The ACGME uses Board Certification rates as a measurable outcome of program quality. The institution should sponsor graduate medical education programs whose graduates are successful in passing their Boards.

Establishment of program policies to address Board Certification will enhance the quality of programs, help to ensure substantial compliance with the program requirements, promote professionalism and lifelong learning for the residents and enhance the recruitment efforts of our programs.

Programs must have program policies consistent with these expectations and disseminate to residents and members of the faculty:

GME Programs are expected to:

- have policies that clearly identify the expectation that all graduates will take their specialty's Certification Exam.
- Meet the targets set by their own ACGME Program Requirements that pertain to Board Certification.
- achieve a pass rate within one standard deviation of the mean of the national certification exam pass rate over the past five years, if there are no ACGME Program Requirements pertaining to specific targets for Board Certification for their specialty.
- adequately prepare their residents to pass the specialty's Certification Examination.
- identify and establish educational initiatives in support of achieving the program performance goals, such as funding for the Certification Exam, Board Preparation Courses, etc.

Programs who demonstrate a pattern of non-compliance may be placed on “internal probation”.

Institutional Monitoring: On an annual basis, the Graduate Medical Education Committee and Designated Institutional Official will review programs’ Board pass rate data for the most recent five-year period, as reported in the annual ACGME ADS updates and in the Annual Program Evaluation and Review.