



About MOC

- Maintenance of Certification goes beyond traditional recertification to a process of lifelong learning, assessment and improvement
- ABS diplomates who certify or recertify in **any specialty after July 1, 2005**, must thereafter participate in MOC to maintain their certification
- MOC is an evolving process—the requirements outlined below will be modified as new learning and assessment tools are developed

ABS MOC Requirements

- MOC requirements run in **three-year cycles** (July 1-June 30). Diplomates begin MOC the July 1 following certification or recertification
- After each cycle, diplomates complete an **online form** for Parts 1, 2 and 4. A secure examination (Part 3) is also required at 10-year intervals

Key Points

- ▶ MOC consists of four parts
- ▶ MOC requirements run in three-year cycles
- ▶ MOC cycles run from July 1 to June 30

MOC PART	ABS REQUIREMENT
Part 1 – Professional Standing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A valid, full and unrestricted medical license (U.S. or Canada) ▪ Hospital admitting and operating privileges in the specialty ▪ Hospital references—name and contact information for the chief of surgery and chair of credentials at the institution where most work is performed
Part 2 – Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment <small>(Effective July 1, 2012. For current requirements, see www.absurgery.org)</small>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continuing medical education (CME)—a minimum of 90 hours of Category I CME to be completed over a three-year cycle ▪ At least 60 of the 90 hours must include a self-assessment activity—a written question-and-answer exercise (paper or online) that assesses the surgeon’s understanding of the material presented during the CME program ▪ A score of 75% or higher must be attained on the self-assessment exercise. There is no minimum number of questions and repeated attempts are allowed
Part 3 – Cognitive Expertise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Successful completion of a secure examination, which may first be taken three years prior to certificate expiration. All MOC requirements must be fulfilled up to this point to apply for the exam ▪ For diplomates who hold more than one certificate, this is the only requirement that must be repeated for each specialty
Part 4 – Evaluation of Performance in Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Participation in a national, regional or local outcomes database or quality assessment program (NSQIP, SCIP, PQRS or the ACS case log system meets this requirement; see www.absurgery.org for others) ▪ Periodic communication skills assessment based on patient feedback is also planned, but is not yet finalized

- Diplomates who do not complete the online form or otherwise fail to meet MOC requirements will be reported as “Not Participating in MOC” and face additional requirements to re-enter MOC at a later time. They also are ineligible to certify or recertify in any ABS specialty until all MOC requirements are met
- Diplomates may track their MOC status by viewing their personalized MOC Timeline at www.absurgery.org. The ABS will also notify diplomates when action is required—please keep your contact information up to date

For more information about the ABS MOC Program, visit www.absurgery.org