

481—653.4(147,148) Special licensure.**653.4(1) General provisions.**

a. The board may grant a special license to a physician who is an academic staff member of a college of medicine or osteopathic medicine if that physician does not meet the qualifications for permanent licensure but is held in high esteem for unique contributions the individual has made to medicine and will make by practicing in Iowa. The license is not designed for physicians in regular faculty positions that could be filled by a physician qualified for permanent licensure in Iowa or for the purpose of training the physician who receives the license. The board will consider granting and renewing a special license on a case-by-case basis.

b. A special license may be issued for a period of not more than one year and may be renewed annually prior to expiration.

c. A special license will specifically limit the licensee to practice at the medical college and at any health care facility affiliated with the medical college.

d. A special license will automatically be placed on inactive status when the licensee discontinues service on the academic medical staff for which the special license was granted.

e. The board may cancel a special license if the licensee has practiced outside the scope of this license or for any of the grounds for which licensure may be revoked or suspended as specified in Iowa Code sections 147.55, 148.6, and 272C.10 and 481—Chapter 661. When cancellation of such a license is proposed, the board shall promptly notify the licensee by sending a statement of charges and notice of hearing by certified mail to the last-known address of the licensee. This contested case proceeding shall be governed by the provisions of 481—Chapter 506.

f. A special physician licensee must notify the board of any change in home address or the address of the place of practice within one month of making an address change.

g. A special physician licensee must notify the board of any change in name within one month of making the name change. Notification requires a notarized copy of a marriage license or a notarized copy of court documents.

h. A special physician licensee file will be closed and labeled “deceased” when the board receives a copy of the physician’s death certificate.

i. The board may accept each 12 months of practice as a special licensee as equivalent to one year of postgraduate training in a hospital-affiliated program approved by the board for the purposes of permanent licensure.

653.4(2) Special license eligibility. To be eligible for a special license, an applicant shall meet all of the following requirements:

- a. Fulfill the application requirements specified in subrule 653.4(3);
- b. Be at least 21 years of age;
- c. Be a physician in a medical specialty;
- d. Present evidence of holding a medical degree from an educational institution that is located in a jurisdiction outside the United States or Canada and that is listed in the Directory of Medical Schools published by the International Medical Education Directory;
- e. Have completed at least two years of postgraduate education in any jurisdiction;
- f. Have practiced for five years after postgraduate education;
- g. Demonstrate proficiency in English by providing a valid ECFMG certificate or verification of a passing score on the Test of Spoken English (TSE) or the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) examination administered by the Educational Testing Service or verification of a passing score on the OET medicine test;
- h. Be licensed in a jurisdiction outside the United States or Canada and present evidence that any licenses held in any jurisdiction are unrestricted; and
- i. The applicant’s license is not denied by the board due to the commission of a disqualifying offense, as provided in 481—subrule 652.3(3).

653.4(3) Special license application.

- a. *Requirements.* To apply for a special license, an applicant must:

(1) Pay a nonrefundable special license fee and a fee for the evaluation of the fingerprint packet and the criminal history background checks by the DCI and the FBI as specified in 481—paragraph 651.4(3) “a”;

(2) Complete and submit forms provided by the board, including required credentials, documents, a completed fingerprint packet, and a sworn statement by the applicant attesting to the truth of all information provided by the applicant;

(3) Provide verification of successful completion of a medical degree;

(4) Provide a valid ECFMG certificate or verification of a passing score on the TSE or TOEFL examination administered by the Educational Testing Service or verification of a passing score on the OET medicine test;

(5) Present a letter from the dean of the medical college in which the applicant will be practicing that indicates all of the following:

1. The applicant has been invited to serve on the academic staff of the medical school and in what capacity;

2. The applicant’s qualifications and the unique contributions the applicant has made to the practice of medicine;

3. The unique contributions the applicant is expected to make by practicing in Iowa and how these contributions will serve the public interest of Iowans; and

(6) Present at least two letters of recommendation from universities, other educational institutions, or research facilities that indicate the applicant’s noteworthy professional attainment.

b. Application. The application shall request the following information:

(1) Name, date and place of birth, home address, and mailing address;

(2) A statement listing every jurisdiction in which the applicant is or has been authorized to practice, including license numbers and dates of issuance;

