

# ABOS KSB

## *Program Summary*



[www.abos.org/abosksb](http://www.abos.org/abosksb)

## **Mission:**

To protect the public by setting standards for competence during residency education through assessment of orthopaedic Knowledge, Surgical Skills, and Professional Behavior.

## **Vision:**

To provide a uniform, nationwide platform for evidence-based competency measures that provide formative feedback to residents and Orthopaedic Residency Programs.

## **About the Program**

*The American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery (ABOS) evaluates individual physicians and awards the credential of ABOS Board Certification. The ABOS has decided that each orthopaedic surgery resident should be evaluated in the areas of **Orthopaedic Knowledge** (OITE/ABOS Part I Rough Linking), **Surgical Skills** (ABOS-OP Surgical Skills Tool), and **Professional Behavior** (ABOSBT Tool) prior to entry into the Initial ABOS Board Certification Pathway: This is known as the ABOS KSB Program.*

Resident participation in the ABOS KSB Program is designed to provide both residents and Program Directors objective assessments on resident competence rooted in well-documented, organized, timely, validated assessments. These assessments can inform Clinical Competency Committee (CCC) meetings and decision making towards acquisition of skills necessary to meet ACGME Core Competencies. Via three different resident-pushed assessment tools (Surgical Skills, Professional Behavior, and Optional Milestones assessment), a yearly program-level 360 professional behavior assessment, and the OITE/Part I rough linking

score; achievement can be monitored by both teachers and learners. The optional additional milestones tool, though resident-pushed, will likely need residency program endorsement to be successfully utilized.

Administrative burdens are not new to residency educational program administration, with many of them not under the ABOS' or program's control. The ABOS has remained cognizant of stressors and the ABOS KSB Program is streamlined to reduce administrative burdens that residents and faculty contend with on a regular basis (e.g., ACGME Procedure Logs, Milestones submissions, institutional GME requirements). The ACGME Procedure Minimum changes have already been integrated in the ABOS KSB+ tool, to decrease the administrative burden on residents and allow for both procedure logs and ABOS KSB assessment requests to be accomplished in one system.

Concurrently, the ABOS KSB Program is meant to provide residents the opportunity to own their education by controlling assessments in Surgical Skills and Professional Behavior, allowing for assessment towards a surgical repertoire of the residents choosing. Evaluation of Surgical Skills, Professionalism, and Orthopaedic Knowledge are

mainstay assessments throughout a surgeon's career and are now pertinent to residents.

The goal of the ABOS KSB Program is to provide residents the opportunity to own their education by providing validated assessments that both residents and residency programs can use to evaluate competence.

With the ABOS KSB participation requirement comes an unprecedented system that requires steadfast and regular assessment throughout residency, flexible enough to bend to any variation within a program's rotations, ensuring that assessment is real-time and applicable formatively throughout all rotations. The ABOS has set minimum requirement levels (see Appendix). Programs may wish to build internal guidelines for utilization of ABOS KSB assessments that best serve specific program or individual resident needs beyond the ABOS' minimum requirement.

The ABOS KSB Program provides formative feedback reports to Program Directors, Associate Program Directors, and Program Coordinators. Feedback and data can be shared with CCCs in the form of Surgical Skills, Professional Behavior, and Optional Milestones data. There are several exportable reports that guide residency programs including an interactive Milestones Chart that allows CCCs to observe, discuss, alter, and confirm levels of Orthopaedic Milestones per resident, all in one space.

Meaningful Orthopaedic Faculty participation is integral to the ABOS KSB Program. These assessments are triggered by residents via the ABOS KSB+ app or web portal ([www.abos.org/ksb](http://www.abos.org/ksb)) and sent via text or email to the faculty. The assessment requests they may receive from residents are:

**1. Surgical Skills**

*(10 questions plus one open-ended feedback box)*

**2. End-of-Rotation Professional Behavior Assessment**

*(5 questions plus one open-ended feedback box)*

**2a. Optional Milestones Assessment**

*(8 questions plus one open-ended feedback box)*

Evaluations, on average, take 60-90 seconds to complete, performed on an easy to access interface with no login. Generally, faculty completion rate is around 80%. Faculty have a time limitation to respond (2 weeks), and residents have a time limitation to request assessments (48 hours), thereby making the assessments close to real-time and easily accessible within a rotation which can indirectly foster the faculty-resident educational relationship. The assessment program measures competence in a standard, validated, and objective way to provide an entry point of assessment prior to the career-long assessments of an orthopaedic surgeon in independent practice and the initial ABOS Board Certification process. In addition, the ABOS has developed a learning module for faculty for them to better understand competency-based assessments and how to provide formative feedback for residents, where faculty earn self-assessment credit for their own continuing certification requirements.

