

2023 Bulletin for Subspecialty Certification in Maternal-Fetal Medicine



This bulletin, issued in March of 2022, represents the official statement of the requirements for subspecialty certification in Maternal-Fetal Medicine (MFM) for the 2023 examinations.

Revision December 12, 2022

GENDER LANGUAGE DISCLAIMER

The American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ABOG) recognizes that patients have diverse gender identities and is striving to use gender-inclusive language in its publications, literature, and other printed and digital materials. In some instances, ABOG uses the word “woman” (and the pronouns “she” and “her”) to describe patients or individuals whose sex assigned at birth was female, whether they identify as female, male, or non-binary. As gender language continues to evolve in the scientific and medical communities, ABOG will periodically reassess this usage and will make appropriate adjustments as necessary. When describing or referencing study populations used in research, ABOG will use the gender terminology reported by the study investigators.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL CANDIDATES

1. There has been a change to the application periods for the examinations. Please review these dates and deadlines to ensure an accurate understanding. Qualifying Examination applications will open in January of 2023 for the July 2023 examination. **The last day to apply for the Qualifying Examination without a late fee is February 16, 2023. The application period will close on March 3, 2023.** No applications will be accepted after that date.
2. The American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology understands that during the COVID-19 pandemic, it may be difficult for candidates to complete the tasks related to the application process for the 2023 MFM Certifying Examination. Normally, the application fee is not refundable. If a candidate is unable to take the Certifying Examination due to reasons associated with COVID-19, all fees for the Certifying Examination can either be applied to the 2024 examination or refunded.
3. Starting with Academic Year 2021 graduates, ABOG will be implementing important changes to the Maternal-Fetal Medicine certification standards. See the [2022 Qualifying Examination Requirements](#) section for further details.
4. Candidates should be familiar with the material in the “Policies” section found under “About ABOG” on the ABOG website.
5. The process of certification in MFM is voluntary. Each potential candidate for subspecialty certification is responsible for completing the application online at www.abog.org, submitting all materials to ABOG at the time they are requested, and meeting all deadlines. ABOG will make the final decision concerning the applicant’s eligibility for admission to the examination. Candidates must meet the requirements published in the MFM Subspecialty Bulletin for the year in which they are to take an examination.
6. Beginning in calendar year 2020, all physicians who have completed an ABOG or ACGME fellowship in Maternal-Fetal Medicine must achieve ABOG subspecialty certification within 8 years of completion of their training. If certification is not achieved within 8 years, the physician will no longer be eligible to apply for either the Qualifying or Certifying Subspecialty Examination unless an additional 6 months of supervised subspecialty practice is completed. Physicians who have completed subspecialty training in the calendar year 2015 must be subspecialty certified by 2023 or will be required to complete an additional 6 months of supervised practice before regaining eligibility to apply for certification. See policy on [Regaining Eligibility for Subspecialty Certification](#) for more information.

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THE DIVISION OF MATERNAL-FETAL MEDICINE (MFM)

The members of the Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine are listed in [Appendix A](#).

QUALIFYING (WRITTEN) EXAMINATION

2023 Qualifying Examination Application Process

1. The applicant must supply ABOG with an email address as part of the application process and notify ABOG of any change in this email address.
2. Following submission of the online application form and payment of the appropriate fee, the candidate's application will be considered in accordance with the requirements in effect for that year (see below). The candidate will be notified of admissibility to the Qualifying Examination.
3. After the approval email from ABOG is received, the candidate must contact Pearson VUE to obtain a seat for the examination. Candidates are urged to obtain a seat as soon as possible after notification of eligibility to avoid long-distance travel to a site with an available seat. On April 26, 2023, the ABOG reserved seats held at the Pearson VUE centers will be released. After that date, it will be harder for candidates to reserve a seat at their preferred site. Seats in individual cities are limited and are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. ABOG will not refund any portion of the test fee if a candidate is not able to reserve a seat at their preferred testing center.

2023 Qualifying Examination Deadlines and Fees

The following table lists the deadlines and fees for the Qualifying Examination. Deadlines cannot be extended. All applications and fees must be submitted on the candidate's ABOG portal prior to midnight Central time on their due date. The system will prevent submission once the deadline has passed. If you fail to submit by the deadline, please email the Exam Department at Exams@abog.org. The total fee (application and examination) must be paid by credit card through the candidate's ABOG portal and is payable in US Dollars only.

After approval, if the candidate experiences an event that prevents sitting for the examination, the Board should be notified immediately. If the review committee agrees that the request is due to circumstances beyond the control of the candidate, the examination portion of the fee (\$870) may be refunded. However, the application fee is not refundable. The candidate may request to have both fees applied towards the Qualifying Examination the following year. If there is a change in the fee, the candidate will be responsible for the difference.

Qualifying Examination: Deadlines

January 2, 2023	Applications available online
February 16, 2023	Last day to apply without late fee penalty
March 3, 2023	Final deadline
January 2023 to March 2023	Candidates will be notified of approval to take the examination and to make a Pearson VUE Testing Center reservation
April 26, 2023	Last day to reserve a seat at Pearson VUE prior to seat block release
July 24, 2023	Qualifying Examination at testing centers

Qualifying Examination: Fees

January 2, 2023, to February 16, 2023	\$2045
February 17, 2023, to March 3, 2023	\$2045 + \$320 late fee = \$2365

2023 Qualifying Examination Requirements

Each of the following is a requirement for a candidate in MFM to sit for the subspecialty Qualifying Examination. The candidate must meet all of the requirements in effect during the year for which admission to the Qualifying Examination is requested.

1. **Specialty Qualifying Examination** A candidate may not apply for the MFM Qualifying Examination unless they have previously passed the Specialty Qualifying Examination for Certification in Obstetrics and Gynecology.
2. **Length of Training** The candidate must have been registered with ABOG and have completed a minimum of 32 of 36 months of training and will have completed training in an ACGME-accredited fellowship program in MFM no later than September 30 of the same year the Qualifying Examination is taken. Additionally, the candidate must have completed and presented their thesis to their Program Director and division before the completion of their fellowship. If a candidate's situation changes, and they do not successfully complete their fellowship and their thesis presentation by September 30, they will not be eligible to take the Qualifying Examination in that year. Any candidate who takes the Qualifying Exam without successfully completing fellowship and completing and presenting their thesis by September 30 of the year of the examination will have their results voided, and they will not receive a refund.
3. **Allocation of Time** In order to take the Qualifying Examination, the candidate must have had the following experiences during fellowship:

- A. 18 months of MFM Core Clinical Experience, including at least:
 - i. 3 months of ultrasonography
 - ii. 2 months of outpatient Maternal-Fetal Medicine
 - iii. 2 months of Genetics and Genomics
 - a. Ultrasonography, Genetics and Genomics, and outpatient requirements can be fulfilled by block time (e.g., one-month blocks) or by the cumulative experience of shorter experiences (e.g., half- or full-day clinics over time)
 - iv. 2 months in a supervisory position on a Labor and Delivery unit
 - a. Minimum block is 2 weeks
 - b. Night and weekend call performed throughout the fellowship does not apply towards this time requirement
 - v. 1 month in a medical or surgical intensive care unit
 - a. Must participate in patient care
 - b. No MFM or OB GYN duties, including night and weekend call
 - B. 12 months of protected research in one-month blocks
 - i. Conducted research leading to a thesis that meets ABOG certification requirements ([Appendix D](#))
 - ii. Completed written thesis and presented work before MFM Division and Program Director by completion of fellowship
 - iii. Research time must be scheduled in blocks of not less than one-month duration, and while in a research block, no more than 10% (4 hours) of the fellow's time in any week may be spent in clinical duties
 - C. 6 months of electives
 - i. Focused on specific clinical and/or research areas
 - ii. Selected at the discretion of the Program Director and fellow
 - D. Fellows may participate in non-subspecialty clinical activity or practice up to 10% of a workweek (Monday-Friday) or ½ day (4 hours) per workweek averaged over a 4-week period during all rotations
 - i. These allowances do not apply to moonlighting, weekends, or call.
 - ii. Fellows may not be assigned to weeks, months, or blocks of clinical assignments or rotations to meet this allowance.
 - iii. Fellows may not be assigned to night float rotations to meet this allowance.
 - iv. Fellows may not aggregate this allowance to complete training early or make up extensions in training for any reason.
4. **Curriculum** The candidate must gain expertise in the comprehensive care of maternal and fetal disorders to include high-risk pregnancy, fetal evaluation and intervention, genetics, ultrasound and prenatal diagnosis, pathology, and obstetrical anesthesia. Specifically, the candidate must be trained in the following areas:

Maternal-Fetal-Neonatal Physiology
 Genetics/Genomics/Tetralogy
 Obstetrical Critical Care
 Infection Diseases

5. **Leaves of Absence** Leaves of absence and vacation may be granted at the discretion of the Program Director consistent with local institutional policy and applicable laws. The number of days that equals a “week” is a local issue that is determined by the institution and Program Director, not ABOG. Vacation weeks may be taken as part of approved leave or in addition to approved leave.

