



ABAM Lifetime Certificate

Frequently Asked Questions & Answers *(updated 7.15.2025)*

Q: When will 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 has provided the opportunity to all ABAM Diplomates in good standing* to apply for an ABAM Lifetime certificate. Initial invitations were emailed May 1, with additional email notifications and a mailed notice, via USPS, in June, 2025.

Q: When will the American Board of Preventive Medicine (ABPM) practice pathway to addiction medicine certification end?

A: The ABPM practice pathway to addiction medicine certification ended with the 2025 application cycle. For specifics regarding board certification, visit theabpm.org. American Board of Addiction Medicine (ABAM) staff are unable to answer any questions regarding ABPM requirements or eligibility.

Q: I did not apply through the ABPM practice pathway to addiction medicine certification, and I have maintained my ABAM certification, what is my option for addiction medicine certification at this time?

A: ABAM Diplomates who have maintained their ABAM certification through the ABAM [Transitional Continuous Certification Program](#) (TraCC) have one option as of July 2025:

1. Having maintained active ABAM Diplomate status by paying maintenance fees through the July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025 cycle, provided current unrestricted state medical license(s) information, and for Time-Limited Diplomates completed 26 addiction medicine *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™*, so that they may apply for an ABAM Lifetime Certificate, deadline July 31, 2025. No extensions will be available.

Q: What is an ABAM Lifetime Certificate?

A: The American Board of Addiction Medicine (ABAM) stopped certifying new applicants in 2015 and will cease 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 will no longer monitor ABAM Diplomate Lifetime Certificate holders for their participation in maintenance of certification programs or their compliance with state medical board licensure. ABAM will make no endorsement of Lifetime Certificate holders beyond acknowledgment that as of August 1, 2025, the Certificate holder was an active ABAM Diplomate. Only those Diplomates with no current restrictions according to the Federation of State Medical Boards as of the time of application review (July 2025), will be considered for Lifetime status.

Q: Does this mean I will now be an ABAM Fellow?

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

Q: When can I apply for an ABAM Lifetime Certificate?

A: ABAM opened the application process May 1, 2025, for all active ABAM certificate holders. The deadline to apply is July 31, 2025. No extensions will be available.

Q: What does it mean to be an active (current) ABAM certificate holder?

A: Active ABAM certificate holders are ABAM Diplomates who have annually participated in the [Transitional Continuous Certification Program](#) (TraCC).

Q: How can I verify if I am considered an active ABAM certificate holder?

A: For immediate verification of ABAM board certification, search the “[Find a Physician](#)” database. If your name does not appear in the search, you are not an active ABAM Diplomate. You can also email abam@abam.net for verification.

Q: If I have not maintained my ABAM certification, can I be reinstated so that I can apply for an ABAM Lifetime certificate?

A: There are no reinstatement opportunities for ABAM Diplomate status.

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

A: The requirements are as follows:

- *ABAM Diplomate in good standing
 - Up to date on maintenance fees (last renewal cycle July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025, this renewal cycle is closed with no reinstatement opportunities)
- 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
 - Payment of Lifetime Certificate fee

**Additional Information:*

- To qualify for a lifetime certificate, ABAM Diplomates must have renewed for the 24-25 cycle, meeting all requirements as outlined:
 - Maintenance Fee(s)
 - Not Time-Limited Diplomates - \$150
 - Optional Not Time-Limited Diplomates - \$375
 - Time-Limited Diplomates - \$375
 - State Medical License Verification, active with no restrictions
 - Time-Limited Diplomates must complete 26 addiction medicine *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™* between July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024.

Q: How much does an ABAM Lifetime Certificate cost?

A: The ABAM Lifetime Certificate fee is a \$1,000 one-time fee. There is an additional fee of \$50 (optional) for mailed ABAM Lifetime Certificates (14" x 11" card stock). All Lifetime Certificate holders will receive an emailed PDF (8.5" x 11") certificate at no additional cost.

Q: What will be the deadline to apply for an ABAM Lifetime Certificate?

A: The deadline to apply is July 31, 2025. As a reminder, the application process will open in early May 2025. **Reinstatement or extension options will not apply.**

Q: How will I distinguish myself as 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: Will the ABAM Lifetime Certificate (physical certificate) have an expiration date listed?

A: The ABAM Lifetime physical certificate will not have an expiration date on it. The certificate will indicate initial ABAM certification date, certificate number, holder's name, and list ABAM Lifetime Certificate.

