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**
- % eligible who participated: **55%**
- % who earned a Quality Year: **98.2%**
- Total questions administered: **287,366**
- Average time it took to answer each question: **64.05 seconds**
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Practice area</th>
<th>Participated in ABOS WLA</th>
<th>Did Not Participate in ABOS WLA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Count</td>
<td>Percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I only practice General Orthopaedics</td>
<td>859</td>
<td>14.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Reconstruction</td>
<td>939</td>
<td>16.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foot and Ankle</td>
<td>322</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hand</td>
<td>718</td>
<td>12.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oncology</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orthopaedic Sports Medicine</td>
<td>1399</td>
<td>24.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orthopaedic Trauma</td>
<td>329</td>
<td>5.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pediatric Orthopaedics</td>
<td>282</td>
<td>4.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shoulder and Elbow</td>
<td>283</td>
<td>4.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spine</td>
<td>620</td>
<td>10.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Work Setting</th>
<th>Participated in ABOS WLA</th>
<th>Did Not Participate in ABOS WLA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Count</td>
<td>Percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solo private practice</td>
<td>470</td>
<td>8.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group private practice</td>
<td>2520</td>
<td>43.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-specialty group (academic or non-academic)</td>
<td>1058</td>
<td>18.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active duty military or government (academic or non-academic)</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital (tertiary or community) or associated clinic (academic or non-academic)</td>
<td>1532</td>
<td>26.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Results

**ABOS WLA Platform**

- **The ABOS WLA platform was organized and clear**
  - Strongly Disagree: 2.8%
  - Disagree: 2.1%
  - Neither Agree nor Disagree: 3.4%
  - Agree: 44.9%
  - Strongly Agree: 46.9%

- **The ABOS WLA platform had all the basic functions I expected it to have**
  - Strongly Disagree: 2.4%
  - Disagree: 2.0%
  - Neither Agree nor Disagree: 3.2%
  - Agree: 44.5%
  - Strongly Agree: 48.0%

- **The ABOS WLA platform was easy to use**
  - Strongly Disagree: 2.2%
  - Disagree: 2.4%
  - Neither Agree nor Disagree: 4.5%
  - Agree: 42.5%
  - Strongly Agree: 48.3%

- **I felt comfortable using the ABOS WLA platform**
  - Strongly Disagree: 2.3%
  - Disagree: 2.2%
  - Neither Agree nor Disagree: 4.2%
  - Agree: 42.1%
  - Strongly Agree: 49.2%

---

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

- Excellent: 35.5%
- Very Good: 39.0%
- Good: 18.1%
- Fair: 5.7%
- Poor: 1.8%
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

[Bar graphs for each statement showing percentage distribution]
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
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.