



ABAM Lifetime Certificate

Frequently Asked Questions & Answers

(updated 9.1.2025)

Q: When did the American Board of Addiction Medicine offer active ABAM Diplomates the opportunity to apply for an ABAM Lifetime Certificate?

A: The ABPM practice pathway to addiction medicine certification ended with the 2025 exam application cycle. ABAM provided the opportunity to all ABAM Diplomates in good standing* to apply for an ABAM Lifetime certificate with initial invitations emailed on May 1, and additional email notifications and a mailed notice, via USPS, sent in June 2025. Beginning January 2025, all notifications indicated an **application cycle end date of July 31, 2025, with no extensions.**

Q: Does the American Board of Preventive Medicine (ABPM) provide a practice pathway to addiction medicine certification?

A: The ABPM practice pathway to addiction medicine certification ended with the 2025 application cycle. For specifics regarding board certification, visit theabpm.org.

Q: Does the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) provide a clinical pathway to addiction medicine certification?

A: The AOA clinical pathway to addiction medicine certification is scheduled to close in 2026. For specifics regarding board certification, visit the [American Osteopathic Conjoint Examination Committee on Addiction Medicine](#).

Q: What is an ABAM Lifetime Certificate?

A: The American Board of Addiction Medicine (ABAM) stopped certifying new applicants in 2015 and ceased all operations on September 1, 2025. Beginning in May 2025, ABAM offered a Lifetime Certificate to all active Diplomates. As of August 1, 2025, ABAM stopped monitoring ABAM Diplomate Lifetime Certificate holders for their participation in maintenance of certification programs or their compliance with state medical board licensure. ABAM makes no endorsement of Lifetime Certificate holders beyond acknowledgment that as of August 1, 2025, the Certificate holder was an active ABAM Diplomate. As of August 1, 2025, all Federation of State Medical Boards monitoring of state medical board disciplinary actions ceased with no current restrictions noted at the time of issuance of the certificate for named Lifetime Certificate holders.

Q: Is an ABAM Lifetime Certificate holder an ABAM Fellow?

A: An ABAM Lifetime Certificate is not considered a Fellow status designation.

Q: What were the eligibility requirements to apply for an ABAM Lifetime Certificate May 1 – July 31, 2025?

A: The requirements were as follows:

- ABAM Diplomate in good standing
 - Up to date on maintenance fees (last renewal cycle July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025)
- Completion of application form to include the following:

- license verification attesting to current and unrestricted state medical license(s)
- Attestation to agreement of the definition of an ABAM Lifetime Certificate, as outlined above
- Time-Limited Diplomates attested to completion of 26 addiction medicine *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™* between July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024.
- Payment of Lifetime Certificate fee

Q: What is the official designation for an ABAM Lifetime Certificate holder?

A: Lifetime Diplomates may continue to distinguish themselves as board certified in addiction medicine by using the official designation for ABAM Diplomate Status as “Lifetime Diplomate of the American Board of Addiction Medicine” or “Lifetime DABAM.”

Q: Does the ABAM Lifetime Certificate (physical certificate) have an expiration date listed?

A: The ABAM Lifetime physical certificate does not have an expiration date on it. The certificate indicates initial ABAM Lifetime Certificate, ABAM certification date, certificate number, and holder’s name.

Q: Can ABAM Lifetime Certificate holders and former ABAM Diplomates access their profiles for a copy of their continuing education transcript?

A: No, all ABAM logins are disabled. ABAM ceased all operations September 1, 2025.

Q: Can third-party providers such as employers or state medical boards or insurance companies or patients verify ABAM Lifetime Certification status?

A: There is no Diplomate verification service available, including correspondence with anyone seeking additional information regarding ABAM Lifetime Certificate holders and what requirements were met to receive the certificate. To verify status, you may refer to the .pdf list on abam.net.

Q: Do employers recognize the ABAM Lifetime Certificate the same way they previously recognized ABAM Certificates?

A: There is no way to know how employers recognize the ABAM Lifetime Certificate.

Q: Will insurance payors accept the ABAM Lifetime Certificate as equivalent to the current ABAM certificate or the ABPM board certification?

A: There is no way to know how insurance payors recognize the ABAM Lifetime Certificate. ABPM and AOA board certification in addiction medicine represents the highest and most well-recognized addiction medicine board certification in the United States.

Q: Who can I contact with questions or requests for more information?

A: ABAM ceased all operations on September 1, 2025. The email address and phone line are disconnected. There are no staff available to answer questions or fulfill requests.