Yearly leave: The total of vacation and leaves for any reason—including, but not limited to, vacation, medical, maternity or paternal, caregiver, or personal leave—may not exceed 12 weeks in any of the years of fellowship. If the maximum weeks of leave per academic year are exceeded, the fellowship must be extended for the duration of time the individual was absent in excess of 12 weeks in any fellowship year.

Total leave: In addition to the yearly leave limits, a fellow must not take a total of more than 20 weeks (five months) of leave over the three years of fellowship.

If this limit is exceeded, the fellowship must be extended for at least the duration of time that the individual was absent in excess of 20 weeks. Such extensions of training must have an educational plan outlined for the continued training with specific educational and clinical experience goals and objectives to be achieved. This educational plan must include a description of what training was missed, how the missed training is being attained, and a block diagram that covers the entire length of training. This plan must be submitted to ABOG for approval at fellowship@abog.org.

Unaccrued personal time may not be used to reduce the actual time spent in a fellowship, nor to “make up” for time lost due to medical or other leave. Time missed for educational conferences does not count toward the leave thresholds.

Regardless of the amount of leave taken, fellows must complete the 18 months of MFM clinical experience and 12 months of research as outlined in section 3 above. For more information on leave, please review the [ABOG Fellowship Leave Policy](#)

Examples:

A fellow takes six weeks of leave in F1 and F2 and eight weeks in F3. This is a total of 20 weeks. There is no required extension of the fellowship.

A fellow takes 12 weeks of leave in F1, 4 weeks in F2, 12 weeks in F3. This is a total of 28 weeks. The fellowship must be extended by at least eight weeks, with an educational plan submitted and approved by ABOG.

6. **Moral and Ethical Behavior** The candidate must have demonstrated good moral and ethical behavior in the practice of medicine and in interactions with peers, other medical personnel, and patients. A felony conviction, even if unrelated to the practice of medicine, will be considered evidence of failure to meet this standard.
7. **Falsification of Information** Falsification of any information or failure to disclose any adverse action will result in a deferral of a candidate’s eligibility to sit for the Qualifying Examination for a period of at least 3 years. If the candidate is allowed to sit for the

examination at the end of the deferral period, the candidate must meet all requirements in effect at that time.

8. **Completion and Presentation of Thesis** The candidate must have completed and presented their thesis to their Program Director and division by the final date of their fellowship. If their fellowship is extended, the candidate will have until the extended final date of their fellowship to complete and present their thesis. A candidate's fellowship that is extended beyond September 30 of the year of the Qualifying Examination is not eligible to take the Qualifying Examination in that year.

Blueprint for the Qualifying Examination

The content of the Qualifying Examination will be based on the blueprint for Maternal-Fetal Medicine. The major categories and subcategories are shown below, including the percentages of the categories. For a full list of topic areas, see [Appendix E](#). The questions will be in a multiple-choice, one-best answer format.

Medical Complications of Pregnancy (30%)

Medical Disorders

Critical Care

Obstetric Complications (30%)

Preterm Labor and Preterm Premature Rupture of Membranes (PPROM)

Hypertensive Disorders

Multiple Gestation

Fetal Demise

Procedures Relating to Obstetrical Complications

Obstetric Anesthesia

Management of Obstetrical Complications

Fetal Complications and Prenatal Diagnosis (25%)

Ultrasound

Evaluation, Management, and Diagnosis of Fetal Complications

Genetics and Genomics (10%)

Core Competencies and Cross Content (5%)

Ethics and Professionalism

Patient Safety

Interpersonal and Communication Skills

Systems-based Practice

Practice-based Learning and Improvement

Evidence-based Medicine

Administration of the Qualifying Examination

The Qualifying Examination is scheduled to last approximately 3 hours and 45 minutes. Candidates who finish before the full time has elapsed may leave early, but if they do so, they may not return. Candidates will receive information after registering on the [Pearson VUE Testing Center](#) website concerning the location of their examination, as well as the time they must arrive.

Each candidate must present 2 forms of identification to be admitted to the examination. One document must include both a photograph of the candidate and the candidate's signature. The second document must include the candidate's signature. If a candidate has had a name change between application and the day of the exam, they must bring a copy of an official document that verifies the name change. Examples could include but are not limited to a marriage certificate, divorce decree, or a court-ordered name change.

Candidates may not take any electronic devices into the examination area and must also submit to a screening process that may include any or all of the following: fingerprinting, palm vein scanning, wand or walkthrough scanning for metallic objects, or any other screening that may be in place at the Pearson VUE center. A candidate who refuses to submit to any screening procedure will not be allowed to sit for the examination, and no portion of the fee will be refunded.

Candidates are not allowed to access recording devices, cellular phones, paging devices, smartwatches, other electronic communication and/or recording devices, or writing instruments during the Qualifying Examination. If such a device is discovered on the candidate's person at any time during the examination, or if the candidate accesses any such device for any reason, the candidate will not receive a grade for any portion of the examination, and all fees will be forfeit. The only exceptions are medically required devices, such as an insulin pump.

There is no scheduled break during the examination. Candidates may take unscheduled breaks to use the restroom facilities. Unscheduled breaks should not exceed 10 minutes in length. During such breaks, a candidate may not talk with any other individual or access any electronic device. Candidates are not allowed to leave the testing center for any reason before completing the test. If a candidate violates any of these regulations, the candidate will not receive a grade for any portion of the examination, and all fees will be forfeit.

Candidates with documented disabilities should review [Appendix B](#) and must call the ABOG office before making a reservation at Pearson VUE for information on how to schedule a test site.

Candidates who are lactating may request a 30-minute break and extension of their examination if they notify the ABOG office no later than March 3, 2023, and schedule at a Pearson VUE Testing Center by the same date. Pearson VUE Centers have limited lactation facilities which are scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis. **If a candidate requests extra time for lactation, they will have to schedule their testing site through the Pearson VUE accommodations department after contacting ABOG. If no seat is available at the closest center, and they have requested extra time, they will have to travel to an available location to sit for the examination.** (See [Appendix C](#) for more information on lactation accommodations.)

Test Security

At the time of application for the Qualifying Examination, each candidate will be required to agree to the following. No candidate will be allowed to sit for the Qualifying Examination unless they agree to these terms:

1. I understand that all ABOG test materials are copyrighted and that it is illegal to disclose the content of the examination in whole or in part to any individual, organization, or business. Furthermore, I understand that if I provide the information to any such entity, I may be prosecuted under the US Copyright laws.
2. I understand that if I divulge the content of the Qualifying Examination in whole or in part to any individual, organization, or business, my test result, if any, will be negated, and I will not be allowed to reapply for the Qualifying Examination for a minimum of three (3) years.
3. I understand that I may not record any portion of the Qualifying Examination by any means in whole or in part, and a violation will be treated as outlined in numbers 1 and 2 above.
4. I understand that I may not memorize or attempt to memorize any portion of the Qualifying Examination for the purpose of transmitting such material to any individual, organization, or business.
5. I agree that de-identified results of my examination may be used for research purposes by ABOG.
6. I agree that the results of my examination will be given to my Fellowship Program Director.

Additional information about test integrity and security can be found on the [ABOG website](#).

Reapplication

A candidate who postpones or fails the Qualifying Examination must complete a new online application to be considered for the next scheduled Qualifying Examination. Each new application must be accompanied by a new application fee.

Applicants Ruled Not Admissible

If a decision is made by ABOG that a candidate has not met the requirements for admission to the Qualifying Examination, the candidate may appeal the decision by writing to the ABOG Associate Executive Director of Examinations. Such appeals will be forwarded to the appropriate ABOG Committee for reconsideration. If the appeal is successful, no late fees will apply. If the successful decision occurs after the date of the Qualifying Examination, the candidate will be scheduled for the next available Qualifying Examination in the subspecialty, and no additional application fee will apply. However, the examination portion of the fee (\$870) must be paid before the deadline.

