

What is the Vascular Surgery Board of the American Board of Surgery?

The Vascular Surgery Board (VSB) is a component board of the American Board of Surgery (ABS). The ABS was founded in 1937 to certify individuals who met a defined standard of training and knowledge in the field of surgery. The ABS is one of the 24 certifying boards that are members of the American Board of Medical Specialties.

Board certification in vascular surgery was first offered in 1982 as a way to evaluate, examine and recognize surgeons who had completed specialized training in the field of vascular surgery. The VSB-ABS was established in 1998 and is solely responsible for defining all requirements and processes related to board certification in vascular surgery.

The VSB-ABS consists of members elected from national and regional organizations, including the Society for Vascular Surgery, Association of Program Directors in Vascular Surgery, Society for Clinical Vascular Surgery, Vascular and Endovascular Surgery Society, as well as the Eastern Vascular Society, Midwestern Vascular Surgical Society, New England Society for Vascular Surgery, Southern Association for Vascular Surgery, and Western Vascular Society.



This surgeon is certified by
**The Vascular Surgery Board of
the American Board of Surgery**

**SURGEON
NAME &
ADDRESS
HERE**

To learn more about ABS certification,
visit our website at the address below.

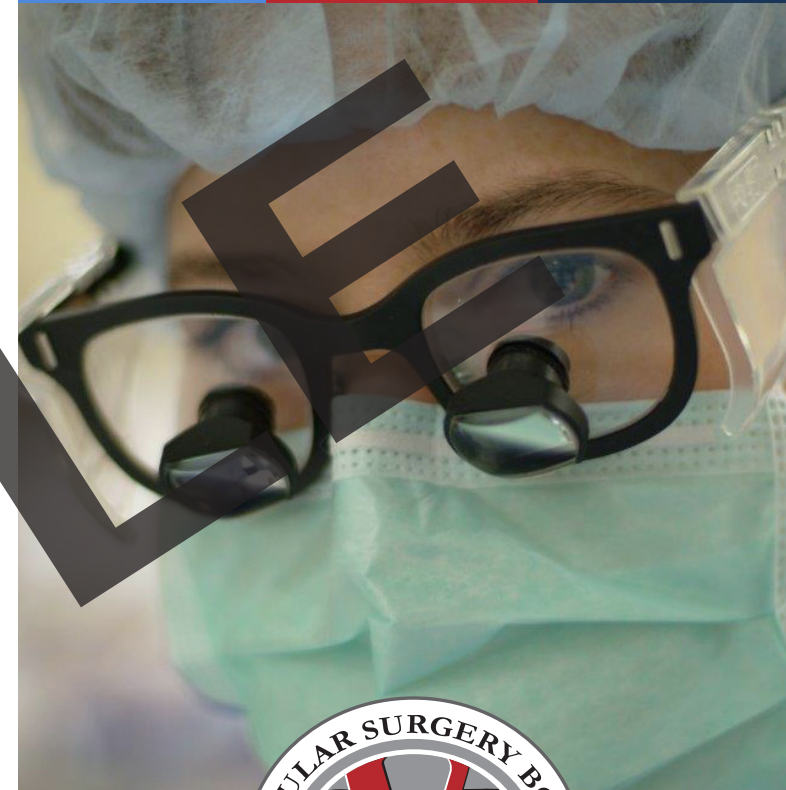


**The Vascular Surgery Board
of the American Board of Surgery**

1617 John F. Kennedy Boulevard, Suite 860
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1847 USA

Tel. 215-568-4000 | Fax 215-563-5718

www.absurgery.org



Your Surgeon is Certified by

**The Vascular
Surgery Board**



**OF THE AMERICAN
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What are the Qualifications of a Certified Vascular Surgeon?

Vascular surgery encompasses the diagnosis and comprehensive, long-term management of patients with all types of vascular disease, excluding the vessels of the brain and heart. Surgeons who are board certified in vascular surgery also possess advanced knowledge and skills to provide comprehensive medical care, including both open surgical procedures and endovascular (minimally invasive) procedures for the treatment of patients with vascular disease.

