



# ABD 2025 Year in Review

The American Board of Dermatology had a successful year in 2025. Among other activities, the ABD prepared to launch a streamlined Continuing Certification Program; strengthened collaborative relationships to identify advances and knowledge gaps; and shared new resources to support learning and professionalism. These accomplishments were in addition to the Board's important work of preparing initial certifying exams, subspecialty exams, CertLink materials, focused practice improvement activities, and other essential work of certifying that dermatologists have the knowledge and skills to provide high-quality, safe and effective dermatologic care.

## Here are more details:

In 2025, the ABD **concluded its CertLink Pilot**. More than 12,000 diplomates participated, beginning in 2020. Pilot results verified that CertLink is a viable platform for assessment of knowledge and expertise and allowed the ABD to accumulate sufficient data to set a valid passing standard.

The ABD was able to set **new requirements for Continuing Certification** that will go into effect in January 2026. These changes align the ABD with [ABMS updated standards](#):

- Continuing Certification has four components:
  - CertLink (for assessment and continuous learning).
  - Practice Improvement (one activity every 5 years).
  - Unrestricted medical license, valid in the U.S. or Canada.
  - Annual \$150 fee.
  - Most Continuing Certification requirements will be achieved through CertLink.
- CertLink participation will be **required** of all Board-Certified dermatologists enrolled in Continuing Certification.
- The CertLink passing standard has been set at 73% over four years.
- Cumulative scores will be assessed at the end of four years of CertLink participation.
  - Those achieving a passing score will get a CertLink holiday in Year 5.
  - Those who do not pass will take a Catch-Up Exam in Year 5.

The ABD has created a [video](#) to help diplomates understand the upcoming changes.

AMERICAN BOARD OF DERMATOLOGY  
**CONTINUING CERTIFICATION PROGRAM**

The streamlined program begins January 1, 2026.

The ABD is simplifying the Continuing Certification process so you can focus more on acquiring and maintaining knowledge and experience — and less on data entry. Starting in January 2026, all requirements will be combined into four parts.

- CERTLINK**  
73% is the new passing standard. Your cumulative performance will be measured against the passing standard every five years.
- PRACTICE IMPROVEMENT**  
Complete one activity every 5 years. The ABD offers nearly 100 activities, and new topics are added annually.
- MEDICAL LICENSE**  
Ongoing requirement for certification. No need to attest annually.
- ANNUAL FEE**  
\$150 annually. All Inclusive.

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## Other notable accomplishments in 2025 include:

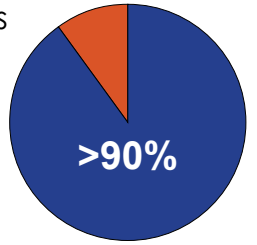
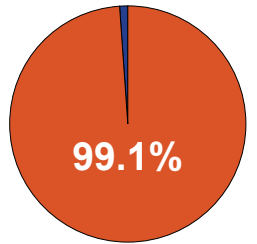
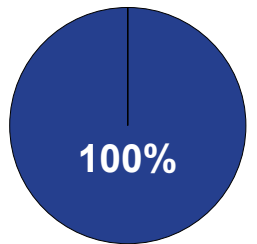
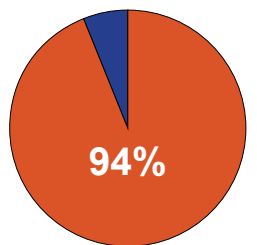
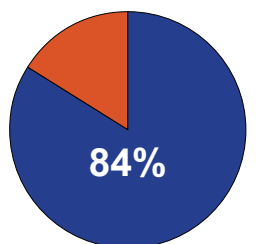
- Creation of a [Collaboration Hub](#). The hub is an online tool that simplifies and formalizes ABD's collaboration with leaders in dermatology and its subspecialties. Experts are asked to identify gaps in knowledge and recommend important journal articles that the ABD might include in CertLink or use to help develop Practice Improvement activities to help fill those gaps. To date, more than 60 articles have been submitted for consideration by item writing committees, and six practice gap suggestions have been made.
- Establishment of a Professionalism Committee of ABD volunteers who identify resources that may be helpful to Diplomates, dermatology practices and institutions. This committee has set up a [Professionalism Library](#) which includes links to a number of journal articles addressing topics such as good bedside manner, managing difficult patients, and recognizing non-verbal signals. The library is available to all ABD diplomates.
- A [Physician Experience Team \(PET\)](#) has been created in which a designated staff member will walk a Diplomate through his or her CCP dashboard online, or other parts of the ABD website, to answer any questions.