If the candidate's appeal is not successful or the candidate does not appeal the inadmissibility decision, the candidate may reapply by submitting a new application, paying the appropriate fee, and meeting the requirements applicable at the time of the reapplication. Documentation that the cause for the initial disapproval has been cleared must be submitted with the application.

Results of the Examination

The results of the Qualifying Examination will be reported online to each candidate by October 27, 2023. In order to release a result, ABOG must receive the Fellowship Training Affidavit verifying completion of training completed by the current Program Director. Additionally, if ABOG does not receive notification of fellowship completion from the Program Director by January 1, 2024, the results of the examination will be voided.

ABOG will provide the candidate their scaled test score in addition to the result of “pass” or “fail.” Each candidate, regardless of whether they pass or fail, will be provided with the percent scored in each of the major topic areas. The cut-point for passing the Qualifying Examination is determined each year after the psychometric evaluation of the results.

As part of the application process, the applicant will be required to irrevocably agree that the results of the applicant’s examination may be made available to the Program Director(s) of any fellowship program(s) in which the applicant may have participated or in which the applicant is currently involved, and/or the American Council of Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) for any and all purposes. The candidate will also be given the opportunity to release their scaled score on the examination to their current Program Director. Furthermore, the applicant will be required to release and agree to indemnify and hold ABOG and its officers, directors, and employees harmless of and from any and all claims the applicant may have with regard to the effect or impact upon the applicant of the release of the applicant’s examination results to the applicant’s Program Director or the ACGME and waive any rights the applicant may have, if any, to have the examination results maintained in confidence.

Since ABOG utilizes many quality control procedures to ensure exams are scored accurately and there is no record of incorrect scoring at ABOG with the Qualifying Examinations, ABOG does not accept rescore requests. This includes, but is not limited to, rescoring of the exam, review of exam content, reconsideration of a correct response, reconsideration of the passing standard, and/or consideration of the acceptability of testing conditions.

A passing grade on the Qualifying Examination does not ensure a candidate’s admissibility to the Certifying Examination.

CERTIFYING (ORAL) EXAMINATION

2023 Certifying Examination Application Process

1. The applicant must supply an email address as part of the application process. It is the candidate's responsibility to notify ABOG of any change in this address as the approval (or not) to sit for the examination will be sent to the applicant at the email address provided.
2. During the application process, a completed Verification of Hospital Privileges Form will be required. This form must be printed from the candidate's ABOG portal and must be signed and uploaded using the task on the candidate's ABOG portal dashboard.
3. If the candidate's application is approved, an email will be sent with instructions for submitting the case lists and thesis. The examination fee must be paid at this time. The case lists will not be accepted unless the examination fee is paid in full by credit card on the candidate's ABOG portal by the deadline.
4. If full payment of the examination fee has not been received by September 30, 2022, for the 2023 examination, the candidate will not be scheduled, and no fees will be refunded.
5. Once all materials have been received by ABOG and the appropriate fees paid, the candidate will receive an Examination Date Notification posted on the candidate's ABOG portal at least one month prior to the date of the examination. This will indicate the date of the candidate's examination, the time and place to report, and hotel information.
6. Each year ABOG notifies the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM), the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS), the American Medical Association (AMA), and the American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology of the names and addresses of the Diplomates who have been certified in the course of that year. ABOG also provides de-identified data to fellowship programs and to the ACGME about fellowship program pass rates to be used as a criterion to evaluate the effectiveness of program training. ABOG, SMFM, ACOG, AMA, and ABMS, on request, also make this information available to the public, including, but not limited to, hospitals, agencies of government, insurers, and laypersons. ABOG may use the results of certification examinations for research purposes and may publish the results of the research.
7. As a condition for acceptance as a candidate for certification as a Diplomate in the MFM subspecialty, each candidate, at the time of the Certifying Examination, is required to sign an irrevocable waiver authorizing the dissemination of the candidate's certification status without limitation or condition.

2023 Certifying Examination Deadlines and Fees

The following table lists the deadlines and fees for the Certifying Examination. Deadlines cannot be extended. Case lists, thesis, and all fees must be submitted on the candidate's ABOG portal prior to midnight Central time on their due date. The system will prevent submission once the deadline has passed. If you fail to submit by the deadline, please email the Exam Department at Exams@abog.org. The application fee must be paid by credit card through the candidate's ABOG portal at the time of application. The examination fee must be paid by credit card through the candidate's ABOG portal at the time of notification of acceptance to the examination.

Certifying Examination: Deadlines

May 23, 2022	Applications available online
July 22, 2022	No applications accepted after this date
September 2022	Candidates will be notified to submit case lists, thesis, and a photograph and to pay the examination fee
September 30, 2022	Last day for receipt of thesis, photograph, and examination fee
February 1, 2023	Last day for receipt of case lists
April 17-20, 2023	Certifying Exam

Certifying Examination: Application Fees

May 23, 2022, to July 7, 2022	\$1180
July 8, 2022, to July 22, 2022	\$1180 + \$310 late fee = \$1490

Certifying Examination: Examination Fees

September 30, 2022	\$1310
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Application Deadline and Fee

The final deadline to complete the online application and pay the application fee is July 7, 2022. Application fees are not refundable.

Examination Deadline and Fee

If the candidate's application is accepted, a notice of acceptance will be emailed to the candidate in September 2022. The email will explain the process of submitting the thesis and case lists. The examination fee must be paid on or before September 30, 2022. If the candidate must withdraw from the examination due to a medical or other documented emergency, a portion of the examination fee may be refunded. The candidate may request to have all fees applied towards the Certifying Examination the following year. If there is a change in the fee, the candidate will be responsible for the difference.

Thesis Deadline

The final deadline for uploading a PDF copy of the thesis in the candidate's ABOG portal is September 30, 2022. The file must be saved as a PDF with the following naming convention: ABOG ID #-last name-MFM-thesis.

The 2023 Thesis Affidavit Form must be saved as a PDF with the following naming convention: ABOG ID #-last name-MFM-TA.

Both items must be uploaded in the candidate's ABOG portal under the assigned certification tasks. Candidates must submit a thesis that adheres to the requirements listed in [Appendix D](#).

Candidates who have previously submitted a thesis and were unsuccessful in passing the examination must upload a PDF copy of the thesis using the naming convention above. Candidates may submit a previously submitted thesis or another work that was completed during fellowship. However, thesis requirements change frequently. The thesis must fulfill the requirements for the year of the exam. Prior acceptance of a thesis does not assure re-acceptance. The thesis affidavit for a previously submitted thesis does not need to be resubmitted.

Case List Deadline

The final deadline for receipt of the case lists is February 1, 2023. Case lists must be submitted electronically using the ABOG case list program located on the candidate's ABOG portal. The completed Case List Affidavit must first be uploaded in the case list program in order to submit the case list. Candidates must submit the case lists in the proper format and include the appropriate number of cases.

2023 Certifying Examination Requirements

Each candidate must meet the following requirements:

1. **Must be a Diplomate** of ABOG and hold an Active Certificate in Obstetrics and Gynecology.
2. **Must have passed** the Maternal-Fetal Medicine Qualifying Examination on their most recent attempt. The one exception to this rule is that candidates who will lose their certification eligibility in 2023 may apply for the Certifying Examination prior to the release of the Qualifying Examination results.
3. **Hold an unrestricted license to practice medicine** in all states or territories of the United States or Canada in which the candidate holds a medical license. Licenses that have been revoked, suspended, or are on probation, or are subject to conditions of any type, are considered to be restricted.
4. **Have privileges at one or more acute care hospitals.** While full, unrestricted privileges to perform all MFM procedures are preferred, at a minimum, these privileges must allow the candidate to perform an in-hospital consultation on patients who have been admitted. The latest date a candidate can have privileges in effect is June 18, 2022. If a candidate holds hospital privileges in more than one hospital, they can give up privileges voluntarily as long as they still hold unrestricted hospital privileges in another hospital. Privileges that are resigned or dropped in lieu of an investigation or adverse action are not considered to be given up voluntarily and must be reported. The candidate's privileges must remain in effect at the time of the Certifying Examination and may not be suspended or revoked, and the candidate must not be under investigation for patient care issues.
5. **Be of good moral and ethical character** and have shown appropriate professionalism in all interactions with patients, peers, and other medical personnel. A felony conviction, even if unrelated to the practice of medicine, will be considered evidence of failure to meet this standard.
6. **Have not resigned hospital privileges or membership in any medical organization** (e.g., ACOG) while under investigation. If the candidate is under investigation or on probation, the

application will not be approved. The candidate must reapply and pay a new application fee once the probation and/or restrictions have been resolved. However, resolution of these matters does not guarantee that the candidate's application will be approved.

