



American Osteopathic Board of Surgery

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REQUIREMENTS FOR RECERTIFICATION

Voluntary Recertification: Lifetime holders of certification by this Board may voluntarily seek recertification. Voluntary recertification in no way affects the lifetime certificate, pass or fail. A diplomate who successfully completes a recertification examination will be issued a ten (10) year time-dated recertification certificate. The diplomate may recertify every ten (10) years. Failure in the recertifying process will in no way result in the loss of certification for physicians holding lifetime certification.

Guidelines for Recertification: A diplomate certified by this Board in one of the surgical specialties under the jurisdiction of this Board with an AOA time-dated certificate may enter the recertification process within three years prior to the expiration date of the certificate.

The Board will offer recertification written examinations twice a year. Diplomates may begin taking the recertification examination two years prior to the expiration date of their current certificates, allowing six (6) opportunities to pass the examination. A diplomate may take the recertification examination as many times as it is given prior to the expiration of his/her certification.

If the diplomate passes the recertification examination prior to the 10th year, the passing grade will be held and reported to the AOA on the 10th year, thus maintaining the 10-year time period of certification. The new certificate will be valid for ten (10) years from the date of expiration of the original certificate.

Any diplomate whose time-dated certificate has expired may enter the recertification examination process at any time, provided the diplomate meets the "Recertification Requirements" listed below. Upon successfully completing the recertification examination, the diplomate will be issued a time-dated certificate for ten (10) years, dated from the date of expiration of the most recent certificate.

Recertification Requirements

1. Diplomates must be in good standing with the AOA (membership and CME credits) and have maintained unrestricted state licensure or military jurisdiction.
2. Application for recertification may be made by March 1st for the spring examination or by July 15th for the fall examination. All materials supplied shall remain the property of the Board.
3. The application must be sent to the Board and accompanied by:
 - a. The examination fee determined by the Board.
 - b. A letter from the AOA attesting to membership in good standing.
 - c. A copy of the diplomate's AOA record of continuing medical education for the most recent completed three (3) year period preceding application.
 - d. A copy of the diplomate's current unrestricted state licensure or proof of military jurisdiction.
4. Diplomate must also demonstrate eligibility for the recertification examination in the individual manner prescribed by the Board.
5. Diplomate shall be required to take a written examination of the multiple choice type. This examination shall be constructed to assure that the diplomate continues to demonstrate current surgical knowledge and shall be so designed.
6. Diplomate certified by this Board in a surgical subspecialty and General Surgery must recertify in each specialty in order to maintain dual certification.

Recertification Requirements

CARDIOTHORACIC SURGERY

1. Diplomate shall be a member in good standing of and current on certification fees to the AOA.
2. Diplomate shall hold a current AOBS certification in Cardiothoracic Surgery (formerly Thoracic Cardiovascular Surgery) and have maintained unrestricted state licensure or military jurisdiction.
3. Diplomate shall be in compliance with AOA guidelines regarding continuing medical education credits.
4. After review and approval, the diplomate shall be admitted to take a standardized written examination.
5. Diplomate shall successfully complete a recertification written examination.
6. Diplomate shall complete of all requirements for maintenance of certification.
7. The examination will be constructed according to the following format:
 - a. SECTION 1 – GENERAL CONTENT (BASIC SCIENCE AND CRITICAL CARE) – must be completed by all diplomates.
 - b. SECTION 2 – PRACTICE SPECIFIC – Diplomate will choose two (2) of the three (3) sections listed below:
 - i. Cardiac
 - ii. Thoracic
 - iii. Vascular

GENERAL SURGERY

1. Diplomate shall be a member in good standing of and current on certification fees to the AOA.
2. Diplomate shall hold a current AOBS certification in General Surgery and have maintained unrestricted state licensure or military jurisdiction.
3. Diplomate shall be in compliance with AOA guidelines regarding continuing medical education credits.
4. After review and approval, the diplomate shall be admitted to take a standardized written examination.
5. Diplomate shall successfully complete a recertification written examination.
6. Diplomate shall complete of all requirements for maintenance of certification.

NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY

1. Diplomate shall be a member in good standing of and current on certification fees to the AOA.
2. Diplomate shall hold a current AOBS certification in Neurological Surgery and have maintained unrestricted state licensure or military jurisdiction.
3. Diplomate shall be in compliance with AOA guidelines regarding continuing medical education credits.
4. After review and approval, the diplomate shall be admitted to take a standardized written examination.
5. Diplomate shall successfully complete a recertification written examination.
6. Diplomate shall complete of all requirements for maintenance of certification.

PLASTIC & RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY

1. Diplomate shall be a member in good standing of and current on certification fees to the AOA.
2. Diplomate shall hold a current AOBS certification in Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery and have maintained unrestricted state licensure or military jurisdiction.
3. Diplomate shall be in compliance with AOA guidelines regarding continuing medical education credits.
4. After review and approval, the diplomate shall be admitted to take a standardized written examination.
5. Diplomate shall successfully complete a recertification written examination.
6. Diplomate shall complete of all requirements for maintenance of certification.
7. Diplomate must be in an active practice inclusive of an operative practice.
8. Diplomate must show written proof of attendance within the last five (5) years at two of the activities listed below:
 - a. CME meeting – American Society of Plastic Surgery national meeting
 - b. Baker-Gordon Symposium on Cosmetic Surgery
 - c. New York City Symposium on Plastic Surgery
 - d. Recertification Committee-Approved national meeting in Plastic Surgery
9. Diplomate must show proof of attendance within the last five years at two (2) ACOS meetings.
10. Diplomate must show he/she has written and published a paper in an Index Medicus-approved journal.
11. Diplomate must submit to the Recertification Committee 25 cases with complications within the last five (5) years that reflect the scope and variety of the diplomate's practice. The committee will choose five cases, and all cases must have appropriate documentation inclusive of photos, operative reports, lab reports, and the same criteria as was required during initial certification. The diplomate will then defend his/her presented cases to the Recertification Committee during the written exam.
12. Following admission to the exam and successful completion of the written exam and the case presentation, the diplomate will be granted recertification in Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery.

UROLOGICAL SURGERY

1. Diplomate shall be a member in good standing of and current on certification fees to the AOA.
2. Diplomate shall hold a current AOBS certification in Urological Surgery and have maintained unrestricted state licensure or military jurisdiction.
3. Diplomate shall be in compliance with AOA guidelines regarding continuing medical education credits.
4. After review and approval, the diplomate shall be admitted to take a standardized written examination.
5. Diplomate shall successfully complete a recertification written examination.
6. Diplomate shall complete of all requirements for maintenance of certification.
7. The written examination will consist of core questions and a choice of three (3) of the following five (5) modules:
 - a. Pediatric urology
 - b. Oncology
 - c. Calculus and trauma
 - d. Urinary obstruction, erectile dysfunction and infertility
 - e. Urinary infection, incontinence and voiding dysfunction

VASCULAR SURGERY

1. Diplomate shall be a member in good standing of and current on certification fees to the AOA.
2. Diplomate shall hold a current AOBS certification in General Vascular Surgery and have maintained unrestricted state licensure or military jurisdiction.
3. Diplomate shall be in compliance with AOA guidelines regarding continuing medical education credits.
4. After review and approval, the diplomate shall be admitted to take a standardized written examination.
5. Diplomate shall successfully complete a recertification written examination.
6. Diplomate shall complete of all requirements for maintenance of certification.
7. The examination will have a common core of questions, and the diplomate will then choose two (2) of the four (4) sections listed below:
 - a. Aneurysms
 - b. Atherosclerotic Disease
 - c. Cerebral Vascular Disease
 - d. Endovascular

SURGICAL CRITICAL CARE

1. Diplomate shall be a member in good standing of and current on certification fees to the AOA.
2. Diplomate shall hold a current AOBS certification in General Surgery, as well as current primary certification, and have maintained unrestricted state licensure or military jurisdiction.
3. Diplomate shall be in compliance with AOA guidelines regarding continuing medical education credits.
4. After review and approval, the diplomate shall be admitted to take a standardized written examination.
5. Diplomate shall successfully complete a recertification written examination.
6. Diplomate shall complete of all requirements for maintenance of certification.

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