Common problems diagnosed and managed by a vascular surgeon include:

- Cerebrovascular disease - arterial blockages that can lead to stroke
- Aneurysms (bulges) - aortic aneurysms occurring in the chest and abdomen, as well as aneurysms involving blood vessels in the pelvis, arms and legs
- Blockages in the blood vessels supplying the intestine and kidneys
- Blockages reducing blood flow to legs and feet, causing pain and ulcers
- Compression of blood vessels and nerves around the collarbone and ribs causing arm pain or blood clots
- Traumatic injury to blood vessels
- Dialysis access - grafts, fistulas and catheters for dialysis access
- Leg ulcers due to blockages of the arteries or veins, or diabetes mellitus
- Varicose veins
- Leg swelling due to abnormal vein function
- Acute deep venous thrombosis (blood clots or phlebitis)
- Lymphedema
- Malformations of the arterial, venous or lymphatic systems
- Genetic vascular and connective tissue disorders
- Critical care of patients with severe vascular diseases

These problems may be treated by traditional open surgery as well as by endovascular procedures that use balloon angioplasty and stents. Vascular surgeons also perform diagnostic tests, such as duplex ultrasound and angiography, to detect vascular problems. They are also familiar with the interpretation of MRI and CT scans involving the blood vessels.

What is Board Certification in Vascular Surgery?

Certification by the VSB-ABS is intended to assess the qualifications of individuals who have completed extensive formal education and training in vascular surgery. Not all vascular surgeons are board certified. Board certification is voluntary and demonstrates a surgeon's commitment to quality patient care and achievement of the highest level of knowledge of the circulatory system. In contrast, medical licensure is required by state law for an individual to practice medicine and is not specialty specific.

What are the Requirements for Board Certification in Vascular Surgery?

Board certification is intended to assess the qualifications of individuals who have completed extensive education and training in vascular surgery.

Education	Other Requirements	Examinations
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Medical School: Vascular surgeons must graduate from an accredited medical school in the U.S or Canada, or be certified by the Education Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates.• Residency Training: Vascular surgeons must also complete either a general surgery training program followed by a vascular surgery training program, or an integrated training program that combines both disciplines. Training programs must be accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education or Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.• Surgical Experience: During their training, vascular surgeons must gain extensive experience in disease management, as well as operative experience in both core and advanced procedures.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Program Director Attestation: Upon completion of training, the vascular surgeon applies for certification by the ABS. As part of the application, the director of the training program must attest to the candidate's surgical skills, ethics and professionalism.• RPVI® Credential: Candidates must also have obtained the Registered Physician in Vascular Interpretation® (RPVI) credential, which is acquired by passing an examination that tests knowledge and skills fundamental for vascular imaging interpretation.• Medical License: All candidates must also hold a valid U.S. or Canadian medical license before they can become certified.• Approval: Once all initial requirements are met, the vascular surgeon is admitted to the required examinations for board certification.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Written Exam: Vascular surgeons must first pass a lengthy written examination that assesses their knowledge of core surgery and the entire spectrum of vascular surgery.• Oral Exam: Vascular surgeons must then pass an oral examination that tests their judgment and decision-making skills in managing patients with circulatory disease. Candidates are interviewed by experienced vascular surgeons who evaluate their ability to diagnose and treat diverse surgical problems.• Certification: If successful on both examinations, the surgeon is deemed board certified in vascular surgery and becomes a "diplomate" of the VSB-ABS.

Continuous Certification

To continue their board certification, vascular surgeons must demonstrate an ongoing commitment to professionalism, continuing education, and practice improvement, as well as complete periodic assessments of current surgical knowledge. A surgeon's certification status may be verified anytime on the ABS website.



For more information, please visit the American Board of Surgery website at

www.absurgery.org