

# BOARD CERTIFIED SPECIALIST - INTRAOPERATIVE MONITORING (BCS-IOM)

## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS, AND APPLICATION AND CANDIDACY PROCESSES

An individual interested in pursuing board certification from the American Audiology Board of Intraoperative Monitoring must first fulfill all eligibility requirements, and then complete the application and candidacy processes.

### I. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- A. ASHA Certification.** Applicants must currently hold the ASHA Certificate of Clinical Competence in Audiology (CCC/A).
- B. Experience.** Applicants must have completed a minimum of 225 intraoperative neuromonitoring cases across at least three different surgical specialties (e.g. spine, intracranial, vascular, cardio-thoracic, peripheral nerve, otologic, head and neck, etc). Intraoperative neuromonitoring experience must have been completed within three (3) years prior to applying for BCS-IOM.
- C. Continuing Education.** Applicants must provide proof of attendance and completion of 15 hours of continuing education units at seminars, workshops, specialized fellowship training programs or other educational programs offering ASHA continuing education units (CEUs) and/or mentored activities with a clinician who has a minimum of 3 years IOM experience. Continuing education (CE), mentored activities, workshops, and coursework must have been obtained following completion of CCC-A requirements, and within 5 years prior to making application. Applications must include documentation of all completed ASHA and non-ASHA CEUs related to intraoperative neuromonitoring that meet the above-stated criteria.

Experiences obtained before clinical certification (CCC) do not satisfy requirements for specialty recognition.

Continued professional development at an advanced level as determined by the Board may be demonstrated through **one or more** of the following options:

1. Accumulation of CEUs from the ASHA approved CE providers at advanced level activities (e.g., workshops, conferences, seminars, on-line courses), independent study (e.g., course development, research projects, publications, internships), and self study (e.g., videotapes, audiotapes, journal reading).
2. Attendance at advanced level meetings and educational programs offered by ASHA and Board approved non-ASHA CEU as well as CME providers of content approved by the Board (e.g., distance learning, video and audio courses, telemedicine and other electronic educational offerings).
3. Accumulation of advanced level CEUs from an International Association for Continuing Education and Training (IACET) authorized provider (e.g., including but not limited to the American Physical Therapy Association, American Occupational Therapy Association, American Academy of Audiology, American Society for Neurophysiologic Monitoring).

Decisions about whether non-ASHA CEUs fulfill BCS-IOM eligibility requirements will be rendered within 60 days of the Board receiving a written request for approval from the applicant

## II. APPLICATION AND CANDIDACY PROCESSES

Each applicant will submit to the American Audiology Board of Intraoperative Monitoring a completed application packet, and a non-refundable application fee of \$75. Each application packet must include the following:

\_\_\_\_ Completed Application form

\_\_\_\_ Photocopy of current ASHA Membership and State License

\_\_\_\_ Curriculum Vitae

\_\_\_\_ Completed Case/Patient Log documenting a minimum of 225 intraoperative neuromonitoring cases across no less than three surgical specialties

\_\_\_\_ Attestations (at least 2 Surgeons in different specialties and 1 BCS-IOM audiologist or the equivalent in intraoperative monitoring)

The Board will review each application and determine if the applicant has met the above criteria successfully. Within two (2) months of receipt of the completed application packet, the applicant will be notified of eligibility status and whether to proceed with the candidacy process for specialty certification.

## III. CANDIDACY PROCESS

The candidacy process requires the successful completion of a 200 multiple-choice computerized examination. Within one month following notification of acceptance of application for Specialty Recognition, the candidate should schedule the time and location of this examination, and submit the \$800 Examination Fee to the American Audiology Board of Intraoperative Monitoring. The examination must be completed within 3 months following notification of acceptance of the application for BCS-IOM Candidacy.

A candidate must take the examination with a proctor. The Examination Committee will approve the choice of proctor within 10-15 days of the request. The proctor must be a current member in good-standing of ASHA or Canadian Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists. The proctor should not have a close relationship to the examinee ( i.e., employer, employee, co-worker, relative, or friend) or have worked in the same facility within the past 3 years.. After the Examination Committee approves the proctor, the proctor will receive the password enabling the candidate to take the examination.

Examinations can be administered locally by facilities pre-approved by the Board (e.g., local university, speech and hearing center, hospital, or private practice). It is the candidate's responsibility to identify a location and a proctor for administration of the examination, and to notify the Board of these selections. The candidate is responsible for ensuring that the facility has an appropriate testing environment and appropriate computers access (e.g., CD/DVD capabilities) that may be used during the examination. The facility and candidate must determine a mutually

agreed upon time for test administration. The candidate will be given up to 4 hours to complete the exam.

The examination will be comprised of six (6) sections.

1. Human anatomy and physiology
2. Neuroscience
3. Instrumentation
4. Electrophysiology
5. Anesthesia
6. Surgical Applications

The Board will notify the candidate of the results of the examination within two (2) months after the completed test is received by the Specialty Board. A passing score of equal to or greater than 70% is required for completion of the candidacy process. If specialty certification is not obtained in the three attempts, reapplication will not be permitted for 3 calendar years following the date of the last candidacy attempt.

#### **IV. PREPARATION FOR EXAMINATION**

The examination is comprised of 200 multiple-choice questions. The content and format of the examination is determined by the Board members of the American Audiology Board of Intraoperative Monitoring. Examination content will undergo revision, as needed, based on the emergence of new concepts and new technology. To assure that a specific item does not reflect just one individual's point of view, all items were vetted through a review process with Board members. Clarifications and changes based upon feedback from these members were incorporated into the examination.

The following documents are included with the Application packet to assist the candidate in preparation for the examination process:

1. Advanced Knowledge and Skills Checklist
2. Suggested Reading List
3. Practice questions

#### **The Path to Board Certified Specialist-Intraoperative Neurophysiologic Monitoring: BCS-IOM**

##### **A. APPLICATION PROCESS**

1. Applicant submits application
2. Specialty Board notifies applicant of acceptance within two months after receipt of the completed application

##### **B. CANDIDACY PROCESS**

1. Candidate schedules written examination within one month following acceptance of application
2. Candidate completes written examination within six (6) months
3. Specialty Board notifies candidate of results within two months after receipt of the completed written examination

##### **C. ATTAINMENT OF STATUS AS A BOARD CERTIFIED SPECIALIST IN INTRAOPERATIVE MONITORING- BCS-IOM**

1. A Certificate from the American Audiology Board of Intraoperative Monitoring verifying Board Certification Specialist in Intraoperative Monitoring status will be mailed upon successful

- completion of the candidacy process.
2. Board Certification is granted for a 5-year period.