

The American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery

Web-Based Longitudinal Assessment (ABOS WLA)

*2019 Survey Results
Changes to 2020 ABOS WLA*

2019 ABOS WLA Program

In 2019, the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery (ABOS) launched the ABOS Web-Based Longitudinal Assessment (ABOS WLA) Program. Nearly **10,000 Diplomates—about 55% of those eligible—chose to participate** in the inaugural program to satisfy their assessment portion of Maintenance of Certification. The 2019 ABOS WLA was open to all Diplomates whose Board Certification expired 2019-2028. The ABOS WLA is optional, and Diplomates can still recertify with the Computer-Based or Oral Recertification Examinations. With the ABOS WLA, Diplomates choose 15 Knowledge Sources—from 101 options. Two questions from each of the 15 Knowledge Sources are administered, for 30 questions total. **More than 98% of Diplomates** who took the ABOS WLA in 2019 **earned a Quality Year—correctly answering 24 out of 30 questions.**

As you will see in these pages, most Diplomates who participated in the ABOS WLA thought it was a high-quality program and want to continue with it next year. Diplomates felt that the Knowledge Sources were relevant to their practice and a more appropriate assessment of their knowledge. We also know there is room for improvement, and you will see what has changed for next year's ABOS WLA.



2019 ABOS WLA Statistics:

of participants:

9,596

Total questions administered:

287,366

% eligible who participated:

55%

Average time it took
to answer each question:

64.05 seconds

% who earned a Quality Year:

98.2%

Survey Results

RTI International, a leading research institute, conducted a survey to see what Diplomates thought of the ABOS WLA. In 2019, all Diplomates who had a Certification expiration of 2019-2028 were eligible. (Those who expire in 2029 can take it in 2020.) Those who were eligible received an email on May 29, 2019, inviting them to take a survey about the ABOS WLA. There were two versions of the survey, depending on whether they participated in the 2019 ABOS WLA or chose not to. Diplomates had until June 19, 2019, to complete the survey.

5,910 Diplomates who took the 2019 ABOS WLA completed the survey (61.6%)

1,983 Diplomates who did not take the 2019 ABOS WLA completed the survey (25.8%)

Overall survey completion of **45.6%** of Diplomates eligible for the ABOS WLA

Thank you to everyone who completed the survey. It has been very helpful to the ABOS to learn your thoughts on this new program. Staff have reviewed every open-ended response.

The next few pages will show you highlights of the survey results.



Demographics of Those Who Completed the Survey

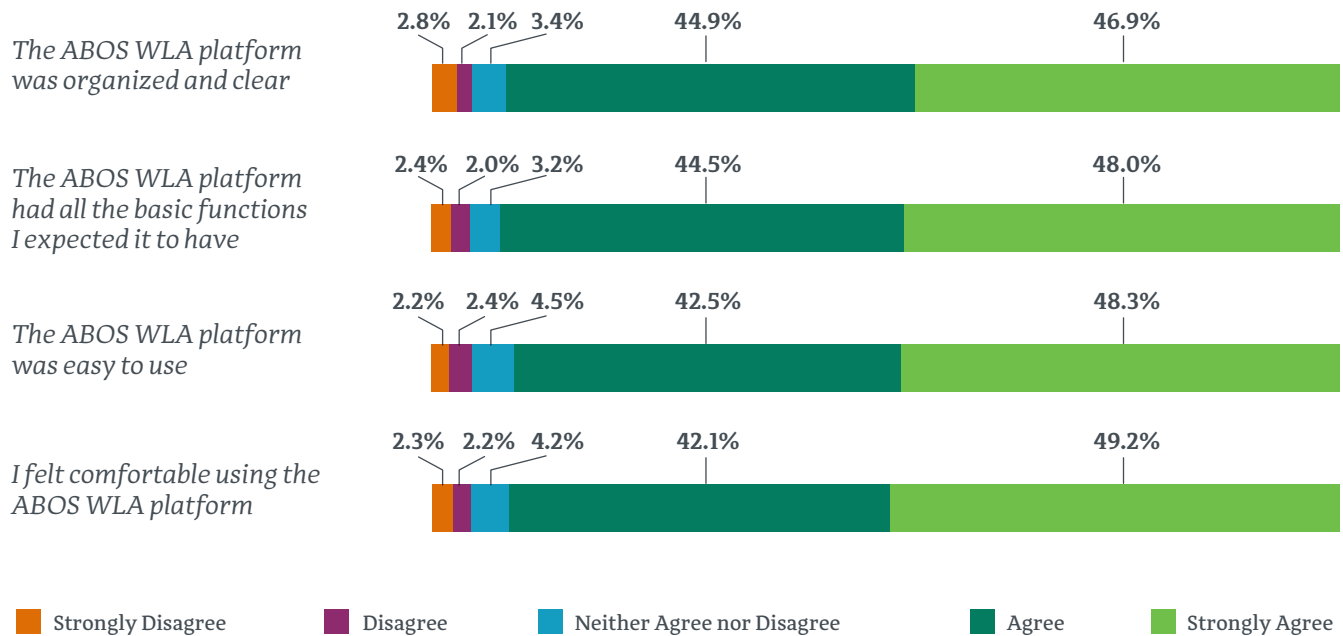
	Participated in ABOS WLA		Did Not Participate in ABOS WLA	
Practice area	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
I only practice General Orthopaedics	859	14.7	401	20.6
Adult Reconstruction	939	16.1	352	18.1
Foot and Ankle	322	5.5	99	5.1
Hand	718	12.3	239	12.3
Oncology	86	1.5	25	1.3
Orthopaedic Sports Medicine	1399	24.0	381	19.6
Orthopaedic Trauma	329	5.6	94	4.8
Pediatric Orthopaedics	282	4.8	93	4.8
Shoulder and Elbow	283	4.8	76	3.9
Spine	620	10.6	187	9.6