7. [Have had an independent practice as a subspecialist](#) in MFM and have privileges in a center or centers providing or having ready access to the essential diagnostic and therapeutic facilities for the practice of MFM, and to retain such practice until the date of the candidate's examination. Practice may include locum tenens work.
8. [Submit electronic case lists](#) that document a practice that demonstrates sufficient depth and breadth of practice in the subspecialty of MFM to permit the evaluation of the candidate's ability to function in the subspecialty. The case lists must be appropriately de-identified. (See [Appendix F.](#))
9. [Submit a thesis](#) that meets the standards of the Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine. Each submitted thesis will be reviewed for acceptability. Prior publication in a peer-reviewed journal does not guarantee acceptance. (See [Appendix D](#) for information about thesis content.)
10. [Have not failed to disclose any adverse action.](#) If a non-disclosed falsification or adverse action is identified by ABOG, it will result in a deferral of a candidate's eligibility to sit for the Certifying Examination for a period of at least 3 years. If the candidate is allowed to sit for the examination at the end of the deferral period, the candidate must meet all requirements in effect at that time.
11. [A candidate who practices outside of the United States, its territories, or Canada](#) must submit, with the application, a letter(s) from a senior responsible officer in the hospital(s) where the candidate practices, verifying the candidate's responsibility for independent, unsupervised care of patients.

Blueprint for the Certifying Examination

The content of the Certifying Examination will be based on the blueprint for Maternal-Fetal Medicine. The major categories and subcategories are shown below, including the percentages of the categories. For a full list of topic areas, see [Appendix E.](#)

Medical Complications of Pregnancy (30%)

Medical Disorders

Critical Care

Obstetric Complications (30%)

Preterm Labor and Preterm Premature Rupture of Membranes (PPROM)

Hypertensive Disorders

Multiple Gestation

Fetal Demise

Procedures Relating to Obstetrical Complications

Obstetric Anesthesia

Management of Obstetrical Complications

Fetal Complications and Prenatal Diagnosis (20%)

Ultrasound

Evaluation, Management, and Diagnosis of Fetal Complications

Genetics and Genomics (10%)

Core Competencies and Cross Content (10%)

Ethics and Professionalism

Patient Safety

Interpersonal and Communication Skills

Systems-based Practice

Practice-based Learning and Improvement

Evidence-based Medicine

In the Certifying Examination, evaluation of the candidate will include questions related to principles of biostatistics, clinical trial and/or basic science study design, and hypothetical cases. It will also include a review of the submitted case lists, a discussion of structured cases, and surgical techniques. It may include interpretation of operative, radiologic, and computer-generated images and videos, and simulations (radiologic studies, intraoperative photographs, etc.) The candidate should demonstrate the capability of managing complex problems relating to Maternal-Fetal Medicine. The candidate should have the scientific methodologic training to advance knowledge in this subspecialty and to be able to interpret and evaluate new concepts and their supporting data.

Administration of the Certifying Examination

The candidates for the examination will be informed of the time and place of the registration process when they receive information concerning their assigned examination date. Candidates who are late for registration may not be allowed to sit for the examination. Following registration, the candidates will be taken to the ABOG testing center, where orientation will be provided. After the orientation, the candidates will be escorted to the testing room. Each candidate will be assigned an examination room and will remain in that room for the three hours of the examination. The candidate will be informed of the names of the six examiners who will conduct their examination. If the candidate believes that one or more examiners would be unable to provide them with an unbiased exam, this will be discussed with an ABOG executive physician. If the decision is made that a conflict exists, an alternate examiner will be provided.

The Certifying Examination is three hours in length equally divided into the following areas:

- Structured Cases and Medical Complications of Pregnancy Case List
- Structured Cases and Genetics/Fetal Disorders/Fetal Anomalies Case List
- Structured Cases and Obstetrical and Surgical Complications Case List

Communication, ethics, and patient safety questions may be included in each of the three major areas. Each hour will be divided into two sections of approximately 30 minutes in length. The structured cases are used to elicit the candidate's responses to specific clinical situations. A list of the topics that may be covered in the examination can be found in [Appendix E](#).

Candidates may not take any electronic devices into the examination. This includes, but is not limited to, cellular phones and all devices that can record, including smartwatches and similar devices. If a candidate is found to have an electronic device in an examination room, the test will be halted immediately, and the candidate will receive no grade for the examination. In addition, all fees will be forfeit.

All theses and completed Thesis Affidavit Forms must be in PDF format and uploaded on the candidate's ABOG portal (see [Thesis Deadline section](#) for submission instructions).

Candidates with documented disabilities should review [Appendix B](#), and notification of the need for special testing circumstances must be submitted in writing to ABOG by a candidate at the time of the application. This deadline is necessary in order to allow the Board to request the required documentation, to review the records, and verify the disability, if necessary.

Candidates who will be lactating at the time of the examination should notify ABOG as soon as possible. They will be scheduled to use one of the lactation rooms on a first-come, first-served basis. If all the lactation rooms are full, the candidate will be given an alternative location at the ABOG Testing Center. See [Appendix C](#) for additional information on lactation.

All examinations will be conducted in English and will be administered by two examiners per section. Each examiner will grade the candidate on all the topics covered within each section. The final grade will be determined analytically following the examination and will be released no later than six weeks following the examination.

At the end of the examination, the candidates will be returned to the registration area.

Test Security

A week before the Certifying Examination, a task will be added to each candidate's portal to sign the following Terms of Agreement. If a candidate refuses to sign the agreement, they will not be allowed to take the Certifying Examination.

1. I agree and understand that all of the test materials used in ABOG examinations are copyrighted intellectual property of ABOG and will, at all times, remain confidential.
2. I agree and understand that I may not provide any information before, during, or after the examination concerning the content of the examination including, but not limited to, test items and cases, to anyone, for any reason, including, but not limited to, (i) anyone who is scheduled to take the examination or may be eligible to take the examination, (ii) any formal or informal test preparation group, service, or company, or (iii) any person representing a company or other entity that provides courses, practice tests, or other study material for the examination.
3. I agree and understand that I may not reproduce, transmit, publish, disclose, and/or distribute any examination materials by any means, including memorization, recording, internet, or other methods that would allow any other individual, company, or organization to recreate, in whole or in part, any test questions or material.
4. I agree and understand that during any ABOG examination, I will not have in my possession any notes, papers, study materials, formulas, pens, pencils, cellular telephones, smartwatches, photographic equipment, recording devices, or other similar contraband. I will not have any type of electronic device that could provide information that could be used to answer questions on the examination. I further agree that if I am discovered to have any such

device in my possession during the examination, the test will be halted immediately, and I will not receive a grade for the examination.

5. I agree and understand that if anyone observes any action of mine that may be interpreted as violating or potentially violating test administration rules, the test will be halted immediately, and I will receive no grade for the examination.
6. I agree and understand that if I violate any part of this agreement, (i) my test results will be canceled, (ii) I may be subject to further sanctions and/or legal action, and (iii) I will not be allowed to reapply for the examination for a minimum of three years.
7. I agree and understand that if ABOG discovers I have violated any terms or conditions of this agreement after I have been awarded Diplomate status, such status will be revoked.
8. I agree and understand that, if requested by ABOG, I will fully participate in the investigation of any suspected violation of the terms and conditions of this agreement by any candidate.
9. I attest that since the date of my application and to the day of my examination, I have had no (i) limitation or suspension of hospital privileges, (ii) substance abuse offenses, or (iii) suspension, revocation, or restriction placed on my license to practice medicine in any state or country.
10. I agree and understand ABOG is authorized to make my name and business address available on request to the public, including, but not limited to, hospitals, insurers, agencies of government, specialty societies, laypersons, my Program Director(s), and/or the Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education (ACGME).
11. I agree and understand that de-identified results of my examination may be used for research purposes by ABOG or other parties requesting the same.
12. I agree and understand that my results may be released to my Program Director(s) by name.
13. I agree and understand that if I am certified as a Diplomate, ABOG is authorized to provide my professional personal identifiable information to other entities for a proper purpose. Some of these professional medical organizations include Obstetrics & Gynecology, The American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology, the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS), American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), American Medical Association (AMA), American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM), American Urogynecologic Society (AUGS), Society for Gynecologic Oncology (SGO), Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM), and the Society for Family Planning (SFP).
14. I agree and understand that I may not appeal the results of the examination based on the format of the examination, the sufficiency or accuracy of the answers to examination questions, the scoring of the examination, or the cut score used to determine the passing grade for the examination.
15. I agree to indemnify, defend, and hold ABOG harmless against any losses, liabilities, damages, claims, and expenses (including attorneys' fees and court costs) arising out of any claims or suits, whatever their nature and however arising, in whole or in part, which may be brought or made against ABOG in connection with: (i) any claims which are caused, directly or indirectly by any negligent act, omission, illegal or willful misconduct by me; (ii) my misuse of certification; or (iii) my use or misuse of ABOG's proprietary and/or confidential information.

16. Under no circumstances will ABOG be liable for any consequential, special, incidental, exemplary, or indirect damages arising from or relating to this agreement, even if ABOG has been advised of the possibility of such damages.
17. The failure to enforce or the waiver by ABOG of a default or breach of this agreement shall not be considered a waiver of any subsequent default or breach.
18. This agreement is governed by the laws of the State of Texas. The exclusive jurisdiction of any suit arising out of, relating to, or in any way connected with this agreement shall be in the state or federal courts, as applicable, located in Dallas, Texas.
19. Provisions that survive termination or expiration of this agreement include those pertaining to limitation of liability, indemnification, nondisclosure, and others that by their nature are intended to survive.

Applicants Ruled Not Admissible

If a decision is made by ABOG that a candidate has not met the requirements for admission to the Certifying Examination, the candidate may appeal the decision by writing to the ABOG Associate Executive Director of Examinations. Such appeals will be forwarded to the appropriate ABOG Committee for reconsideration. If the appeal is successful, no late fees will apply. If the successful decision occurs after the date of the Certifying Examination, the candidate will be scheduled for the next available Certifying Examination in the subspecialty, and no additional application fee will apply. However, the examination fee must be paid before the deadline.

If the candidate's appeal is not successful, or the candidate does not appeal the inadmissibility decision, the candidate may reapply by submitting a new application, paying the application fee, and meeting the requirements applicable at the time of the reapplication. Documentation that the cause for the initial disapproval has been cleared must be submitted with the application.

Reapplication

A candidate who fails the Certifying Examination must complete a new online application and pay a new application fee. Following notification of approval to retake the Certifying Examination, the candidate must submit a new case list, submit their thesis, and pay the examination fee on or before the established deadlines. Candidates may submit a previously submitted thesis or another work that was completed during fellowship.

Case Lists

Case List Entry

All information for the case lists for the 2023 MFM Certifying Examination must be entered online. To enter a case, a candidate must access their ABOG portal and click on Case List Entry. The Case List Entry system will become available to candidates by February 1. The entry process is simple, and common abbreviations are acceptable (see [Appendix G](#)). If a problem is encountered, there is a frequently asked questions (FAQ) button where most questions will be answered. However, if the problem is not resolved, the candidate should call the ABOG Exam Department or email Exams@abog.org.

The case list information can be entered through any device with an internet connection, including smartphones, laptops, tablets, and desktop computers.

Candidates will be asked to enter patient-identifying information in the Case List Entry System (i.e., Hospital, Patient Initial, and Patient ID fields). This patient identification will only be used on the patient lists for verification by hospital medical records staff. The electronic copy of the case list that is submitted to ABOG will be electronically de-identified and will not contain the patient-identifying information. The case description fields in the Case List Entry System should not contain any patient identifying information.

Case List Submission

The candidate must submit their case list to ABOG electronically. The candidate must enter their cases and upload their case list affidavit(s) using the Case List Entry system located on their ABOG portal. List patients that meet the category requirements as listed in the following [Case Lists Content](#) section that were cared for primarily by the candidate between January 1 and December 31, 2022.

Any case list that fails to provide the required information, includes an insufficient number of patients, is inadequately or incompletely prepared, is not appropriately de-identified, or fails to provide sufficient breadth and depth of clinical problems may disqualify the candidate from admission to the Certifying Examination. The candidate is personally responsible for the proper preparation, de-identified accuracy, and completeness of their case list.

The completeness and accuracy of all submitted case lists are subject to audit by ABOG. All audits will be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the HIPAA Privacy Rule. Permission to conduct on-site audits will be required of each candidate prior to final approval to take the Certifying Examination.

Falsification of information in the case list may result in ineligibility to apply for the Certifying Examination for a minimum of three years. The candidate must then meet all requirements in effect at the end of the deferred period. If the falsification is discovered after the candidate has successfully completed the Certifying Examination, the results of the test will be voided, and the candidate's certification will be revoked.

Case List Preparation

The candidate must:

1. Submit the case lists electronically by the published deadline.
2. Use the online Case List Entry that can be found on their ABOG portal. The use of any other form or format is not allowed. A paper case list is not acceptable.
3. Collect cases between January 1 and December 31, 2022. If enough cases cannot be collected in a one-year period of time, the collection of cases can be extended to 18 months or 2 years. However, it may not include cases collected during fellowship.
4. Not include any case previously used on a prior case list for a Specialty or Subspecialty Certifying Examination.
5. Have the case lists certified by the appropriate personnel of the institution(s) in which the care was given.
6. De-identify the case lists in accordance with the requirements of Section 164.514(a)(b) and (b)(2)(i)&(ii) of the Final Privacy Rule. (See [Appendix F.](#))
7. Use standard English language nomenclature. The list of acceptable abbreviations can be found in [Appendix G.](#)

8. **List the patient only once.** If the patient is admitted more than once, provide information regarding the additional admissions in the appropriate boxes. (If a patient has several admissions or is seen in the outpatient setting and subsequently becomes a surgical patient, that patient may only be listed once.)

For physicians who are in a group practice where responsibility for patients is shared, the decision of whether to list a particular patient should be based on which physician had primary responsibility for the inpatient care. However, when asked to perform a consult on an inpatient on another physician's service, that patient may be listed.

The case lists must include sufficient numbers as well as sufficient breadth and depth of clinical difficulty to demonstrate that the candidate is practicing the full spectrum of MFM.

All submitted case lists are subject to audit by ABOG to ensure completeness and accuracy.

Case List Content

Medical Complications of Pregnancy

A list of 30 patients (no more or fewer) from the candidate's practice with medical complications of pregnancy must be submitted online. Individual patients who presented with any of the following problems should be listed. The required number of patients in each category is listed below. Do not list more than the required number of cases, and a patient may be listed only once.

Cardiac, cardiovascular (chronic hypertension) and pulmonary (asthma, pneumonia)	5 cases
Endocrine, including pregestational diabetes mellitus and thyroid disorders	5 cases
Gastrointestinal, including inflammatory bowel disease and gastric bypass surgery	2 cases
Hematologic and oncologic, including hypercoagulable disorders and thrombophilias, hemoglobinopathies, and thrombophlebitis	5 cases
Immunological, including autoimmune disorders (collagen vascular disease) and transplants	3 cases
Infectious disease (HIV, pyelonephritis, hepatitis)	5 cases
Neurological and psychiatric, including drug or alcohol abuse	2 cases
Renal disease	3 cases

Obstetrical and Surgical Complications

A list of 30 patients (no more or fewer) from the candidate's practice with obstetrical and surgical complications must be submitted online. Individual patients who presented with any of the following problems should be listed. The required number of patients in each category is listed below. Do not list more than the required number of cases, and a patient may be listed only once.

