



The American Board of Surgery Continuous Certification Program

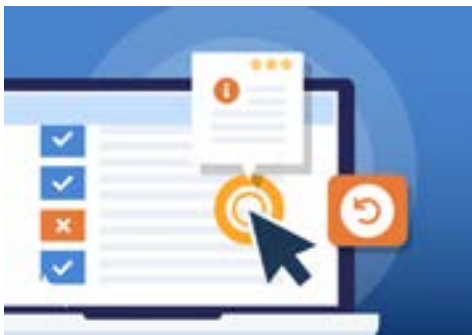


The ABS Continuous Certification Program is designed to provide flexible, high-quality, practice-relevant learning and assessment to support surgeons in their practice as they maintain their ABS board certification.

Continuous Certification Assessment

As part of this program, the ABS has introduced the **Continuous Certification Assessment** to replace the traditional recertification exam for general surgery, pediatric surgery, surgical critical care and vascular surgery.

The assessment focuses on the latest and most important developments in practice to assist ABS-certified surgeons (diplomates) in staying up to date.



Assessment Structure

- 40-question, open book assessment to be taken and passed every other year
- General surgery assessment is modular:
 - 20 questions on core surgical principles
 - 20 questions on a practice-related area of the surgeon's choosing
- Pediatric surgery, surgical critical care and vascular surgery assessments are not modular at this time



Assessment Details

- Take assessment using your own computer
- Once assessment is started:
 - Two weeks to complete
 - Ability to save and continue later
 - Individual questions are not timed
- If taking more than one assessment, you can begin each assessment on a different date
- Immediate feedback provided
 - Two attempts to answer correctly
 - Final score of 80% correct needed to pass
 - Must achieve 40% or higher on first attempt in order to receive a second attempt

A fail does not necessarily affect certification status — see information about the grace year on the following page.

Topics and references for all assessments will be published in advance on the ABS website.

Enrollment

Diplomates whose general surgery, pediatric surgery, surgical critical care or vascular surgery certificates expire at the end of 2020 will use the new assessment to continue their certification.

Diplomates are not required to take the new assessment until the year in which their certificate is due to expire.

All diplomates must continue to meet the other requirements of the ABS Continuous Certification Program — **see box at right**.

Grace Year

A grace year will be offered the following year for diplomates who are enrolled in the program and need to retake the assessment or otherwise catch up. These diplomates will not lose certification until the end of the grace year.

Advantages

- Evaluates knowledge and judgment more relevant to a surgeon's daily practice
- Assures patients that ABS-certified surgeons are staying current in their area of practice
- Less need to prepare, less anxiety to take
- No travel or time away from practice

Registration for the 2020 Continuous Certification Assessments will open on **August 10, 2020**.

All assessments will be available from **September 7 - November 16, 2020**.

The last day to begin the assessment to ensure that you have the full two weeks is Monday, November 2, 2020.

Continuous Certification Program Requirements

Diplomates should keep their information regarding these requirements up to date in their ABS portal:

- A valid, full and unrestricted medical license
- Hospital/surgical center privileges if clinically active
- Two professional reference forms submitted every five years
- A 12-month operative experience report submitted every 10 years
- Practice improvement: Ongoing participation in a local, regional or national outcomes registry or quality assessment program
- 150 Category 1 CME credits from the past five years, 50 of which must include self-assessment
 - Requirement will change to 125 Category 1 CME credits with no self-assessment required after passing first assessment
- Annual fee once participating in new assessment process

Check your status and update your information anytime at www.absurgery.org.

See www.absurgery.org for more info:

- [Continuous Certification Program Overview](#)
- [Continuous Certification Assessment Enrollment](#)
- [Continuous Certification Program Requirements](#)
- [General Surgery Assessment](#)
- [Pediatric Surgery Assessment](#)
- [Surgical Critical Care Assessment](#)
- [Vascular Surgery Assessment](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Please make sure to keep your contact information [up to date](#) for news and notifications regarding Continuous Certification.

For specific questions, send an email to cc@absurgery.org.