

**Policy and Procedure Changes to ABMDI
Certification Program**

Date	Change
2/1/2000	Take home retests no longer offered.
2/1/2000	Multiple Section of Registry Exam increased to 240 questions from 200 questions. Increase test time to four hours from three hours.
1/1/2004	Associates degree required for Board Certification.
2/17/2004	Three year deadline imposed to complete Registry Application Packet.
3/23/2004	One year deadline imposed to complete Board Certification Application Packet.
2/19/2006	45 hours of approved continuing education is required for all recertification.
4/1/2007	Registry application criteria changes: Must be employed at a medical examiner/coroner jurisdiction with the responsibility of investigating deaths and have a minimum of 640 hours experience and a minimum education requirement of high school diploma in order to apply for Registry certification. Self-study and required training course are no longer requirements for certification.
3/3/2008	All retesting will be completed online unless otherwise requested.
5/14/2009	Criteria change requesting proof of employment at a medical examiner/coroner jurisdiction with responsibility of investigating death at time of testing/retesting.
5/14/2009	Time limit to complete application process changed from one year to eighteen months.
1/10/2010	All testing is administered electronically with the following fee changes: Registry Exam: \$350 Board Certification Exam: \$400 \$50 additional fee for requested paper/pencil exams
4/4/2010	NIJ publication Death Investigation: A Guide for the Scene Investigator no longer included in Registry application packets as it is no longer available in print. Registry letter changed to read: We recommend using the National Institutes of Justice publication Death Investigation: A Guide

for the Scene Investigator as a study guide. You can download it as a .pdf file from website <http://www.slu.edu/organizations/abmdi> (2nd menu option on left)

- 7/3/2010 Changes to Registry letter:
added: Both of you must then have your signatures notarized before returning the Verification Sign-off Sheet to the ABMDI. The notary cannot be you or the person signing the Checklist.
- 1/1/2013 ABMDI tests are only administered at local colleges, universities or testing center by testing center staff.
- 7/1/2013 Recertification examination used in lieu of current employment for recertification requirement. A \$25 fee will be required for the processing of any recertification packet.
- 1/1/2014 Time limit between testing changed from 21 days to 60 days.
- 1/1/2014 Registry and Board Certification are also open to equivalent federal authorities that have the job responsibility of “conducting death scene investigations.”
- 1/1/2014 Personal reference for Registry application was changed to a Professional reference.
- 5/1/2014 Certificants that are employed by an equivalent federal authority and have the job responsibility of “conducting death scene investigations” are able to recertify without taking recertification examination. Their employment will meet the continued competency/ employment requirement.
- 4/1/2017 Additional agencies were added as accepted agencies for ABMDI continuing credit: American Academy of Physician Assistants, American Society for Clinical Pathology, College of American Pathologists, Federal Emergency Management Agency. All courses must be relevant to medicolegal death investigation.
- 1/1/2020 Registry certification requirements changed:
640 hours of experience changed to point system. 640 points required and can be a mixture of experience (384 minimum), advanced degree, education/training, conferences and viewing forensic autopsies.
Time limit between testing changed from 60 days to 30 days.
Suspension removed as an ethics sanction.

7/1/2022

Employment requirement wording edited.

XVI.2.c Applicants shall currently be employed by a medical examiner/coroner jurisdiction or equivalent federal authority and have the experience and responsibility to independently conduct medicolegal death scene investigations or supervise such investigations.

- i) For applicants to “independently conduct a medicolegal death scene investigation,” as referenced above, refers to the death investigator performing death scene investigations in person on location at the death scene. This includes but is not limited to completing a body examination (e.g., document injuries and personally assess postmortem changes), photographing the scene, completing an investigative report, etc.
- ii) For applicants to “supervise such investigations” means that the applicant must have prior experience independently conducting medicolegal death scene investigations, as referenced in this document.
- iii) Applicants in reserve positions would not qualify as being currently employed as defined above unless they are currently activated.

Maximum of 2,500 on call hours can be used for the Board Certification hours requirement.

Following fees have changed:

Recertification test fee- \$200

Recertification retest fee- \$50

Replacement certificate fee- \$50

Deleted Incomplete recertification fee

11/1/2022

Recertification update:

The same course may not be used more than once in a certification period for continuing education credits.

Following fees have changed:

Paper/Pencil fee- \$75

Replacement Recertification Sticker- \$25

1/1/2024

Registry Certification made into two tracks:

Associate- no or less than 100 scene hours

Diplomate- 100+ scene hours

Fundamental Tasks of Medicolegal Death Investigation replaced

Performance Training Guidebook Checklist

Application materials converted to electronic format

6/1/2024

Applicant MUST meet all requirements at time of application request

Application period changed from 18 months to 12 months

Virtual Proctoring replaces testing at testing centers and an additional fee added to all examination fees:

Registry Retest (to include proctor): One section – \$150

Two sections – \$250

Three or more sections – \$350

Board Certification Examination (to include proctor): \$450

Board Certification Retest (to include proctor): One section – \$150

Two sections – \$250

Three or more sections – \$350

Recertification Examination (to include proctor): \$250

Recertification Retest (to include proctor): One section – \$100

Two sections – \$150

Three or more sections – \$200