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# **ABFAS 111-2017**

## **Maintenance of Certification (SAE) for Diplomates with Lifetime Certificates**



**This document contains information specific to the 2017 examinations only.**

**American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery®**

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## Introduction

The Board of Directors of the American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery (ABFAS) has approved a Maintenance of Certification Program (MOC). This MOC Program has replaced the ABFAS Recertification and Self-assessment process. Other certification boards, including all of the boards of the American Board of Medical Specialties, have adopted an MOC program. The ABFAS believes this change to MOC will allow us to stay current with other certification boards and ensure continued competency among our Diplomates.

*Note: Diplomates of the American Board of Ambulatory Foot Surgery (a section of the American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery) do not have an ongoing evaluation.*

### THE ABFAS MOC PROGRAM

Diplomates issued a lifetime certificate (1975-1990) are required to meet all components of MOC, except their examination will be administered as self-assessment (SAE). These Diplomates may voluntarily convert to certifications in Foot Surgery and Reconstructive Rearfoot/Ankle Surgery. See page XX for details on how to convert.

All Diplomates issued a time-limited certificate are required to participate in the MOC program to maintain certification. See Document 112 for more details if you fall into this category.

MOC has replaced ABFAS Recertification as of 2016. The process will be implemented according to each Diplomate's 10-year recertification cycle.

In summary, the ABFAS MOC program consists of the following requirements.

1. Maintain a valid, unrestricted podiatric license in the United States or Canada.
2. Maintain active surgical privileges at either a hospital or surgical center.
3. Obtain 200 continuing education credits per 10-year cycle.
4. Complete a formalized, secure examination consisting of the fundamental diagnostic skills, medical knowledge, and clinical judgment to provide quality care during every 10-year cycle.

### Calendar of Important Dates

November 1, 2016	Registration opens
January 20, 2017	Registration closes
January 27, 2017	Last day to withdraw
February 3-18, 2017	Self-assessment Exam

## Requirements

### **I. Maintain a valid, unrestricted podiatric license in the United States or Canada.**

All Diplomates must maintain a valid and unrestricted license within the United States or Canada. ABFAS will collect license validation information for each Diplomate for the state(s) in which he/she practices. Currently, the ABFAS updates this information in conjunction with each state's licensing cycle. Diplomates are required to report to ABFAS any change in their licensing status.

### **II. Maintain active surgical privileges at a hospital or surgical center.**

### **III. Obtain 200 hours of category 1 CME credits.**

Diplomates must participate in 200 hours of Category 1 or CPME-approved continuing education (CE) credits per 10-year cycle. All continuing education must be pertinent to the practice of podiatric medicine and/or surgery and cannot include practice management. Risk management credits are allowed. It is the Diplomate's responsibility to obtain documentation of continuing education credits, not the organization that offers the program. Diplomates may submit continuing education credits only for programs in which they actively participated.

Diplomates must attest to their continuing education credits, and the ABFAS will perform audits to ensure the accuracy of the submitted data.

Continuing education credit requirements will be prorated per year as follows:

2016 – 20 credits	2021 – 120 credits
2017 – 40 credits	2022 – 140 credits
2018 – 60 credits	2023 – 160 credits
2019 - 80 credits	2024 – 180 credits
2020 – 100 credits	All years after 2024 – 200 credits

Category 1 activities are those that have been approved by an accredited sponsor. An Accredited Sponsor may include, but are not limited to CPME, AMA, and AOA.

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Your CME certificate should also state that the activity has been approved for Category 1 credit and name the institution or organization that is awarding the credit. If you have participated in Category 1 activities, the provider should provide you with a certificate of completion.

\*Acceptable certificates/documentation must include:

- Name of the licensee
- Name of the course
- Date of the course
- Number of credit hours earned
- Provider of the course
- Category type

**IV. Complete a formalized, secure examination (Self-assessment (SAE)) that demonstrates the physician has the fundamental diagnostic skills, medical knowledge, and clinical judgment to provide quality care.**

Diplomates must take a secure examination within 10-year cycles. The computerized examination is administered at regional, secure computer sites. Although this is not a pass/fail examination, diplomates must complete it in good faith. Failure to do so may result in the diplomate being non-compliant with Maintenance of Certification.