(3) A chronology accounting for all time periods from the date the applicant entered medical school to the date of the application;

(4) A photocopy of the applicant’s medical degree issued by an educational institution and a sworn statement from an official of the educational institution certifying the date the applicant received the medical degree and acknowledging what, if any, derogatory comments exist in the institution’s record about the applicant. A complete translation of any diploma not written in English shall be submitted;

(5) A statement disclosing and explaining any warnings issued, investigations conducted, or disciplinary actions taken, whether by voluntary agreement or formal action, by a medical or professional regulatory authority, an educational institution, training or research program, or health facility in any jurisdiction;

(6) A statement disclosing and explaining the applicant’s involvement in civil litigation related to practice in any jurisdiction. Copies of the legal documents may be requested if needed during the review process;

(7) A statement disclosing and explaining any charge of a misdemeanor or felony involving the applicant filed in any jurisdiction, whether or not any appeal or other proceeding is pending to have the conviction or plea set aside; and

(8) A completed fingerprint packet to facilitate a national criminal history background check. The fee for the evaluation of the fingerprint packet and the DCI and FBI criminal history background checks will be assessed to the applicant.

653.4(4) *Special license application review process.* The process below shall be utilized to review each application for a special license.

a. An application shall be considered open from the date the application form is received in the board office with the nonrefundable special licensure fee.

b. After reviewing each application, staff shall notify the applicant or the applicant’s academic institution about how to resolve any problems identified by the reviewer. The applicant shall provide additional information when requested by staff or the board.

c. If the final review indicates no questions or concerns regarding the applicant’s qualifications for licensure, staff may administratively grant a special license.

d. If the final review indicates questions or concerns that cannot be remedied by continued communication with the applicant, the executive director, director of licensure and administration, and director of legal affairs shall determine if the questions or concerns indicate any uncertainty about the applicant's current qualifications for licensure.

(1) If there is no current concern, staff shall administratively grant a special license.

(2) If any concern exists, the application shall be referred to the committee.

e. Staff shall refer to the committee for review matters that include but are not limited to falsification of information on the application, criminal record, substance abuse, questionable competency, physical or mental illness, or educational disciplinary history.

f. If the committee is able to eliminate questions or concerns without dissension from staff or a committee member, the committee may direct staff to grant administratively a special license.

g. If the committee is not able to eliminate questions or concerns without dissension from staff or a committee member, the committee shall recommend that the board:

(1) Request that the applicant appear for an interview;

(2) Grant a special license for practice at the medical college designated in the application;

(3) Grant a license under certain terms and conditions or with certain restrictions;

(4) Request that the applicant withdraw the licensure application; or

(5) Deny a license.

h. The board shall consider applications and recommendations from the committee and shall:

(1) Request that the applicant appear for an interview;

(2) Grant a special license for practice at the medical college designated in the application;

(3) Grant a license under certain terms and conditions or with certain restrictions;

(4) Request that the applicant withdraw the licensure application; or

(5) Deny a license. The board may deny a license for any grounds on which the board may discipline a license. The procedure for appealing a license denial is set forth in rule 481—652.15(147,148).

653.4(5) *Special license application cycle.* If the applicant does not submit all materials within 90 days of the board's initial request for further information, the application will be considered inactive. An applicant must reapply and submit a new nonrefundable application fee and a new application, documents and credentials.

653.4(6) *Renewal of a special license.*

a. If the special physician licensee has not qualified for and received a permanent license, the licensee must renew prior to expiration.

b. A special physician licensee may apply for a one-year renewal by submitting the following:

(1) A completed renewal application;

(2) The renewal fee as specified in 481—paragraph 651.4(3)“b”;

(3) Evidence of continuing education and training on chronic pain management, end-of-life care, and identifying and reporting abuse as specified in 481—Chapter 654; and

(4) A letter from the dean of the medical college that addresses the individual's unique contribution to the practice of medicine in Iowa, how the anticipated contribution will serve the public interest of Iowans, and the need for renewal of this license. For a licensee who received the initial special license prior to July 1, 2001, the only statement needed from the dean is verification of the academic appointment the licensee continues to hold.

c. Failure of the licensee to renew a license within one month of the expiration date will cause the license to become inactive. A licensee whose license is inactive is prohibited from practice until a new special license is granted according to subrules 653.4(3) and 653.4(4).

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