

Maintenance of Certification Program

The ABS Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Program documents a surgeon's ongoing commitment to professionalism, lifelong learning and practice improvement following initial certification

ABS MOC Program Requirements

Part 1 - Professional Standing

- **Medical license:** Possession of a valid, full and unrestricted medical license (U.S. or Canada)
- **Hospital/surgical center privileges:** If clinically active
- **Professional references:** Contact information for the chief of surgery and chair of credentials at your primary institution

Part 2 - Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment

- **CME:** Completion of 90 credits of Category 1 CME relevant to your practice over a 3-year cycle
- **Self-assessment:** At least 60 of the 90 CME credits must include self-assessment—a written or electronic question-and-answer exercise that assesses your understanding of the material

A score of **75% or higher** must be required on the self-assessment activity for it to count toward this requirement

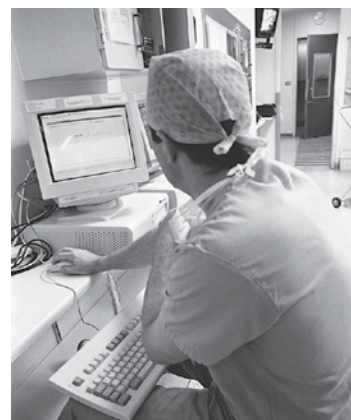
Waiving of CME: The ABS will waive 60 credits of CME with self-assessment for achieving certification or recertification. This includes the one that enrolls you in the ABS MOC Program—it counts toward your first cycle

Part 3 - Cognitive Expertise

- **Secure examination:** May be taken starting 3 years before your certificate's expiration. A complete exam application is required. All MOC requirements must be fulfilled up to this point to apply. If you hold multiple ABS certificates, this is the **only requirement** that must be repeated for each specialty

Part 4 - Evaluation of Performance in Practice

- **Practice assessment:** Ongoing participation in a local, regional or national outcomes registry or quality assessment program, such as the ACS Surgeon Specific Registry, or regional or national collaboratives. No data is collected. See www.absurgery.org for more details



Key points to know:

- » Surgeons are automatically enrolled in MOC once they certify or recertify in any ABS specialty after July 2005
- » MOC requirements run in 3-year cycles (Jan. 1–Dec. 31)
- » After each cycle, surgeons are required to submit information online about Parts 1, 2 and 4
- » A secure exam (Part 3) is also required at 10-year intervals
- » We will contact you by mail and email when action is required

Visit www.absurgery.org to:

- » View your MOC status and personal MOC timeline
- » Enter and track CME using your CME Repository
- » Keep your contact information up to date
- » Print verification of your certification and MOC status
- » Learn more about the ABS MOC Program!