Multiple gestations and complications, including twin-twin transfusion syndrome	5 cases
Placental abnormalities, including previa, abruption, and accreta	3 cases
Hypertension, preeclampsia, and eclampsia	5 cases
Preterm labor and preterm cervical dilation or shortening	5 cases
Preterm premature rupture of membranes (PPROM)	5 cases
Recurrent pregnancy loss, cervical insufficiency, uterine anomalies, fetal demise	2 cases
Surgical (non-obstetric surgery, burns, trauma)	2 cases
Antepartum and peripartum intensive care, including mechanical ventilation or invasive hemodynamic monitoring, massive hemorrhage, pulmonary edema, acute renal failure, septic shock, anesthesia complications, ARDS	3 cases

Genetics/Fetal Disorders/Fetal Anomalies

A list of 30 patients (no more or fewer) from the candidate's practice with genetics/fetal disorders/fetal anomalies must be submitted online. Individual patients who presented with any of the following problems should be listed. The required number of patients in each category is listed below. Do not list more than the required number of cases, and each patient may be listed only once.

Alloimmunization (Rh, thrombocytopenia), immune and non-immune hydrops	3 cases
Fetal anatomic malformations	8 cases
Fetal chromosomal and genetic abnormalities	8 cases
Fetal growth restriction	8 cases
Fetal infections (CMV, parvovirus, toxoplasmosis)	3 cases

Certifying Examination Appeals

At the completion of the Certifying Examination, if a candidate believes the examination has not been conducted in a fair and unbiased manner, a second examination may be requested. The request must be made within 24 hours of the completion of the examination. To do so, a candidate must telephone the Board office (214-871-1619).

If the request is granted:

1. No final grade will be assigned, and all grades will be discarded;
2. A second examination will be provided approximately one year later at the next regularly scheduled annual MFM Certifying Examinations at no additional charge;
3. The candidate must prepare new case lists in accordance with the requirements listed in the *Bulletin* for the year in which the appeal test occurs;
4. The repeat examination will be conducted by a different team of examiners, who will not be informed that this examination is being conducted as a result of an appeal;
5. Neither the questions nor the candidate's answers on the first examination will be known to or taken into account by the second group of examiners; and,
6. The decision of the examiners conducting the second examination will be used by the Board to record the final results of the candidate's Certifying Examination.

Appeals based on the composition of the Certifying Examination team will not be considered if the candidate was informed before the start of the examination of the identity of each member of the team and did not object to the participation of any member in time for an acceptable substitute to be provided.

Appeals based on the content of the examination, the sufficiency or accuracy of the answers given, or the final grade will not be considered.

Results of the Examination

The results of the Certifying Examination will be reported online to each candidate no later than six weeks following their examination week.

As part of the application process, the applicant will be required to irrevocably agree that the results of the applicant's examination may be made available to the Program Director(s) of any fellowship program(s) in which the applicant may have participated or in which the applicant is currently involved, and/or the American Council of Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) for any and all purposes. Furthermore, the applicant will be required to release and agree to indemnify and hold ABOG and its officers, directors, and employees harmless of and from any and all claims the applicant may have with regard to the effect or impact upon the applicant of the release of the applicant's examination results to the applicant's Program Director(s) or the ACGME and waive any rights the applicant may have, if any, to have the examination results maintained in confidence.

LENGTH OF CERTIFICATION

All certificates issued by ABOG after 2008 are time-limited. The certification of a Diplomate who successfully passes the Maternal-Fetal Medicine Certifying Examination in April 2023 will expire on December 31, 2024, unless all of the 2024 MOC assignments have been successfully completed. Applications for the 2024 MOC process will be available online beginning in January 2024.

APPENDIX A: ABOG DIVISION OF MATERNAL-FETAL MEDICINE

Mary Norton, MD, Division Chair	University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine
Joseph R. Biggio, Jr., MD, MS	Ochsner Clinical School, University of Queensland and University of Alabama at Birmingham
Brenna Hughes, MD, MSc	Duke University School of Medicine
Judette Louis, MD, MPH	USF Health Morsani College of Medicine
Lynn Simpson, MD	Columbia University Irving Medical Center
Alan Tita, MD, PhD	University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Medicine

APPENDIX B: CANDIDATE DISABILITY

The American Board of Obstetrics & Gynecology, Inc. (ABOG) provides reasonable accommodations in accordance with The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as amended by the ADA Amendments Act of 2013 (ADAAA) (collectively the ADA) and, therefore, will provide or allow the use of necessary auxiliary aids, services, or testing conditions that do not fundamentally alter the measurement of the skills or knowledge the Board assessment program and examination is intended to test. Candidates must indicate through the examination application if special testing accommodations under the ADA are needed.

The ADA defines a person with a disability as someone with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities such as walking, standing, seeing, hearing, eating, sleeping, speaking, breathing, learning, reading, concentrating, thinking, communicating, or working.

The purpose of accommodations is to provide equal access to ABOG examinations for all individuals. Accommodations offset the identified functional limitation so that the impact of impairment is minimized by means of an auxiliary aid or an adjustment to the testing procedure. Functional limitation refers to the aspects of a disability that interfere with an individual's ability to function in some capacity on a regular and continuing basis.

Accommodations for the Qualifying and Certifying Examination will only be considered with appropriate documentation. ABOG shall not exclude any candidate from the Qualifying or Certifying Examination solely because of a disability if ABOG is provided with notice of the disability in time to permit ABOG to make such adjustments in the examination as are reasonably necessary to accommodate the disability.

Qualifying Examination

For the Qualifying Examination, the candidate must provide sufficient documentation no later than the close of the application period to permit ABOG to verify the existence, nature, and extent of the disability. The documentation must specify the requirements or accommodations determined to be necessary to overcome or compensate for the disability. In addition, the candidate must supply any additional information ABOG may subsequently request in a timely manner.

If any of the requirements or accommodations cannot reasonably be provided, ABOG will notify the candidate and will indicate those alternative accommodations which ABOG determines to be appropriate in consideration of the disability claimed and documented and the integrity of the examination. If the candidate fails to notify ABOG of a disability during the application period and fails to achieve a passing grade, that candidate may not appeal the results of the examination but shall be entitled to sit for the next regularly scheduled examination but must pay a new application and examination fee.

If a candidate claims that their examination results were adversely affected by illness, injury, or other temporary physical impairment at the time of the examination, that candidate may not appeal the results of the examination. However, if the candidate provides sufficient evidence of such illness, injury, or impairment, they shall be entitled to sit for the next regularly scheduled examination but must pay a new application and examination fee.

Certifying Examination

For the Certifying Examination, notification of the need for special testing circumstances must be submitted in writing to ABOG by a candidate at the time of application. This deadline is necessary in order to allow ABOG time to request the required documentation, to review the records, and verify the disability, if necessary.

The purpose of documentation is to validate that an applicant for test accommodations is a disabled individual as defined by the ADA and to provide guidance in determining effective accommodations. Comprehensive information by a qualified professional is necessary to allow ABOG to understand the nature and extent of the applicant's disability and the resulting functional impairment that limits access to its examinations. It is essential that an applicant's documentation provides a clear explanation of the functional impairment and a rationale for the requested accommodation.

No candidate shall be offered an accommodation that would compromise the ABOG examination's ability to test accurately the skills and knowledge it purports to measure, and no auxiliary aid or service will be provided which will fundamentally alter the examination or will result in an undue burden to ABOG.

APPENDIX C: LACTATION ACCOMMODATIONS

Qualifying Examination

Candidates who are lactating may request a 30-minute break and extension of their examination if they notify the ABOG office no later than March 3, 2023, and schedule at a Pearson VUE Testing Center by the same date. Most Pearson VUE Testing Centers have only one room available for breast pumping, so candidates are encouraged to make their reservations as soon as they receive approval for the test as these rooms will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. If a candidate requests extra time for lactation, they must schedule their testing site through the Pearson VUE accommodations department after contacting ABOG. If no seat is available at the closest center, and they have requested extra time, they will have to travel to an available location to sit for the examination. As Pearson VUE testing centers have limited lactation facilities, ABOG cannot guarantee that the candidate will be able to schedule at their preferred testing center.

Certifying Examination

Candidates who are lactating will be given an opportunity to use a pump prior to their examination. Please notify the ABOG office as soon as you know you will need the lactation facilities. At the time of notification, a lactation room will be reserved for the candidate. The rooms are booked on a first-come, first-served basis. If all the lactation rooms are full, the candidate will be given an alternative location at the ABOG Testing Center. Candidates are allowed to bring their own breast pump with them to the testing center.

APPENDIX D: THESIS

A thesis is required by all subspecialties and must be submitted by the date listed in the bulletin and according to the guidelines for preparation listed below. The Division will review the thesis and decide concerning acceptability. Prior publication of a thesis by a refereed journal does not guarantee acceptance of the thesis for the Certifying Examination. It is not necessary for the thesis to have been published.

