:
 - Assisting medical and public health microbiology laboratory scientists in interpreting the medical significance of laboratory findings.
 - Oversight of quality assurance/quality control.
 - Technical troubleshooting and problem-solving.
 - Validation/verification of new tests
 - Regular review of laboratory procedures
- Interaction with healthcare providers (15-30%).
References should provide examples of:
 - Consultation with healthcare providers regarding the selection and interpretation of medical and public health microbiology tests/results.
 - Consultation with local and state public health officials.
 - Reference lab consultation with clients.
 - Participation in hospital/institution committees (infection control, antibiotic subcommittee, etc.).
- Management and administrative skills (10-20%).
References should provide examples of:
 - Interacting with institutional and laboratory administration and personnel.
 - Performing financial analyses on new test methods or laboratory programs.
 - Assuring/overseeing accreditation, competency, proficiency testing, etc.
- Research (0-25%).
References should provide examples of:
 - Development/evaluation of new test methods/techniques/instrumentation.
 - Collaboration with medical and public health microbiology/basic research colleagues.
- Teaching (0-25%).
References should provide examples of:
 - Didactic lectures and rounds.
 - Resident/fellow/student training.

A laboratory director who works(ed) at the same institution during the applicants’ requisite years of experience and is qualified to serve as a director of a CLIA-certified laboratory or ABMM-recognized CLIA equivalent, must attest to the candidate’s experience.

The minimum percentages in each area must be met. Research and teaching experience are not required, but applicants may have up to 25% of their time devoted to either, or a combination, of those areas provided the combination does not exceed 25%. Experience in which more than 25% of the time is spent on research, teaching, grant writing or test development does not satisfy the experience requirement.

Applicants who will complete the requisite training and experience within 60 days following the exam date are eligible to apply.

NON-CPEP MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH MICROBIOLOGY POST-DOCTORAL TRAINING

- An infectious disease (ID) fellowship may count towards the requisite experience if it meets the eligibility outlined above. Despite the length of the fellowship, no more than one year's experience will count towards meeting the three years of required experience. Experience must involve an active role in the laboratory (e.g., attended rounds and completed a microbiology rotation) and must be documented by a reference form submitted by the director of microbiology.
- A pathology residency, devoted to microbiology and molecular pathology, may count towards the requisite experience if it meets the eligibility outlined above. No more than six months of experience will count towards achieving the three years of the required experience. The number of months devoted to microbiology and molecular pathology during the residency must be specifically documented on the reference form.
- The CPEP Medical Laboratory Immunology program may count towards the requisite experience. No more than six months of experience will count towards achieving the three years of the required experience.
- Other non-CPEP-approved medical or clinical microbiology post-doctoral residency programs may count for up to one year of the three years of required experience, based on a review of the program. The number of months devoted to microbiology and molecular pathology during the residency must be specifically documented on the reference form or through a transcript.