	Participated in ABOS WLA		Did Not Participate in ABOS WLA	
Work Setting	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Solo private practice	470	8.0	189	9.7
Group private practice	2520	43.1	787	40.4
Multi-specialty group (academic or non-academic)	1058	18.1	340	17.5
Active duty military or government (academic or non-academic)	142	2.4	43	2.2
Hospital (tertiary or community) or associated clinic (academic or non-academic)	1532	26.2	482	24.8

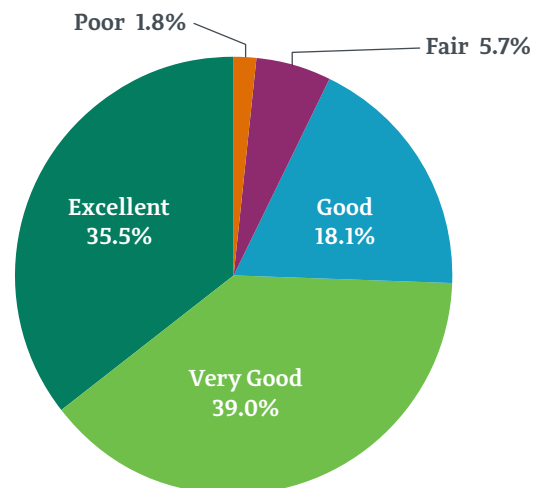


Results

ABOS WLA Platform



How would you rate the overall experience of completing questions on the 2019 ABOS WLA platform?



ABOS WLA Program

The ABOS WLA Knowledge Sources (i.e., journal articles) were high-quality



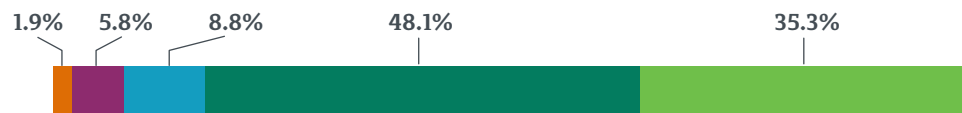
The ABOS WLA questions aligned well with the Knowledge Sources I selected



The ABOS WLA Knowledge Sources were relevant to my practice



The difficulty of the ABOS WLA questions was appropriate

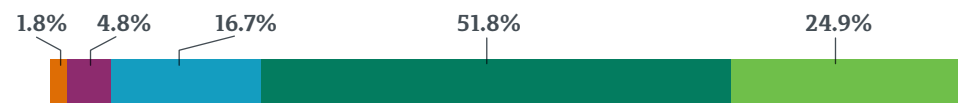


I had enough time to answer the ABOS WLA questions



Practice Improvement

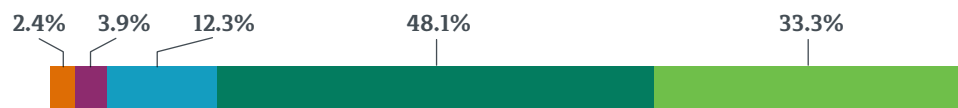
The ABOS WLA Knowledge Sources helped me to identify and fill my knowledge gaps



