



SPECIALIST ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS OF THE INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF CHIROPRACTIC SPECIALTIES

Forward

This document represents the standards necessary for an applicant to be eligible to take an examination leading to certification by an IBCS Member Chiropractic Specialty Examining Board as a chiropractic specialist (Diplomate).

The IBCS Eligibility Standards are an ongoing process based upon objective criteria derived from chiropractic specialist job analyses, as well as continuing studies, surveys and reports conducted by and of leaders in chiropractic specialty training and practice.

The International Board of Chiropractic Specialties (IBCS) is a post-doctoral educational accreditation body and public reporting service autonomous from all political entities.

IBCS is a voluntary professional association and a 501(c)(6) nonprofit corporation. The IBCS functions to guide IBCS Member Chiropractic Specialty Examining Boards in accordance with the objectives of the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) Standards for the Accreditation of Certification Programs, as well as serve as a Credentials Verification Organization (CVO) in accordance with the objectives of the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA).

Stakeholders, for the sake of this document, include boards offering examinations in chiropractic specialties, entities delivering post-graduate education in chiropractic specialties, participants taking these courses, faculty teaching these courses, chiropractic specialists and the public who will receive care from the faculty or from the chiropractic specialist.

Each individual seeking to obtain or maintain IBCS recognized specialty status must 1) qualify to receive training, 2) successfully complete a chiropractic specialty educational program from an IBCS approved sponsor(s), 3) pay a prescribed fee (the application fee for the credentialing application is posted in Appendix A.), 4) complete an IBCS prescribed credentialing application, 5) pass a specialty examination offered by an IBCS Member Chiropractic Specialty Examining Board, and 6) maintain their skills and knowledge on a continuing basis with validation of learning. The standards for the educational programs and the required continuing education for chiropractic specialists are presented elsewhere in those associated documents.



Mission Statement of the International Board of Chiropractic Specialties.

The International Board of Chiropractic Specialties (IBCS) works with its advisory board and its IBCS Member Chiropractic Specialty Examining Boards to formulate and maintain standards for chiropractic specialists. A non-profit organization, the IBCS was created to assure the public of properly qualified chiropractic specialists and to uphold the highest clinical and ethical standards in the application of clinical chiropractic.

Eligibility, Process & Contact Information

The IBCS accepts credentialing applications from all qualified individuals and will accredit any and all chiropractic post-graduate educational sponsors meeting all requirements and complying with IBCS standards.

Contact the IBCS:

Executive Director
International Board of Chiropractic Specialties
1440 Hannah LN
Waukee, IA 50263
www.chiropracticsspecialist.org
admin@chiropracticsspecialist.org



CHIROPRACTIC SPECIALIST APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS

Standard 1 – Purpose.

Physicians can demonstrate their expertise in a chiropractic specialty by earning Board Certification through an IBCS Member Chiropractic Specialty Examining Board. The purpose of having Eligibility Standards is to standardize and uphold the qualifications of each individual eligible to receive training and ultimate Board Certification. This is necessary to aid in maintaining and improving legitimacy, verification of credentials and competency in chiropractic specialty practice.

Essential Elements:

- A. The applicant seeking specialist certification from an IBCS member examining board must articulate the purpose and scope of their specialty practice submitted for examination.
- B. The applicant seeking specialist certification from an IBCS Member Examining Board must attest to their adherence to policies and procedures that address ethical behavior for the profession.
- C. Commentary: The above requirements may be combined into a brief statement on the application.

Standard 2 – Program Entrance Eligibility Requirements.

Essential Elements:

- A. The applicant seeking to be admitted to an approved program leading to specialist certification from an IBCS Member Chiropractic Specialty Examining Board must be enrolled full time, fully matriculated and in good standing in a Chiropractic Institution holding accredited status with the Council on Chiropractic Education (C.C.E.) or an internationally recognized equivalent. Or,
- B. The applicant seeking to be admitted to an approved program leading to specialist certification from an IBCS Member Examining Board must have earned a Doctor of Chiropractic degree (D.C.) or an internationally recognized equivalent from a Chiropractic Institution holding accredited status with the Council on Chiropractic Education (C.C.E.) or an internationally recognized equivalent.



Standard 3 – Program Completion Requirements.

Essential Elements:

- A. The applicant seeking to complete an approved program leading to specialist certification from an IBCS Member Chiropractic Specialty Examining Board must successfully complete an eligible chiropractic specialty program.
- B. Eligible program(s) must be offered through an IBCS approved sponsor of chiropractic specialty education programs, and consist of a minimum of 300 hours of post graduate level education course work in that specialty, and adhere to all IBCS Course guidelines.
- C. The applicant seeking to complete an approved program leading to specialist certification from an IBCS Member Chiropractic Specialty Examining Board must then complete an approved IBCS Credentialing Application to be considered for the applicable title of “Board Eligible”.
- D. Upon successful credentialing with the IBCS, the applicant may refer to themselves as “Board Eligible”. This is subordinate to any governmental restrictions on use of this term.
 - a. **The IBCS Board Eligibility Policy:** This limits the time that may elapse before physicians become Board Certified. The term “Board Eligible” expires and should not be used if the examination is not taken prior to the seven (7) year window after specialist program completion. When a physician does not achieve initial certification within the Board Eligible Period of seven (7) years, that physician must cease from representing themselves as being Board Eligible. The physician is no longer eligible for certification until completing any and all additional requirements of the IBCS Member Chiropractic Specialty Examining Board that oversees certification in his or her specialty.
 - i. Comment: The IBCS Board Eligibility Policy recognizes the use of the term “Board Eligible” as a way to describe their status in the initial certification process.
 - ii. It is necessary to close the gap between training and initial certification. Research has demonstrated a direct decline in knowledge and skills as time passes post-training.



Standard 4 – Examination Eligibility Requirements.

- A. The applicant seeking to sit for an examination leading to specialist certification from an IBCS Member Chiropractic Specialty Examining Board must be considered Board Eligible and have completed and submitted an IBCS approved credentialing application within the previous seven (7) years.
- B. The applicant seeking to sit for an examination leading to specialist certification from an IBCS Member Chiropractic Specialty Examining Board must arrange for direct submission of their transcripts from any and all IBCS approved specialty program sponsor(s).
- C. The applicant seeking to sit for an examination leading to specialist certification from an IBCS Member Chiropractic Specialty Examining Board must pay a prescribed fee (Appendix A).
- D. The applicant seeking to sit for an examination leading to specialist certification from an IBCS Member Chiropractic Specialty Examining Board must provide letters of attestation from their program director and/or faculty.
- E. The applicant seeking to sit for an examination leading to specialist certification from an IBCS Member Chiropractic Specialty Examining Board must obtain an unrestricted license to practice chiropractic in the United States or Canada or internationally recognized equivalent.

Standard 5 – Examination Completion Requirements.

- A. The applicant seeking specialist certification from an IBCS Member Chiropractic Specialty Examining Board must pass a written and an oral examination created and administered by an IBCS Member Chiropractic Specialty Examining Board.
- B. The applicant seeking specialist certification from an IBCS Member Chiropractic Specialty Examining Board should receive an official letter from the IBCS Member Chiropractic Specialty Examining Board, as well as an official certificate with the signatures of at least two (2) members of the IBCS Member Chiropractic Specialty Examining Board.
- C. The applicant seeking specialist certification from an IBCS Member Chiropractic Specialty Examining Board is now referred to as “Board Certified”.

Appendix A Fee Schedules: Accreditation Application Fees: