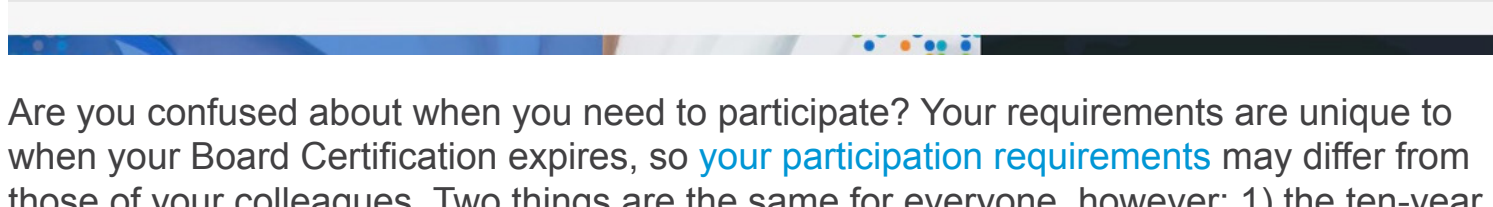


How LEAD Impacts Diplomates' Board Certification

ABFAS has received a great deal of [positive feedback](#) about the new LEAD Continuous Certification program! As expected with the launch of a new program, we have also received quite a few questions, so we have updated the LEAD homepage with the information you need front and center.

If you haven't already, we encourage you to participate in Quarter 2—which ends on June 30, 2022—by visiting abfas.org and clicking on the blue "Access LEAD Site" button at the top of the homepage. [Here's a video](#) to show you how.



Are you confused about when you need to participate? Your requirements are unique to when your Board Certification expires, so [your participation requirements](#) may differ from those of your colleagues. Two things are the same for everyone, however: 1) the ten-year certification period now has two five-year cycles; and 2) you must complete 12 LEAD quarters per cycle.

For Diplomates newly ABFAS Board Certified in 2022: ABFAS will soon send you information on the LEAD Continuous Certification program and when you can access the LEAD Diplomat site. If you achieved Board Certification this year, it is not necessary for you to begin the LEAD program until January 2023.



Michelle L. Butterworth, DPM, D.ABFAS



Dustin L. Kruse, DPM, D.ABFAS



Diana E. Rogers, DPM, D.ABFAS

2022 ABFAS Election Results

The American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery (ABFAS) is proud to [announce the results](#) of the 2022 Board of Directors election. Three director positions were open for the 2022 elections. Joining the board for their first terms are Dr. Dustin L. Kruse of Colorado and Dr. Diana E. Rogers of Illinois. Incumbent Dr. Michelle L. Butterworth of South Carolina will continue her board service. All three of these terms will become effective on September 1, 2022, and will end on August 31, 2025.

Coming in July: Annual Fee Invoicing

In early July, ABFAS will open the invoicing process to allow Diplomates to pay the annual fee. We thank you in advance for supporting ABFAS through the annual fee; your support allows ABFAS to maintain high standards and rigor in the Board Certification process.

As a reminder, starting in 2022, the annual fee will include a small increase of \$90, for a total Diplomat annual fee of \$440, to accommodate the cost of running the new LEAD program. This is our first increase since 2006, and, in recognition of the period of adjustment to LEAD, ABFAS did not raise the 2021-22 annual fee for the first year of the LEAD program.

Promoting Your Board Certification

Diplomates can now add the professional notation of **D.ABFAS** (Diplomate, American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery) to materials such as websites, email footers, business cards, and letterheads. The D.ABFAS notation should follow the DPM acronym and precede all other acronyms, like this: *Jane G. Doe, DPM, D.ABFAS, FACFAS*.

Visit the [Promote Your Board Certification webpage](#) for newsletter and press release templates to help you promote your Board Certification—and for newly-revised [Diplomat Advertising Policies](#) to assist in communicating your ABFAS status appropriately and professionally.



ABFAS Presents 2022 Michael L. Stone Awards

On February 24, 2022, ABFAS President Amberly C. Paradoa, DPM, D.ABFAS, presented the 2022 Michael L. Stone, DPM, Outstanding Professional Conduct Awards to nine exceptional students. The awards ceremony took place in Austin, Texas as part of the 2022 ABFAS Annual Meeting. See the ABFAS website for a [full list of recipients](#).

