

ABDO Awarding Body

Number of Examination Attempts Policy

Q: How many attempts can I have at ABDO examinations?

A: no candidate will be permitted more than 4 attempts at each examination.

Q: Does the 4-attempt rule cover all ABDO examinations and examinations sections?

A: Yes, it covers all examinations and examinations sections set by ABDO.

Q: I am not a UK based trainee, does this rule apply to me?

A: Yes, the 4-attempt rule is for all FBDO candidates.

Q: When will the 4-attempt rule start?

A: The ABDO have applied the 4-attempt rule since September 2015.

Q: When does the ABDO start to count my attempts?

A: This rule commences from the date of the first examination sat.

Q: I applied for, but did not attend an examination, does this count as an attempt?

A: If prior notice of withdrawal from the examination was received by the examinations department, no, this would not count as an attempt. If a candidate does not attend on the day of the examination, without notifying the examinations department, this will count as 1 out of the 4 attempts.

Q: What happens if I fail an examination or examination section for a 3rd time?

A: Candidates who are unsuccessful at their 3rd attempt, will be issued with a results letter stating they only have one attempt remaining and must undertake and provide evidence of additional revision before they are permitted to attempt the examination or examination section again.

Q: What form should my additional revision/experience take?

A: Candidates should work with their educational institute to develop and implement a revision plan that addresses their educational needs.

Q: What evidence do I need to submit if I wish to sit my 4th and final attempt at an examination after my additional revision/experience?

A: The candidate must provide The Head of Examinations and Registration with a signed statement from their training institute, confirming that additional training and support have been provided and this has materially improved the candidates' chances of success in the examination or examination section.

Q: What happens if I fail an examination or examination section for a 4th time?

A: Candidates who are unsuccessful after undertaking additional revision experience and have had 4 attempts at an examination will not be permitted to complete the course at that point. The candidate would need to re-apply to complete the course in its entirety.

Q: Am I allowed a 5th attempt at any of the ABDO examinations?

A: Candidates who fail an examination at the fourth attempt and believe they have a case for mitigating circumstances and wish to be permitted to apply for a fifth attempt, should write to the Head of Examinations & Registration detailing their case. The application will be reviewed by the Examinations Board, and if approved, evidence of further study (as noted previously) will be required prior to the candidate sitting their final attempt.

ABDO examinations review their qualifications on a quinquennial basis, any changes to examination content or format would be published and applied to new intakes.

Four successive attempts over a two-year period will be offered relative to an existing syllabus before changes would be applied.