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 chair of surgery and chair of credentials at your primary institution

**Part 2 - Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment**
- **CME:** Completion of 150 credits of Category 1 CME relevant to your practice over a 5-year cycle
- **Self-assessment:** At least 50 of the 150 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. All MOC requirements must be fulfilled to apply. Note: The ABS will offer a new two-year assessment for general surgery as of 2018, with other specialties to be phased in.

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. No data is collected. See www.absurgery.org for more details, including examples of acceptable programs.

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**Key points to know:**

- Surgeons are automatically enrolled in MOC once they certify or recertify in any ABS specialty after July 2005.
- MOC requirements now run in 5-year cycles (Jan. 1–Dec. 31).
- After each cycle, surgeons are required to submit information online about Parts 1, 2 and 4.
- No paper documentation is required at that time. However, you may be asked to provide verification of the information you submitted.
- We will contact you by mail and email when action is required.

**Visit www.absurgery.org to:**

- Check your MOC status.
- 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.