

Maintenance of Certification

UPDATE 2025

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Purpose of ABOS

The ABOS exists to serve the best interest of the PUBLIC and the medical profession by establishing educational standards and by evaluating the initial and continuing qualifications and competence of orthopaedic surgeons.

ABOS Mission Statement

2003 Gallup Poll

74% of Americans would choose a board-certified doctor over a friend's recommendation

76% believe that board certification is a measure of quality

56% believe surgeons recertify every 6-12 months

MOC Changes

The WLA has been the biggest change recently

The ABOS did a pilot of grading oral exams remotely without the examinee present and this has not been extended

Much talk about changing the length of MOC has not materialized with any change in the 10 year horizon

Some specialty Boards have renamed the process Continuing Certification, ABOS has not done this

There has not been recent discussion of an 'emeritus' status for those recertifying more than twice

Maintenance of Certification- MOC

Similar to Certification with peer review and case list

Very high pass rates- 97% in 2022

Options: CBT, Case-based Oral Exam, Web-based Learning Modules

Exams are practice or patient care oriented

May make application early and take the recertifying exam one or two years prior, which adds to the timing of next re-certification

Those with subspecialty certification may recertify in both their specialty and Orthopaedic Surgery together

MOC

Any certified orthopaedist may recertify using one of the different pathways.

You do not need to be seeing patients or performing surgery.

MOC has not become a requirement for re-licensure or membership in any professional organization.

MOC is on a 10 year cycle and there is updated participation in the MOC process kept on the ABOS website.

MOC is a process that includes more than passing an exam.

MOC

Require 2 3-year cycles of 120 approved CME of which 20 are Self

Assessment; may catch up with 240 CME/40 SAE if needed

Unrestricted medical license

>ABOS does Peer review and may mandate an oral exam

- Computer exams are 150 questions, at a computer center, 210 minutes and offered every other year in the 9 specialty areas
- Oral exams are 12 cases presented to 8 examiners at the Palmer Hilton hotel in Chicago each July

MOC WLA

Web-based Learning Assessment is the newest and most popular addition

There are 200 articles posted each year, there are two questions per article and must be answered within a 3 minute window online.

The examinee selects 15 articles and must get 24 of 30 questions correct to get credit for that year.

The questions are available starting in April and the window closes in May.

5 years of credit are required, examinees 2025 and earlier need to pass 5 consecutive years, after 2025 must pass 5 of 8 years, the first group has not reached re-certification via this pathway

MOC

Stay in touch with ABOS via their website: ABOS.org

Call 919 929 7103 and speak with someone

Keep track of your state Medical License

If you don't need to keep certified that is a personal choice but once your certification has expired you are no longer Board Certified