## LEADERSHIP

<b>ABD Executive Team</b>	Dr. Randall K. Roenigk – Executive Director Dr. Stanley Miller – Associate Executive Director, Continuing Certification Dr. Marta Petersen – Associate Executive Director, Candidate, Program & Diplomate Relations Dr. Julie Schaffer – Associate Executive Director, Exam Development Dr. Erik Stratman – Associate Executive Director, Continuous Program Improvement and Research
<b>2025 Directors</b>	Drs. David M. Allen (Ogden, UT), Christopher K. Bichakjian (Ann Arbor, MI), Jerry Brewer (Rochester, MN), Anna L. Bruckner (Aurora, CO), Keith A. Choate (New Haven, CT), Karynne O. Duncan (St. Helena, CA), Mercedes E. Gonzalez (Coral Gables, FL), Warren R. Heymann (Marlton, NJ), Ryan W. Hick (Dallas, TX), Christine J. Ko (New Haven, CT), Chase Kwon (young diplomate observer member, Hinsdale, IL) Delphine J. Lee (Torrance, CA), Mary G. Mercurio (Rochester, NY), Kanade Shinkai (San Francisco, CA), Olayemi (Yemi) Sokumbi (Jacksonville, FL), Allison T. Vidimos (Cleveland, OH), Andrea Zaengelin (Hershey, PA) and Ms. Aileen Shinaman, JD (public member, Milwaukee, WI).  Directors Elect: Drs. Andrea Murina (New Orleans, LA) and Erin Mathes (San Francisco CA)
<b>2025 Executive Committee</b>	Drs. Warren Heymann, President; Anna L. Bruckner, Vice President, Christine J. Ko, Allison T. Vidimos, Christopher Bichakjian, Keith Choate.



## EXAM RESULTS

<b>BASIC Exam</b>	The 2025 BASIC Exam was administered April 3 to first-year residents. 654 residents took the exam from 142 ACGME-accredited US programs, 7 Canadian programs, and 4 international programs. Additionally, 22 faculty members took the exam for informational purposes.	
<b>CORE Exam</b>	The CORE Exam comprises 4 modules: Medical Dermatology, Pediatric Dermatology, Surgical Dermatology and Dermatopathology. There were 715 candidates in February, 567 candidates in July, and 398 candidates in November. To date, pass rates for each of the 4 modules have exceeded 90%.	 <p>&gt;90%</p>
<b>APPLIED Exam</b>	The APPLIED Exam was administered to 565 graduating residents on July 22 at Pearson test centers. The pass rate was 99.1%.	 <p>99.1%</p>
<b>Dermatopathology Subspecialty Exam</b>	The Dermatopathology Subspecialty Certification Exam was administered to 40 ABD certified dermatologists by the American Board of Pathology at Pearson test centers on September 8-27. The pass rate was 100%.	 <p>100%</p>
<b>Pediatric Dermatology Subspecialty Exam</b>	The Pediatric Dermatology Subspecialty Exam was administered on October 14 at Pearson test centers to 18 candidates. The pass rate was 94%.	 <p>94%</p>
<b>Micrographic Dermatologic Surgery Subspecialty Exam</b>	The MDS Subspecialty Exam was administered September 29-October 4 at Pearson test centers to 373 candidates. The pass rate was 84%. 2025 was the last year for candidates to qualify through the practice pathway.	 <p>84%</p>