

Practice Track

The practice track focuses on the requirements the subspecialty defines as the minimum for physician eligibility for UCNS certification when training via accredited programs is not yet available. The practice track exists for a limited period of time.

The UCNS membership requirement states:

If a practice track ⁽²⁾ is offered, this practice track shall terminate not more than five (5) years from the date of initial certification.

(2) A practice track is a process that allows physicians who initiated the subspecialty prior to the availability of accredited training programs to qualify for the examination by meeting a defined series of criteria.

Based on this requirement, the practice track will not be offered for a subspecialty for more than five (5) years from the time when the initial examination for the subspecialty becomes available.

Defining a Practice Track

Before defining a practice track, it is important to understand the concept of the practice track and that the practice track has a limited lifespan.

There are a number of considerations to take into account when defining a practice track. The UCNS requires a minimum of five (5) training programs be in existence to achieve subspecialty membership. These programs may not have had sufficient time to achieve accreditation prior to the initiation of certification. The following should be addressed when defining a practice track:

- The amount of credit for training in non-accredited programs.
- The amount of experience required for certification including the metric to be used (e.g., hours, days, months, years, etc.) over a defined period of time.
- The process by which the required experience will be verified, ideally by an independent third party.
- The possible combination of the amount of credit for training in non-accredited programs and the amount of experience.

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