A copy of the completed 2023 Thesis Affidavit Form in PDF format must be uploaded on the candidate's ABOG portal. Please see the [Thesis Deadline](#) section for further submission instructions.

Preparation Instructions

1. **Format:** The format of the thesis must comply with the instructions for authors for a major peer-reviewed journal in a field related to the subspecialty except as noted below. The name of the journal must be identified clearly on the cover page of the manuscript. Theses that are not in the proper journal format will not be accepted.

The cover page of the thesis should only show the:

- a. thesis title,
- b. name of the candidate,
- c. hypothesis (or purpose for research not testing a hypothesis),
- d. name of the journal format.

The thesis must be type-written in double-spaced 12-point type and include page numbers and line numbers.

Electronic copies or reprints of published manuscripts are not acceptable.

Some journals require a "Summary" in addition to the "Discussion" section.

2. **Hypothesis or Purpose:** The thesis must clearly state the hypothesis to be tested in the form of a simple declarative sentence. The hypothesis must be included on the cover page and in the body of the paper, not just in the Abstract.

Whenever possible, the hypothesis should include a statement such as, "Our hypothesis is that XXX is statistically significantly different from YYY." It may be useful to follow PICOT criteria (population, intervention [for intervention studies], comparison group, outcome of interest, and time) in composing the hypothesis. Conversely, the null hypothesis may be stated.

If the research does not involve hypothesis testing, the thesis must clearly state a purpose in the form of a simple declarative sentence. The purpose statement should convey the goal or overall aim of the inquiry. The purpose statement must be included on the cover page and in the body of the document, not just in the Abstract.

3. **Authorship:** The cover page should only list the title of the thesis, the candidate's name (without any co-authors), the hypothesis or purpose, and the name of the journal format.

Acknowledgments are not allowed.

4. Subject Matter: The subject matter must clearly relate to the area of the subspecialty and be important to the field.
5. Research: The thesis must be based on clinical or laboratory research performed during the fellowship period. A review of work performed by others is not acceptable.
6. IRB Approval: All research must be reviewed and approved by the human or animal institutional review boards (IRBs) of the sponsoring institution. If the institutional IRB does not review studies that do not include humans and/or animals, there must be a statement from the IRB to that effect.
7. Unacceptable Papers: The following are not acceptable for a fellow's thesis:
 - a. Book chapters
 - b. Case reports
 - c. Case series
8. Potentially Acceptable Theses: Any thesis submitted must be the product of a significantly thoughtful and robust research effort and will be reviewed by the subspecialty division for acceptability. Reports of the results of treatment of patients from a practice or department are not acceptable as these are considered to be a case series.

The research must be important to the field of the subspecialty. The following types of research conducted during a fellowship may qualify as an acceptable thesis for examination for certification:

- a. Laboratory, Translational, and Animal research.
- b. Randomized Controlled Trial: The study must adhere to the CONSORT standards.
- c. Meta-Analysis and Systemic Review: The report must adhere to the PRISMA or MOOSE guidelines.
- d. Cost-Effective Analysis: The report must conform to the recommendations of the Second Panel on Cost-Effectiveness in Health and Medicine for reporting CEA results.
- e. Case-Control Study: The study must conform to the STROBE guidelines for observational studies
- f. Cohort Study: The candidate must have developed the cohort. The study must conform to the STROBE guidelines for observational studies.
- g. Survey Research: The candidate must have developed the questionnaire or used a previously validated questionnaire, and there should be a 50% return and completion of the questionnaire. The thesis must conform to the STROBE guidelines for observational studies and CHERRIEs guidelines for Web-based surveys.
- h. Epidemiology Research: The study must conform to the STROBE guidelines for Epidemiological Studies.
- i. Mechanistic Trials: The study should meet NIH criteria for a clinical trial.
- j. Modeling and Simulation-based Research (SBR): A prediction model thesis must follow the TRIPOD statement. An SBR thesis must adhere to the SBR extensions to the CONSORT and STROBE statements.
- k. Quality Improvement: The thesis must adhere to the SQUIRE 2.0 guidelines.
- l. Qualitative Research: The thesis must adhere to the COREQ or SRQR guidelines.
- m. Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning Research: The thesis must adhere to the SPIRIT-AI Extension or the CONSORT-AI Extension statements.

n. Implementation Science: The thesis must conform to the StaRI guidelines.

APPENDIX E: MFM QUALIFYING AND CERTIFYING EXAMINATION TOPICS

Medical Complications of Pregnancy

1. Medical Disorders
 - a. Evaluate, diagnose, and manage medical disorders
 - b. Provide preconception, post-delivery counseling (including contraception) for patients with medical disorders
 - c. Counsel patients about maternal physiology, fetal and neonatal implications of their medical condition(s)
 - d. Counsel patients on impact of medical disorders on delivery timing
 - e. Counsel patients with medical disorders regarding drugs and biologics
 - f. Manage antenatal care for patients with medical disorders
 - g. Manage intrapartum and postpartum care for patients with medical disorders
2. Critical Care
 - a. Evaluate and diagnose critical care conditions
 - b. Manage critical care conditions and interpret hemodynamic monitoring
 - c. Identify critically ill patients and facilitate transfer to higher level of care
 - d. Manage antenatal care and delivery timing for critically ill patients
 - e. Manage intrapartum and postpartum care for critically ill patients
 - f. Counsel critically ill patients regarding drugs and biologics
 - g. Manage massive obstetric hemorrhage
 - h. Manage obstetric coagulopathy

Obstetric Complications

1. Preterm Labor and Preterm Premature Rupture of Membranes (PPROM)
 - a. Identify risk factors for preterm birth
 - b. Counsel patients on risk-reduction strategies for preterm birth
 - c. Counsel patients on limits of viability, prognosis, and management
 - d. Manage PPRM
 - e. Manage preterm labor and delivery
 - f. Manage cervical insufficiency
2. Hypertensive Disorders
 - a. Manage hypertensive disease in pregnancy
 - b. Manage preeclampsia

- c. Manage eclampsia
3. Multiple Gestation
 - a. Counsel and manage patients on associated complications and pregnancy outcomes based on chorionicity for twin gestations
 - b. Counsel and manage high-order multiple gestations
 - c. Counsel patients on indications and risks associated with fetal reduction
 4. Fetal Demise
 - a. Provide preconception counseling for recurrent pregnancy loss
 - b. Evaluate and manage patients with a fetal demise and /or recurrent pregnancy loss
 - c. Evaluate and manage patient for bereavement and /or postpartum depression
 5. Procedures Relating to Obstetrical Complications
 - a. Amniocentesis and amnioreduction for fetal lung maturation
 - b. External cephalic version
 - c. Peripartum hysterectomy
 - d. Cervical cerclage
 - e. Chorionic villus sampling
 - f. Cordocentesis and fetal transfusion
 6. Obstetric Anesthesia
 - a. Counsel medically complicated patients regarding the different anesthetic options including benefits, risks and contraindications (e.g., systemic analgesia and sedation, general anesthesia, regional anesthesia); for example, cardiac arrest, respiratory arrest, aspiration pneumonitis, hypotension, high spinal or total spinal, convulsions, neuropathy, headaches, hypothermia
 - b. Identify, diagnose, and co-manage anesthetic complications (e.g., cardiac arrest, respiratory arrest, aspiration pneumonitis, hypotension, high spinal or total spinal, convulsions, neuropathy, headaches, hypothermia)
 7. Management of Obstetrical Complications
 - a. Amniotic fluid embolism (AFE)
 - b. Acute fatty liver of pregnancy (AFLP)
 - c. Placental abruption
 - d. Abnormal placentation (e.g., accreta, increta, percreta, vasa previa, and placenta previa)
 - e. Gestational trophoblastic disease
 - f. Ruptured uterus
 - g. Cholestasis of pregnancy
 - h. Uterine anomalies

- i. Ovarian masses
- j. Dermatologic conditions (e.g., PUPPS, herpes gestationis)
- k. Fetomaternal hemorrhage
- l. Trauma
- m. Abnormally implanted pregnancies (abdominal, cervical, and c-section scar)