The ABOS WLA Knowledge Sources prompted me stay current in orthopaedic surgery

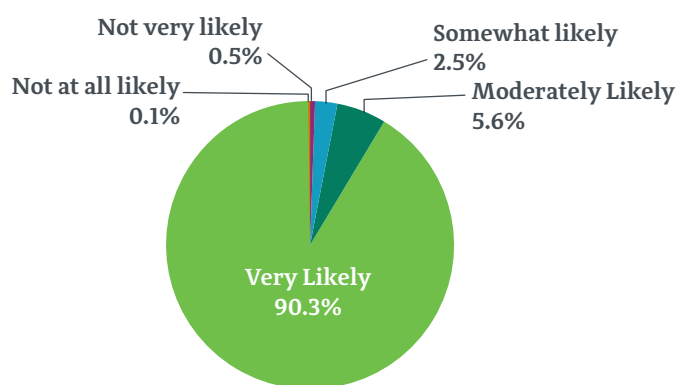


The ABOS WLA program will help me provide better care to my patients

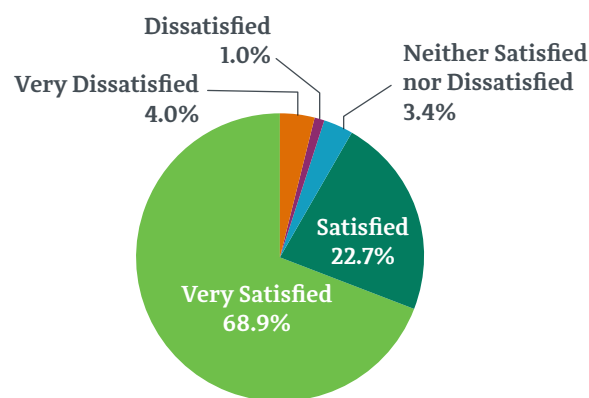


Strongly Disagree Disagree Neither Agree nor Disagree Agree Strongly Agree

How Likely Are You to Continue with the ABOS WLA Next Year?



About 1,500 Diplomates who took the survey said they contacted the ABOS for support. They were asked how satisfied they were with the support they received.



On the open-ended questions, we heard from some Diplomates that they would like more time to answer each question and would like to know in advance from which Knowledge Source the question would be coming.



Top 3 Reasons Not Participating in ABOS WLA

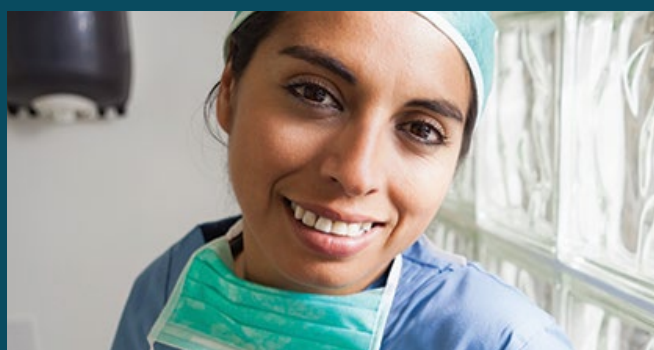
- 1. I would rather take one assessment every 10 years*
- 2. The five-week assessment window was not convenient for me*
- 3. I have a very specific practice and want to be assessed on my practice area only*

2020 ABOS WLA Program

Based on the feedback we received, the Board has decided to implement the following changes for the 2020 ABOS WLA:

- 1. Prior to viewing each question, Diplomates will know from which Knowledge Source that question will come.*
- 2. There will be new Knowledge Sources and questions for each subspecialty.*
- 3. Didn't get the chance to choose a particular Knowledge Source? Many of the top Knowledge Sources will be available again—if you did not choose them in 2019.*

Details will be announced in 2020.



Dates to Know

**January
2nd**

*Knowledge
Sources
posted*

**April
13th**

*Assessment
window
opens—you
can start
answering
questions*

**May
18th**

*Assessment
window
closes*

The 2020 ABOS WLA is open to all Diplomates who have a Certification expiration of 2026-2029 and those with a Certification expiration of 2019-2025 who earned a Quality Year in 2019.



ABOS Values

Commitment

We are committed to serving the best interests of the general public and our Diplomates.

Quality

Achieving and maintaining excellence in all we do.

Innovation

We are continually moving forward, innovating, and improving.

Professionalism

We expect the members of our organization and our Diplomates to act professionally at all times.

Integrity

We are honest, open, ethical, and fair. People trust us to keep our word.

Teamwork

We believe in collaborating with others in our efforts to define the future of orthopaedic surgery.

Diversity

We know it takes people with different strengths, interests, and cultural backgrounds to make us successful.



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