

Dermatology Board Certification Review: The Ultimate Guide to Passing the Boards



Dermatology: Board and Certification Review

by Andrew Hempstead

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 3219 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Print length : 2763 pages

Screen Reader : Supported



The American Board of Dermatology (ABD) is the certifying body for dermatologists in the United States. The ABD offers two types of certification:

- **Initial Certification:** This is a one-time certification that is valid for 10 years. To be eligible for initial certification, you must have completed an ACGME-accredited dermatology residency program or have equivalent training and experience.
- **Maintenance of Certification:** This is a continuing certification that is required every 10 years to maintain your certification. To maintain your certification, you must complete a certain number of continuing medical education (CME) credits and participate in other activities that demonstrate your commitment to lifelong learning.

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for initial certification, you must meet the following requirements:

- Be a graduate of an ACGME-accredited dermatology residency program
- Have completed at least 3 years of clinical practice in dermatology
- Be a member of the American Academy of Dermatology (AAD)
- Have passed the ABD's written and oral examinations

If you do not meet the eligibility requirements for initial certification, you may be eligible for the ABD's **Alternative Pathway to Certification**. This pathway is available to physicians who have completed a non-ACGME-accredited dermatology residency program or who have equivalent training and experience.

Study Materials

There are a number of study materials available to help you prepare for the ABD's written and oral examinations. Some of the most popular study materials include:

- **The AAD's Dermatology Board Review Course:** This course is offered by the AAD and is designed to help you prepare for the written and oral examinations. The course includes lectures, practice questions, and mock examinations.
- **The ABD's Self-Assessment Program:** This program is offered by the ABD and is designed to help you assess your knowledge of

dermatology. The program includes over 1,000 questions that cover all of the topics that are tested on the written and oral examinations.

- **Third-party review courses:** There are a number of third-party review courses available that can help you prepare for the ABD's written and oral examinations. These courses typically include lectures, practice questions, and mock examinations.
- **Medical textbooks:** There are a number of medical textbooks that can help you prepare for the ABD's written and oral examinations. Some of the most popular textbooks include Fitzpatrick's Dermatology, Dermatology: 2-Volume Set, and Rook's Textbook of Dermatology.
- **Medical journals:** There are a number of medical journals that can help you keep up-to-date on the latest advances in dermatology. Some of the most popular medical journals include the Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology, JAMA Dermatology, and British Journal of Dermatology.

Test Preparation Strategies

There are a number of test preparation strategies that can help you prepare for the ABD's written and oral examinations. Some of the most effective test preparation strategies include:

- **Start studying early:** The ABD's written and oral examinations are challenging, so it is important to start studying early. You should start studying at least 6 months before the exam.
- **Create a study schedule:** Once you start studying, it is important to create a study schedule and stick to it. Your study schedule should include time for reading, reviewing, and practicing questions.

- **Use a variety of study materials:** There are a number of study materials available to help you prepare for the ABD's written and oral examinations. Use a variety of study materials to keep your studies interesting and to ensure that you are covering all of the topics that are tested on the exam.
- **Take practice tests:** Practice tests are a great way to assess your progress and to identify areas where you need additional study. Take practice tests regularly and review your results carefully.
- **Get feedback from others:** Ask your colleagues, friends, or family members to quiz you on dermatology topics. This can help you identify areas where you need additional study.
- **Relax and get enough sleep:** It is important to relax and get enough sleep during the months leading up to the exam. Stress can negatively impact your ability to study and perform well on the exam.

The Day of the Exam

On the day of the exam, it is important to arrive at the testing center early and to bring all of the required materials. You will be given a locker to store your belongings. You will also be given a white coat to wear during the exam.

The ABD's written examination is a 4-hour examination that consists of 200 multiple-choice questions. The ABD's oral examination is a 1-hour examination that consists of 10 questions. You will be asked to discuss a variety of dermatology topics with a panel of examiners.

After the exam, you will be given a score report. You will pass the exam if you score a 70% or higher on the written and oral examinations.

The ABD's written and oral examinations are challenging, but they are also achievable. By following the tips in this guide, you can increase your chances of passing the exams and becoming a board-certified dermatologist.



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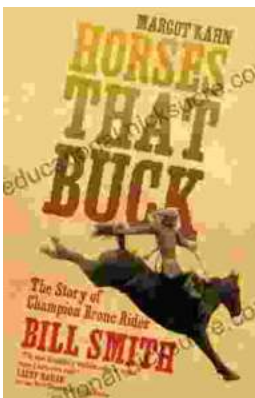
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