Fetal Complications and Prenatal Diagnosis

1. Ultrasound
 - a. Perform and interpret 1st trimester ultrasound for singleton and multiple gestations
 - b. Perform and interpret 2nd and 3rd trimester ultrasound
 - c. Recognize normal and abnormal maternal, fetal, and placental anatomy
 - d. Apply knowledge of the limitations of ultrasound to determine need for additional imaging modalities
 - e. Determine indication for and perform Doppler studies (umbilical artery and MCA, color, m-mode)
 - f. Determine indication for and perform 3D and 4D ultrasound
 - g. Perform and interpret cervical length assessment
 - h. Manage disorders of amniotic fluid volume
 - i. Perform and interpret fetal echocardiography
 - j. Perform ultrasound assessment of chorionicity
2. Evaluation, Management, and Diagnosis of Fetal Complications
 - a. Fetal structural abnormalities
 - b. Fetal growth restriction
 - c. Genetic disorders (e.g., chromosomal abnormalities, DiGeorge's, skeletal dysplasia, syndromes)
 - d. Fetal hydrops
 - e. Isoimmunization
 - f. Alloimmune thrombocytopenia
 - g. Fetal infections

Genetics and Genomics

- a. Obtain a genetic history and perform a three-generation pedigree, perform preconception genetic counseling, and counsel patients on Mendelian patterns of inheritance (e.g., autosomal dominant, autosomal recessive, co-dominant, X-linked recessive, X-linked dominant) and non-Mendelian patterns of inheritance (e.g., trinucleotide repeat disorders, imprinting, uniparental disomy, mitochondrial inheritance, germline mosaicism, multifactorial and polygenic inheritance)

- b. Counsel patients on benefits and limitations of PGS/ PGD (preimplantation genetic diagnosis)
- c. Counsel patients on and perform expanded and ethnicity-based carrier screening
- d. Counsel patients on different methods of aneuploidy screening and interpret results
- e. Counsel patients on prenatal testing (e.g., fetal karyotype, chromosomal microarray, biochemical and molecular tests, whole exome sequencing)

Core Competencies and Cross Content

1. Ethics and Professionalism
 - a. Systematically engage in practice review to identify health disparities
 - b. When engaged in shared clinical decision making, incorporate patient, family, and cultural considerations in making treatment recommendations
 - c. When providing care for patients, consider psychological, sexual, and social implications of various treatment options
2. Patient Safety
 - a. Systematically analyze the practice for safety improvements (e.g., root cause analysis)
 - b. Systematically engage in practice reviews for safety improvements (e.g., root cause analysis)
 - c. Incorporate the standard use of procedural briefings, “time outs,” and debriefings in clinical practice
 - d. Participate in the review of sentinel events, reportable events, and near misses
 - e. Implement universal protocols (e.g., bundles, checklists) to help ensure patient safety
3. Interpersonal and Communication Skills
 - a. Communicate to patient and family regarding adverse outcomes and medical errors
 - b. Demonstrate sensitivity and responsiveness when communicating with a diverse patient population, including but not limited to diversity in gender, age, culture, race, religion, disabilities, and sexual orientation
 - c. Provide comprehensive information when referring patients to other professionals
4. Systems-based Practice
 - a. Incorporate considerations of cost awareness and risk-benefit analysis in patient care
 - b. Provide care with multidisciplinary teams to promote patient safety and optimize patient outcomes
5. Practice-based Learning and Improvement
 - a. Design or participate in practice or hospital quality improvement activities
6. Evidence-based Medicine
 - a. Incorporate evidence-based practices and national guidelines to improve practice patterns and outcomes

b. Implement evidence-based protocols to enhance recovery after surgery (ERAS)

APPENDIX F: DE-IDENTIFICATION OF CASE LISTS

Pursuant to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), the Secretary of the DHHS issued a Final Privacy Rule (HIPAA Privacy Rule) governing the terms and conditions by which health care providers can make available individually identifiable health information. The HIPAA Privacy Rule permits the release of patient information if the information does not permit the patient to be individually identified. Therefore, candidates must exclude from the case lists submitted to the Board such information as could permit the identification of an individual patient.

The HIPAA Privacy Rule specifically enumerates the categories of information that must be removed from patient case lists in order for such case lists to be de-identified and thereby become available for submission to the Board.

Section 164.514(b) provides that a physician/candidate may determine that health information is not individually identifiable health information only if the following identifiers are removed:

1. Names
2. Geographic subdivisions smaller than a state
3. Date of birth, admission date, discharge date, date of death; and all ages over 89 except that such ages and elements may be aggregated into a single category of age 90 or older
4. Telephone numbers, fax numbers, email addresses, social security numbers, medical record numbers, health plan beneficiary numbers, account numbers, certificate and/or license numbers
5. Biometric identifiers, including finger and voiceprints
6. Full face photographic images and any comparable images
7. Any other unique identifying number, characteristic, or codes

The submission of any patient information in the case description fields of the Case Lists is strictly prohibited and can result in disapproval for the Certifying Examination. The de-identification of patient case lists does not allow the omission of any cases involving patients under the candidate's care that are otherwise required to be reported. Any effort to use the HIPAA rule to avoid listing patients will disqualify the candidate from the examination and additional disciplinary action as appropriate. The completeness of the candidate's case lists is subject to audit by the Board.

APPENDIX G: APPROVED ABBREVIATIONS

AB	Abortion
AIDS	Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
AMA	Advanced maternal age
A&P	Anterior and posterior colporrhaphy repair
AMH	Antimullerian hormone
AROM	Artificial rupture of membranes
ASCUS	Atypical cells of undetermined significance
BSO	Bilateral salpingo-oophorectomy
BTL	Bilateral tubal ligation
BMI	Body mass index
cm	Centimeter
CIN	Cervical intraepithelial neoplasia
CD	Cesarean delivery
CHTN	Chronic hypertension
CBC	Complete blood count
CT	Computerized tomography
DVT	Deep vein thrombosis
DHEAS	Dehydroepiandrosterone sulfate
DM	Diabetes mellitus
D&C	Dilatation and curettage
D&E	Dilatation and evacuation
DEXA	Dual-energy x-ray absorptiometry
EKG/ECG	Electrocardiogram
ECC	Endocervical curettage
EBL	Estimated blood loss
EFW	Estimated fetal weight
EGA	Estimated gestational age
E2	Estradiol
FGR	Fetal growth restriction
FHR	Fetal heart rate
FSH	Follicle-stimulating hormone
GDM	Gestational diabetes mellitus

GH	Gestational hypertension
GBS	Group B strep
gm	Gram
Hgb	Hemoglobin
HbA1c	Hemoglobin A1c
HSV	Herpes simplex virus
HRT	Hormone replacement therapy
HCG	Human chorionic gonadotropin
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
HPV	Human papillomavirus
HTN	Hypertension
HSG	Hysterosalpingogram
IM	Intramuscular
IUD	Intrauterine device
IUFD	Intrauterine fetal death
IUGR	Intrauterine growth restriction
IUP	Intrauterine pregnancy
IV	Intravenous
kg	Kilogram
LAVH	Laparoscopic-assisted vaginal hysterectomy
LGA	Large for gestational age
LMP	Last menstrual period
LFT	Liver function test
LEEP	Loop electrosurgical excision procedure
LH	Luteinizing hormone or laparoscopic hysterectomy
Mg	Magnesium sulfate
MRI	Magnetic resonance imaging
mL	Milliliter
MIS	Minimally invasive surgery
NST	Non-stress test
OA	Occiput Anterior – may be preceded by R (right) or L (left)
OP	Occiput Posterior
OT	Occiput Transverse

PAP	Papanicolaou smear
Plt	Platelet
PCOS	Polycystic ovarian syndrome
PP	Postpartum
PPH	Postpartum hemorrhage
PROM	Premature rupture of membranes
PTL	Preterm labor
PPROM	Preterm premature rupture of membranes
STD/STI	Sexually transmitted disease/infection
SGA	Small for gestational age
SAB	Spontaneous abortion
SROM	Spontaneous rupture of membranes
SVD	Spontaneous vaginal delivery
SUI	Stress urinary incontinence
S/D (ratio)	Systolic/diastolic ratio
TSH	Thyroid-stimulating hormone
Toco	Tocodynamometer
TAH	Total abdominal hysterectomy
TLH	Total laparoscopic hysterectomy
TVH	Total vaginal hysterectomy
TOLAC	Trial of labor after cesarean
T1DM	Type I diabetes mellitus
T2DM	Type II diabetes mellitus
US	Ultrasonography
VBAC	Vaginal birth after cesarean delivery