Q: As an ABAM Time-Limited Diplomate or Optional Not Time-Limited Diplomate, I have used the American College of Academic Addiction Medicine (ACAAM) Addiction Medicine Education Portal to obtain CME. Will I still have access?

A: As an ABAM Lifetime Certificate holder, you will have the option to purchase access to ACAAM products beginning July 1, 2025. This includes the Self-Assessment Modules (SAMs).

Q: If I want a copy of my continuing education transcript, can I still access it after September 1, 2025?

A: No, all ABAM logins will be disabled on August 1, 2025. Even if you have obtained ABAM Lifetime Certificate status, your login will no longer work. If you wish to have a copy of your continuing education transcript, you must login and download by July 31, 2025.

Q: Will third-party providers such as employers or state medical boards or insurance companies or patients be able to verify my certification status?

A: The *Find a Physician* (verification database) will no longer be available after July 31, 2025. There will be no Diplomate verification services available, including correspondence with anyone seeking additional information regarding ABAM Lifetime Certificate holders and what requirements were met to receive the certificate.

Q: Will my employer recognize the ABAM Lifetime Certificate the same way that they recognize my current ABAM Certificate?

A: ABAM has no way of anticipating how employers will 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: ABAM has no way of anticipating how insurance payors will recognize the ABAM Lifetime Certificate. ABPM board certification in addiction medicine represents the highest and most well-recognized addiction medicine board certification in the United States.

Q: I have read all the information above and have applied for the ABPM addiction medicine certification exam through the practice pathway and would like to also apply for an ABAM Lifetime Certificate, would I be eligible?

A: Yes, you would be eligible. You can follow the same steps outlined below under the next question.

Q: I have read all the information above and plan to apply for a Lifetime Certificate. Can you provide me with a timeline and action items of what I need to do?

A: Take the following actions at the designated times noted below.

1. July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025 (Time-Limited Diplomates Only)
 - a. Complete 26 addiction medicine *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™* between July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025. This can be done easily by completing 26 SAMs on the [ACAAM Addiction Medicine Education Portal](#). You have access to this portal. Credits are automatically reported to your ABAM profile.
2. May 1 - July 31, 2025

Active ABAM Diplomates can apply for an ABAM Lifetime Certificate. Invitations were emailed via the online renewal system, and a notification mailed by USPS. Only current active Diplomates will be eligible and have access to the application form.

 - a. Complete the application form
 - i. Time-Limited Diplomates must attest to completion of 26 addiction medicine *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™* between July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025, by agreeing to comply with the ABAM Audit Policy.
 - b. Verify state medical licensure, active with no restrictions
 - c. Pay one-time fee: \$1,000
 - i. All ABAM Lifetime Certificate holders will receive an 8.5" x 11" PDF of their certificate. If you choose to have a certificate (14" x 11" cardstock) mailed to you, additional (optional) fee of \$50.
3. May 1 – July 31, 2025

Download continuing education transcript from my profile if I need it. I understand that as of August 1, 2025, I will no longer have access to my login as it will be disabled.
4. July 31, 2025
 - The ABAM Lifetime Certificate application cycle closes, **with no reinstatement or extension options available**. There will be no exceptions!
 - Last day to download continuing education transcript

5. August 2025

- a. ABAM Diplomate logins are disabled on August 1.
- b. ABAM staff will process applications, email/mail certificates
- c. ABAM website updated with a static list of ABAM Lifetime Certificate holders, history of ABAM, and ABAM Lifetime Certificate Statement providing a definition of the certificate as referenced below.

ABAM Lifetime Certificate Statement (for posting August 2025)

The American Board of Addiction Medicine (ABAM) stopped certifying new applicants in 2015 and will cease all operations on September 1, 2025. In May 2025, ABAM offered a Lifetime Certificate to all active Diplomates. As of August 1, 2025, ABAM no longer monitors ABAM Diplomate Lifetime Certificate holders for their participation in maintenance of certification programs or their compliance with state medical board licensure. ABAM will make 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 for named Lifetime Certificate holders.

6. September 1, 2025

ABAM doors close, email and phone lines are disconnected.

Q: My question(s) remains unanswered, who should I contact?

A: If your question was not addressed above, you can email abam@abam.net with additional questions. We will add questions/answers to this document as needed.