#### **Three-year Window of Opportunity**

Diplomates may take the examination in the eighth, ninth, or 10<sup>th</sup> year of their MOC cycle.

#### **Non-compliance**

Diplomates failing to take the SAE and attest to the CE requirements within the prescribed period will show “Not Compliant with Maintenance of Certification” in the verification report and may have their Diplomate status revoked.

## Self-assessment Examination Information

### Requirement

ABFAS requires Diplomates certified in Foot and Ankle Surgery (1975-1990) to complete the SAE successfully and in good faith every 10 years to maintain certification. Effective in 2017, they must also attest to continuing education.

### Location and Dates

The ABFAS offers the self-assessment February 3 through 18, 2017, as a computer-adaptive examination at Pearson Vue centers. *Examination site selection opens November 1, 2016. Seats are limited, so please register early.*

### Online Study Guide

The ABFAS provides an Online Study Guide containing sample multiple-choice questions with answers, subject areas covered, and other information about the examination. Please visit our website at [www.abfas.org](http://www.abfas.org). (NOTE: The Online Study Guide also includes practice cases for the Computer-based Patient Simulation (CBPS) examinations. CBPS cases are not applicable to SAE.)

### Format

The SAE consist of multiple-choice questions, including those based on visual presentations. Following each question are at least four possible answers. Each question has only **ONE** best answer.

### Examination Site Selection and Admission

Candidates taking SAE schedule their date, time, and location, after payment of registration fees. Click on "Schedule with Pearson" after registering for the exam. After selecting a date, time, and location, **print a copy of the confirmation**. The confirmation includes the schedule, location of the testing center, and directions to the center. You will also receive a confirmation email.

Candidates must present **two forms of current identification** at the testing center. Please note that one of the pieces of identification must be an unexpired government-issued photo identification with signature. The name as it appears on the two forms of ID must match the name as it appears on the registration confirmation. For example, a maiden name is used for the ABFAS records and a married name appears on the driver's license or passport. Please contact ABFAS directly if you need to update the name on your record.

Failure to present acceptable identification as noted above prevents entry into the test center to examine. If this occurs, a candidate is marked "Absent" and forfeits the entire examination fee.

### **MOC Foot and Ankle Examination (SAE)**

**Purpose:** The Foot and Ankle MOC Examination assesses current level of knowledge (strengths and weaknesses). For MOC purposes, the examination will have a measurable passing score so that Diplomates may use the results to assist in identifying areas of continuing education efforts.

**Test Specifications:** The SAE involves diagnostic, intraoperative, and perioperative care of the podiatric surgical patient encompassing the foot and ankle. The exam will emphasize generally accepted procedures and technology related to the practitioner's daily practice. However, because the self-assessment examination also serves as an educational tool, newer or more-focused content areas may be included. The examination contains a maximum of 125 questions.

### **Examination Content Map**

<b>Major Subject Area</b>	<b>%</b>
A. Problem-focused History and Physical	10
B. Diagnostic Studies/Medical Imaging	10
C. Differential Diagnosis	10
D. Surgical Principles	15
E. Surgical Procedures/Techniques	15
F. Procedural Perioperative Management	15
G. Complications	15
H. General Medical	10
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>100</b>

## Scoring

ABFAS provides scores and results for examinations as scale scores. Examinations are not graded on a curve. The Board of Directors sets passing scores based on psychometric evaluation of the examination. ABFAS does not provide copies of the test items since all questions remain in the active examination item pool for future use, unless removed by authority of the psychometric consultant or the examinations committee.

## Review of Scores

While each examination is scored by computer, there is a recheck and review of failed examinations. Therefore, once ABFAS mails or posts examination results, there is no further review of scores.

## Exam Results

ABFAS will notify candidates, via email, as to when they can find their test results on their ABFAS personal profile page.

## Notification and Fees

### Eligibility Notification

ABFAS will notify Diplomates whose certification dates fall within the three-year window of opportunity for the 2017 SAE in the fall of the year preceding the examination.

### Fees<sup>1</sup>

Examination	Application fee (non-refundable)	Examination Fee	Total fee
Self-assessment (foot and ankle surgery)	\$225	\$675	\$900
Fee for not completing SAE by close of window upon later request to take SAE to remove non-compliant status.			\$500

### Registration and Payment of Fees

The application is online. Beginning November 1, 2016, go to [www.abfas.org](http://www.abfas.org) and login using your ABFAS username and password; click "My Tasks" on the left navigation bar; then click "Apply for an Exam" in the dropdown menu and follow the instructions on the application

<sup>1</sup> Diplomates completing the SAE do not pay the annual fee for the year following completion of recertification.

screen.

Candidates must pay by debit or credit card (American Express, VISA, Discover, or MasterCard). Follow the online instructions when completing the registration.

### **Late Withdrawal Penalty**

There is a late withdrawal penalty of \$150 for any withdrawal made after January 27, 2017.

### **Absence without Withdrawing**

Any candidate who has registered but does not take the examination forfeits all fees.

### **Documentation of Active Surgical Privileges**

Diplomates must request their hospital/surgery center to submit proof of active surgical privileges in each category. The documentation must contain a notarized signature of a hospital/surgery center official if possible, or said signature with the seal of the hospital or surgery center.

### **Request for Additional Documentation**

The ABFAS reserves the right to request additional documentation to clarify or expand on the information submitted as part of the application process.

## **DEADLINE**

Please register, pay and schedule your exam by January 20, 2017.

## **Overview of Status Conversion**

Until 1991, the ABFAS had one certification category. Commencing in 1991, the ABFAS established two certification processes, one in “Foot Surgery” and the other in “Reconstructive Rearfoot/Ankle Surgery” (RRA). Candidates for Diplomate status could elect to certify in Foot Surgery alone, or both Foot Surgery and RRA Surgery (Foot Surgery certification is a prerequisite for RRA certification—a Diplomate may not hold RRA certification alone). With the two categories established in 1991, Diplomates certified under the previous requirements retained the designation of “Foot and Ankle Surgery” Diplomates.

Certificates issued after 1990 expire on August 31, 10 years from the date of issuance. Certificates issued prior to 1991 do not have an expiration date. The ABFAS requires Diplomates certified prior to 1991 to complete MOC self-assessment requirements every 10 years (see ABFAS 111).

Diplomates certified prior to 1991 may convert their “Foot and Ankle Surgery” status to “Foot Surgery” and “Reconstructive Rearfoot/Ankle Surgery” status by passing the recertification examinations in each category and meeting the Maintenance of Certification requirements. Diplomates must surrender their Foot and Ankle certificate, and the new certificates will have an expiration date.

## **Conversion to Certification in Foot Surgery and Reconstructive Rearfoot/Ankle Surgery**

### **Active Diplomate Status**

Diplomates in Foot and Ankle Surgery seeking to convert their certification must be in Active Diplomate Status.

### **Current Hospital Surgical Privileges**

Current hospital surgical privileges in foot surgery and in reconstructive rearfoot/ankle surgery are required.

### **Examinations (see ABFAS 112)**

A Diplomate certified in Foot and Ankle Surgery must pass both the Recertification Examination in Foot Surgery and the Recertification Examination in Reconstructive Rearfoot/Ankle Surgery to become recertified in Foot Surgery and in Reconstructive Rearfoot/Ankle Surgery. Foot Surgery certification is a prerequisite to Reconstructive Rearfoot/Ankle Surgery certification. If the recertification examinations are taken in the candidate’s self-assessment window and the candidate fails either examination, then the candidate will still fulfill the self-assessment requirement.

A Diplomate seeking conversion has three consecutive opportunities to pass both examinations. Failure to pass both examinations during this three-year period precludes the Diplomate applying for conversion in future years.

### **Relinquish Foot and Ankle Certificate**

On successful completion of the above requirements, a Diplomate must relinquish the lifetime Foot and Ankle Diplomate status and certificate. The Diplomate is required to submit a signed and notarized letter stating Diplomate relinquishes the lifetime Foot and Ankle certification. New certification status is not granted unless the Diplomate relinquishes the old certification status. The Foot Surgery and the Reconstructive Rearfoot/Ankle Surgery certificates reflect the previous Foot and Ankle certification dates and have a 10-year limit.

If you need additional information after reading these instructions,  
please contact ABFAS at

**Voice: 415.553.7800    FAX: 415.553.7801**  
M-F 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Pacific time)

Or e-mail questions to [info@abfas.org](mailto:info@abfas.org).