Seeking Residency Program Evaluators

The Council on Podiatric Medical Education's (CPME) Collaborative Residency Evaluator Committee (CREC) is seeking ABFAS Diplomates to serve as candidates for appointments as residency program on-site evaluators. CREC oversees the selection, training, and assessment of podiatric residency on-site evaluators.

CREC is looking for nominees who have experience as a program director or faculty in a CPME-approved residency program. The ability to travel and knowledge of PRR and CPME document 320 are critical to the position. ABFAS Diplomates interested in serving as residency program evaluators should submit a cover letter stating their experience with residency programs, along with a copy of their CV, to ABFAS CEO/Executive Director Kathy Kreiter at kkreiter@abfas.org.

Mentor Students to Ensure the Future of the Profession

The American Podiatric Medical Association (APMA) hosts an interactive [Mentor Network](#) with the support of student recruitment stakeholders from within the profession, including ABFAS. The Mentor Network helps match pre-health students with mentors to give students the experience of shadowing professionals in the field, allowing them an understanding of careers in podiatric medicine. The program also supports pre-health advisors and counselors from colleges and universities around the country by helping them locate engaging, charismatic DPM speakers for student events.

Mentoring helps you spread the word about podiatric medicine, gives you an opportunity to engage with up-and-coming physicians, and promotes podiatric medicine-related activities within your community. For instructions on how to volunteer to serve as a mentor, please visit the APMA's [Student Recruitment Toolkit](#).

Differences in ABFAS Practice Statuses

If you're considering stepping back from active practice for any reason, please [let us know](#). The ABFAS staff can help you [identify the status](#) that's right for your situation. Please note that ABFAS shares a Diplomat's status with credentialing organizations requesting verification of board status.

- **Administrative:** This status is for Diplomates engaged primarily (more than 30 hours per week) in an administrative capacity directly related to the profession of podiatry. These Diplomates continue to pay the annual fee, may vote in ABFAS matters, and must successfully complete LEAD program requirements.
- **Inactive:** This is a status for Diplomates not engaged in the active practice of foot and ankle surgery and/or not holding surgical hospital privileges, usually associated with a personal sabbatical or medical leave. Inactive status is effective for only one year and Diplomates may request Inactive for a maximum of five consecutive years. Inactive Diplomates do not pay the annual fee and may not vote in ABFAS matters but must still fulfill LEAD program requirements.
- **Retired:** The Retired status is for Diplomates who are completely retired and not actively practicing podiatry. Retired Diplomates make no annual fee payment, do not vote in ABFAS matters, and do not participate in the LEAD program. ABFAS can reinstate a retired Diplomat under [certain conditions listed](#) on the ABFAS website.
- **Surgically Inactive:** This status is for Diplomates engaged in the active practice of podiatry but without an active foot and ankle surgical practice. Surgically Inactive Diplomates have retired from active surgical practice and maintain an active, unrestricted license. They do not hold current surgical privileges but still have hospital privileges. Surgically Inactive Diplomates must pay the annual fee, may vote in ABFAS matters, and must meet LEAD program requirements.

ABFAS 2022 Booth Exhibits and Conferences

In 2022, ABFAS is engaging with DPMs across the country. If you're attending any of these events—virtually or in-person—we welcome you to connect with ABFAS staff to ask questions about ABFAS certification!

[The Western Foot and Ankle Conference](#)
June 23-26, 2022 | Anaheim, CA

[APMA Annual Scientific Meeting](#)
July 28-31, 2022 | Orlando, FL

[ASPS Annual Surgical Conference](#)
November 4-5, 2022 | New Orleans, LA

Keeping in Touch with ABFAS



ABFAS uses email as the primary method of communicating announcements and details to Diplomates. To ensure you are receiving ABFAS emails, make sure you add lead@abfas.org, info@abfas.org, updates@abfas.org, and scheduling@abfas.org to your email inbox safe sender list. Instructions are [available online](#).

In addition, please log into your [ABFAS profile](#) and, if necessary, update your personal information—especially your email address! Completing the "Directory Address" section of your profile will allow prospective patients to find your practice when searching by location on the ABFAS website's [Find a Surgeon](#) feature. If you practice at more than one facility, be sure to list your website.