# Informing the ACGME Milestones

<p><b>ABOS OP Surgical Skills Tool</b></p>	<p><b>Mapped:</b> Initial CPT code requested by Resident</p>	<p><b>Score:</b> Global Evaluation Score by Faculty (Q10)</p>	<p><b>Maps to Milestones:</b> PC 1      PC 4 PC 2      PC 5 PC 3</p>
<p><b>ABOSBT Professional Behavior Tool</b></p>	<p><b>Mapped:</b> By individual question in ABOSBT</p>	<p><b>Score:</b> Score given to each question</p>	<p><b>Maps to Milestones:</b> PBLI 2 (Self-Assessment)    ICS 1 (Communication) PRO 1 (Ethics)                ICS 2 (Interaction) PRO 2 (Reliability)        ICS 3 (Interaction) PRO 3 (Self-Assessment)</p>
<p><b>Additional Milestones Questions Tool</b></p>	<p><b>Mapped:</b> By individual question in Milestones Question Tool</p>	<p><b>Score:</b> Score given to each question</p>	<p><b>Maps to Milestones:</b> PC 6      SBP 1 PC 7      SBP 2 MK 1      SBP 3 MK 2      PBLI 1</p>

**EOR:** End of Rotation Professional Behavior Assessment  
**360:** ABOS KSB 360 Professional Behavior Assessment  
**ICS:** Interpersonal & Communication Skills  
**PBLI:** Practice-Based Learning & Improvement  
**CBME:** Competency-Based Medical Education  
**SAE:** ABOS Self-Assessment Examination

**ABOS:** American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery  
**SBP:** System-Based Practice  
**MK:** Medical Knowledge  
**PRO:** Professionalism  
**PC:** Patient Care

# ABOS KSB

## Tasks Controlled by Participants

	Area of Assessment	Assessment Tool	Value	ACGME Core Competency
Resident Tasks	Orthopaedic Knowledge	OITE	Track Acquisition of Knowledge via ABOS Part I / AAOS OITE Rough Linking Score	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medical Knowledge</li> <li>• Patient Care</li> </ul>
	Surgical Skills	ABOS OP Surgical Skills Tool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ABOS OP Surgical Skills Tool</li> <li>• Real-Time Documentation</li> <li>• Simultaneous ACGME Procedure Log</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patient Care</li> <li>• ICS</li> <li>• PBLI</li> </ul>
	Professional Behavior	ABOSBT Tool (EOR) TRIGGERS Optional Milestones Questions	Resident Chosen EOR assessment by faculty/ attendings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professionalism</li> <li>• ICS</li> <li>• PBLI</li> <li>• System-Based Practice</li> <li>• Medical Knowledge</li> </ul>
Residency Program Tasks	Professional Behavior	ABOSBT Tool (360) TRIGGERS Optional Milestones Questions	Annual assessment initiated by Program open to all Residents, Faculty/Attendings, and any other evaluator a program intentionally enters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professionalism</li> <li>• ICS</li> <li>• PBLI</li> <li>• System-Based Practice</li> <li>• Medical Knowledge</li> </ul>
Faculty Tasks	Resident Request Surgical Skills EOR + 360 Optional Milestones Questions	Text Message or Email	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Real-Time Validation Assessments</li> <li>• Short</li> <li>• Utilize to Improve and supplement Teaching/ Communications</li> <li>• No Login</li> <li>• Automated Reminders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patient Care</li> <li>• ICS</li> <li>• PBLI</li> <li>• Professionalism</li> <li>• System-Based Practice</li> <li>• Medical Knowledge</li> </ul>
	ABOS KSB Learning Module	ABOS Diplomat Dashboard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standardize Formative Assessment</li> <li>• Knowledge of CBME</li> <li>• 10 SAE Available</li> </ul>	

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# Appendix

## ABOS KSB Participation Requirements as of July 2025

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### Orthopaedic Knowledge

#### **PGY 1-5**

- Minimum of **3** completed AAOS OITE examinations

### Surgical Skills

#### **PGY 2-5**

- Minimum **80** completed Surgical Skills assessments/year
- **Total:** minimum **320** completed Surgical Skills assessments

#### **PGY 1**

- Minimum **12** completed Surgical Skills assessments

### Professional Behavior

#### **PGY 2-5**

- Minimum **6** completed end-of-rotation Professional Behavior assessments/year
- **Total:** Minimum **24** completed end-of-rotation Professional Behavior assessments

#### **PGY 1**

- Minimum **3** completed end-of-rotation Professional Behavior assessments

## Summary

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### July 2026 ABOS Part I Examination:

- All first-time Candidates will be required to have at least **80** completed Surgical Skills and **6** completed Professional Behavior assessments in their portfolio
- **October 1 Registration:** Notification of ABOS KSB status (may register, pay, and schedule)
- **July 1:** Final date to meet ABOS KSB Participation Requirements
  - Will be unable to take the examination if requirements are not met (no refunds)

### July 2027 ABOS Part I Examination:

- All first-time Candidates will be required to have at least **160** completed Surgical Skills, **12** completed Professional Behavior assessments, and 1 completed OITE in their portfolio

### July 2028 ABOS Part I Examination:

- All first-time Candidates will be required to have at least **240** completed Surgical Skills, **18** completed Professional Behavior assessments, and 2 completed OITEs in their portfolio

### July 2029 and later ABOS Part I Examination:

- All first-time Candidates will be required to have at least **320** completed Surgical Skills, **24** completed Professional Behavior assessments, and 3 completed OITEs in their portfolio

## Remediation Plan

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Graduated orthopaedic residents who failed to meet the requirements to take the ABOS Part I Examination due to insufficient completed ABOS KSB assessments may reapply to take the examination the following year. They must complete the ABOS KSB requirements during their fellowship year or their 1st year in practice.

