American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery (ABOS)

Maintenance of Certification

Certificate Expiring in 2028

Prior to submitting a recertification application, a TOTAL of 240 CME credits including at least 40 SAE credits**

Take Computer-Based or Oral Examination in year 8, 9, or 10 (You must submit an Application the year prior to taking the Examination)

To Take ABOS WLA You Need:
- 5 Quality Years (24 out of 30 questions correct) by May of 2026 or answer OR
- Answer 120 cumulative questions correct in six participating years by May of 2026.

By December 31, 2021
Minimum of 120 CME credits including at least 20 SAE credits*

You must submit an Application, Application Fee, & Case List by November 1 of year 7, 8, or 9 no matter the recertification pathway you choose.

To see where you are, log into www.ABOS.org

*Credits are from scored and recorded Self-Assessment Examinations (SAE) or ABOS-approved practice improvement activities.

**This includes the 120/20 needed to participate in maintain your status as "Participating in MOC."
Four Parts of Maintenance of Certification

These are the requirements no matter what Knowledge Assessment Pathway you choose: Computer-Based Examination, Oral Examination, or ABOS Web-Based Longitudinal Assessment (ABOS WLA)

Part I – Evidence of Professional Standing
You must have a medical license and hold hospital or surgical center privileges.

Part II – Evidence of Lifelong Learning
In order to maintain your designation on the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery’s (ABOS) website as “Participating in MOC: Yes,” a minimum of 120 orthopaedic-related Category 1 Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits, of which at least 20 credits are from Self-Assessment Examinations (SAE) or ABOS-approved practice improvement activities, must be submitted by the end of the third year of your 10-year Maintenance of Certification (MOC) cycle.

Prior to submitting a recertification application, you will need a total of 240 CME credits, 40 of which are SAE credits or ABOS-approved practice improvement activities. This includes the 120/20 needed to maintain your status as “Participating in MOC.”

Part III – Evidence in Cognitive Expertise
You have the option to take a Computer-Based Examination (10 options), an Oral Examination, or the ABOS Web-Based Longitudinal Assessment (ABOS WLA).

Part IV – Evidence of Performance in Practice
You must submit an Application, Application Fee, and Case List by November 1 of Year 7, 8, or 9. If taking ABOS WLA, you still need to complete an Application, Application Fee, and Case List in Year 7, 8, or 9. The Case List is available in January and the application is available in March each year.

Diplomates who are recertifying will begin collecting with the first surgical case of the calendar year and collect all consecutive surgical cases in that year up to the point where the Diplomate reaches 75 cases. Candidates may stop collecting cases when either:

- They have collected 75 cases or
- On September 30, they have collected at least 35 cases.

Those who are not able to reach the 35-case minimum from January 1-September 30 should contact the ABOS.