

ABM Fellowship and Maintenance of Fellowship Application Instructions

Purpose

To recognize physicians with additional training, experience and knowledge in the clinical, research, academic, or public policy areas of breastfeeding medicine.

Terminology

The term "Fellow of the Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine" will designate a recognized physician. FABM are the letters to be appropriately utilized when designated by the Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine. Fellowship is an honor and neither a requirement nor a right of membership.

Requirements for Physician Applicants

1. MD, DO, MBBS degree (or equivalent physician designation) and possession of an active medical license
2. Membership in ABM for at least five full years in consecutive years prior to application
3. Attendance at three or more ABM Annual or Regional Conferences
4. Sufficient continuing education in the applicant's specific area(s) of breastfeeding medicine expertise within last 10 years
5. Sufficient professional experience in the applicant's specific area(s) of breastfeeding medicine expertise within last 10 years
6. Two letters of recommendation that specifically address the applicant's breastfeeding medicine background and expertise and the applicant's commitment to ABM
 - One letter from an Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine Fellow
 - A seconding letter from an active ABM member
7. A scoring system will be used to guide decision-making by the Fellowship Review Committee and the Board of Directors, but other factors will also be taken into consideration that may override points alone
8. The applicant is expected to be present at the Annual Conference to receive the award (unless extenuating circumstances prevent the applicant's attendance)

Procedure and Timetable for Initial Fellowship Application

Pre-Application

All ABM members wishing to apply for Fellowship into the Academy for Breastfeeding Medicine must fill out a pre-application to determine basic eligibility

1. Pre-applications should be received between January 1 and March 15th of each year.
2. The Chair of the Fellowship Committee and ABM administrative staff will review all pre-applications
3. Candidates will be notified the status of the pre-application within 2-4 weeks after receipt of the pre-application and be invited to fill in the full application if indicated

Full Application

1. The full application for Fellowship should be received after approval of the pre-application between February 1 and May 31st
2. Each year candidates will be reviewed by and nominated by the Fellowship Committee
3. Applicants must be approved by the ABM Board of Directors
4. Notification of final designation as a FABM will occur approximately 10-12 weeks prior to the Annual Meeting so that successful candidates have the opportunity to attend the conference and receive their fellowship certificate.

5. Unless there are extenuating circumstances, the applicant must plan to be present at the Annual Conference to be awarded the certificate and status of Fellow of ABM
6. A nonrefundable fee must be enclosed with application (to pay with credit card, call ABM office):
 - \$350 U.S. for Category I members
 - \$135 U.S. for Category II members
 - \$60 U.S. for Category III members
7. Right to Appeal: A candidate denied fellowship has a right to appeal if the minimum requirements for application have been met. The candidate must provide written evidence of specific qualifications as requested by the Fellowship Committee and the Board

Procedure and Timetable for Maintenance of Fellowship

Maintenance of Fellowship (MOF) in the Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine must be renewed every 10 years. MOF ensures that Fellows remain recognized physicians with additional training, experience and knowledge in the clinical, research, academic, or public policy areas of breastfeeding medicine. The application form for the MOF is the same as that for the Initial Application and **should only include activities in the 10 year interval from the start of Fellowship.**

1. All applications and supporting documents should be received between January 1 and May 31 within the 10th year
2. Membership for at least 7 of past 10 years since the most recent application (special circumstances of interrupted membership will be reviewed by the Fellowship Committee)
3. Attendance at two or more ABM Annual or Regional Conferences since becoming a Fellow.
4. The pre-application is not required for MOF
5. Letters of recommendation are not required for MOF
6. Although advised, it is not required for fellows to be present at the annual ABM meeting in which they will receive their Maintenance of Fellowship
7. All applications and supporting documents should be received between January 1 and May 31 within the 10th year
8. Applications for MOF will be reviewed by the Fellowship Committee. The Committee will forward nominations to the ABM Board of Directors for approval
9. A nonrefundable reapplication and fee every ten years is required
 - \$100 U.S. for Category I members
 - \$50 U.S. for Category II members
 - \$25 U.S. for Category III members
10. Right to Appeal: A candidate denied MOF has a right to appeal if the minimum requirements for application have been met. The candidate must provide written evidence of specific qualifications as requested by the Committee and the ABM Board