

Policy and Procedures
ABS Graduate-level Balint Group Completion Certificate

Approved by ABS Council May 21, 2010

- ABS approved certificate to designate completing a basic graduate-level Balint experience. The certificate will be given to graduate-level professional trainees upon the completion of an adequate introductory Balint Group experience.

- An adequate Balint Group experience for this purpose is defined as:
 - members are graduate-level trainees in a helping profession
 - at least one group leader must be an ABS credentialed leader
 - group meets for a minimum of one academic year, no less than once monthly during that academic year
 - group can meet more than once monthly and for more than one academic year
 - group composition, meeting frequency/duration would be at the discretion of the local ABS credentialed leader(s)
 - the decision to award this certificate will be initiated with local ABS credentialed group leader(s); these local leaders are strongly encouraged to be inclusive in the awarding of this ABS certificate to all group members
 - the final decision to approve the awarding of this certificate will rest with the ABS council (see below for required process)

- ABS credentialed group leaders who choose to provide this Graduate-level Balint Group Completion Certificate should communicate their intentions to the chairperson of the ABS Council's standing committee for Graduate-level Introductory Group Completion Certificates. Membership of this standing committee will consist of a chairperson appointed by the ABS president, the ABS President, and ABS President-elect. The chairperson must be an ABS credentialed group leader.

- Recommendation: ABS credentialed group leaders wishing to offer this introductory certificate should inform the Introductory Group Completion Certificate Chairperson no less than 6 months prior to the granting of the certificate, ideally sooner. This will allow for proper standardization of this process (including the preparation of certificates) as well as keeping track of graduate-level trainees who are awarded this certification.

- The ABS Graduate-level Introductory Group Completion Certificate Subcommittee Chairperson will make formal recommendations to the ABS Council regarding received requests. Upon Council review and discussion of each request, a formal vote of Council will be required to approve the granting of the Certificate.

- It is strongly encouraged that ABS credentialed leaders who facilitate the reward of this certificate, seek to have this recognition granted in a public format suitable to this accomplishment (e.g., residency award night, residency graduation banquet, etc.).

- Recipients of this certificate will receive:
 - the certificate
 - complementary one year ABS membership
 - complementary one year discount on ABS Intensives or Weekends (eligible for resident, student, fellow fee level)