

TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION IN CRITICAL CARE

On September 18, 1985, the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ABOG) was authorized to issue certificates in Obstetrics and Gynecology with Added Qualification in Critical Care (CC). The purpose of certifying in critical care is to recognize those Obstetrician/Gynecologists who, through added education and examination, have demonstrated knowledge and skill in the care of critically ill patients.

Prior to certification, an individual must satisfactorily complete a course of education in critical care of no less than 12 months in duration in an ACGME-accredited training program in Anesthesiology (ABA) or Surgery (ABS).

Below are the requirements of the American Board of Surgery (ABS) for Surgical Critical Care.

AMERICAN BOARD OF SURGERY

Surgical Critical Care is a specialty of surgery and a primary component of general surgery related to the care of patients with acute, life-threatening or potentially life-threatening surgical conditions. Surgical Critical Care not only incorporates knowledge and skills of non-operative techniques for supportive care for critically ill patients but also a broad understanding of the relationship between critical surgical illness and surgical procedures. Although much of this knowledge and skills is common to critical care specialists from a variety of medical disciplines, the Diplomate in Surgical Critical Care has specialized expertise relating both to the physiologic responses to tissue injury from trauma, burns, operation, infections, acute inflammation, or ischemia and to the ways these responses interact with other disease processes.

Specialists in Surgical Critical Care possess advanced knowledge and skills that enable them to provide comprehensive care to critically ill patients from all surgical specialties and in all age groups. Care for the critically ill surgical patient may take place in a variety of settings, e.g. pre-hospital situations, the emergency department, the operating room, and intensive care units. Because the care of such patients involves skill in a number of disciplines as well as an understanding of surgery, the specialist in Surgical Critical Care must have a broad knowledge base and expertise concerning the biology of the critically ill surgical patient and the support of organ system function. They should be capable of providing leadership within their health care organizations regarding the needs of critically ill surgical patients and the administration of critical care units. They also should be able to teach others and conduct research in the field.

TRAINING PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

1. 12 contiguous months of training with no fewer than 48 weeks of full-time clinical activity; or
2. 12 months of part-time training over a two-year period
 - a. Part-time option is at the discretion of the Program Director. The completed training must be equal to 48 weeks of full-time clinical activity during the two-year period; or
3. 12 contiguous months of training combined with an ACGME-accredited fellowship program in Maternal-Fetal Medicine, Gynecologic Oncology, Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility, or Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery. The total combined training time would be 42 months.

REGISTRATION FOR TRAINING PROGRAM

1. Applicant does not need to be certified in Obstetrics and Gynecology; however, applicant must meet the eligibility requirements for ABOG's certification in Obstetrics and Gynecology.

2. Applicant must submit the following to the ABOG Fellowship Department at least 90 days prior to commencement:
 - a. Registration Application <https://www.abog.org/docs/default-source/combined-programs/critical-care-2021/abs-critical-care-certification-application-2021.pdf>
 - b. Registration fee of \$435.00
 - i. Non-refundable
 - ii. Payable in US funds, check or money order (credit cards not accepted)
 - c. Late fee of \$250.00 if application or fee received after the deadline (non-refundable)

If the SCC training is in conjunction with an ABOG-accredited subspecialty fellowship, approval from the ABOG must be obtained prior to submitting the registration application and fee. A request for a combined fellowship must be received in the ABOG Fellowship Department by the subspecialty fellowship Program Director (to include block diagrams) prior to the end of the sixth month of fellowship training. If approval is obtained, the registration application and fee must be received in the ABOG Fellowship Department within 60 days of the date of approval.

3. If the applicant meets the requirements, the ABOG will provide a letter of acceptance.

SCC CERTIFYING EXAMINATION

1. Candidate must have been registered for and either completed or be near completion of a SCC training program.
2. Candidate must submit the following to the ABOG Fellowship Department within 90 days of the date of the examination:
 - a. Application for Certification in Obstetrics and Gynecology with Added Qualification in Surgical Critical Care (ABS) <https://www.abog.org/docs/default-source/combined-programs/critical-care-2021/abs-critical-care-certification-application-2021.pdf>
 - b. Examination fee of \$650.00
 - i. