
ABFAS 112-2017

Maintenance of Certification Program for Time Limited 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 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

All Diplomates issued a time-limited certificate are required to participate in the MOC program to maintain certification.

Diplomates issued a lifetime certificate are required to meet all components of MOC, except their examination will be administered as self-assessment. See Document 111 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 3-4, 2017	Reconstructive Rearfoot/Ankle Surgery Recertification Surgery Exam
February 3-18, 2017	Foot Surgery Recertification 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.

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 (Recertification Exam) 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.

Three-year Window of Opportunity

Diplomates may take the examination in the eighth, ninth, or 10th year of their MOC cycle. Examinations taken and failed in the eighth or ninth year may be retaken. Failure of the examination in the 10th year will result in loss of certification. **Diplomates are encouraged not to wait until their 10th year to sit for the examination.**

Effects of Passing or Failing

Diplomates passing the Foot Surgery Recertification Examination are recertified in Foot Surgery. Diplomates passing the Reconstructive Rearfoot/Ankle Surgery Recertification Examination are recertified in Reconstructive Rearfoot/Ankle Surgery (except as defined in paragraph [2] below). Diplomates receive a time-dated recertification label that expires in a 10-year increment from the date of initial certification (e.g., initial certification in 2000, passed recertification in 2008, 2009 or 2010, recertification expires in 2020).

Designation: “A Diplomate of the American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery, certified in Foot Surgery (and Reconstructive Rearfoot/Ankle Surgery) in 19XX. Recertified in Foot Surgery (and Reconstructive Rearfoot/Ankle Surgery in 20XX”

Failure to pass the Foot Surgery Recertification Examination within the three-year window results in the Diplomate’s status expiring, and the Diplomate must apply to reestablish board certification under the policy established by the ABFAS Board of Directors.

A Reconstructive Rearfoot/Ankle Surgery Diplomate who passes only the Foot Surgery recertification examination is recertified in Foot Surgery only. In such cases, a Diplomate may continue taking the Reconstructive Rearfoot/Ankle Surgery Recertification Examination until the three-year window of opportunity closes.

Designation: “A Diplomate of the American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery certified in Foot Surgery and Reconstructive Rearfoot/Ankle Surgery in 19XX.
Recertified in Foot Surgery in 20XX.”

A Diplomate certified in both Foot Surgery and Reconstructive Rearfoot/Ankle Surgery who fails the Foot Surgery recertification examination, but passes the Reconstructive Rearfoot/Ankle Surgery recertification examination, is not recertified in either category. Foot Surgery recertification is a prerequisite to Reconstructive Rearfoot/Ankle Surgery recertification. However, the Diplomate does not need to retake the Reconstructive Rearfoot/Ankle Recertification Examination. The Diplomate may continue taking the Foot Surgery Recertification Examination until the three-year window of opportunity closes. If a Diplomate is unsuccessful in passing the Foot Surgery Recertification Examination within the three-year window, all status expires, and Diplomate must apply under the policy established by the Board of Directors.

- a.** A Diplomate achieving certification in Reconstructive Rearfoot/Ankle Surgery in a year subsequent to Foot Surgery certification must maintain certification in Foot Surgery to remain certified in Reconstructive Rearfoot/Ankle Surgery. Should a Diplomate be unsuccessful in passing the Foot Surgery recertification examination, such Diplomate’s certified status in Reconstructive Rearfoot/Ankle Surgery is suspended until reestablishing Foot Surgery certification, unless status in RRA expires before reestablishment in Foot Surgery.

Recertification Examination Information

Location and Dates

The ABFAS offers the Foot Surgery Recertification Examination on February 3 through 18, 2017 as a computer-adaptive examination. The Reconstructive Rearfoot/Ankle Surgery Recertification Examination is offered only on February 3 and 4, 2017 as a computer-administered test. Both exams are offered at Pearson Vue centers. Form “A” of the RRA examination is administered on February 3 and Form “B” of the RRA examination is administered on February 4. Diplomates may take either form for recertification in RRA. If applying to take both the Foot and RRA surgery examinations, a candidate may take both on February 3 and/or 4 or may choose to take the RRA examination on February 3 or 4 and the Foot Surgery examination on any day, February 3 through February 18, 2017. *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. (NOTE: The Online Study Guide may include practice cases for the Computer-based Patient Simulation (CBPS) examinations. CBPS cases are NOT applicable to the recertification examinations.)

Format

The recertification examinations 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 a recertification examination 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. If 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 Surgery Examination

Test Specifications: The MOC Examination in Foot Surgery involves diagnostic and perioperative care of the podiatric surgical patient encompassing the foot and ankle. Intraoperative technical aspects will include reconstructive and non-reconstructive procedures of the forefoot and non-reconstructive procedures of the rearfoot/ankle. The examination emphasizes generally accepted procedures and technology related to the practitioner's daily practice. The examination contains a maximum of 125 computer-adaptive administered questions.

Examination Content Map

Major Subject Area	%
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
TOTAL	100

MOC Reconstructive Rearfoot and Ankle Examination

Test Specifications: The MOC Examination in Reconstructive Rearfoot/Ankle Surgery involves diagnostic and perioperative care of the podiatric surgical patient who requires reconstructive rearfoot and ankle procedures. This examination emphasizes generally accepted procedures and technology related to the practitioner's daily practice. The fixed-form examination contains a maximum of 100 questions.

Examination Content Map

Major Subject Area	%
B. Diagnostic Studies/Medical Imaging	10
C. Differential Diagnosis	10
D. Surgical Principles	15
E. Surgical Procedures/Techniques	25
F. Procedural Perioperative Management	20
G. Complications	20
TOTAL	100

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 recertification examinations in the fall of the year preceding the examination.

Fees¹

Examination	Application fee (non-refundable)	Examination Fee	Total fee
Foot Surgery	\$225	\$675	\$900
Foot Surgery and Reconstructive Rearfoot/Ankle Surgery	\$225	\$1,350	\$1575
Reconstructive Rearfoot/Ankle Surgery (RRA)	\$225	\$675	\$900

Registration and Payment of Fees

The application is online. Beginning November 1, 2016, go to www.abfas.org and login using an 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 screen. Candidates must pay by debit or credit card (American Express, VISA, 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.

¹ Diplomates completing recertification do not pay the annual fee for the year following completion of recertification.

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.

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**.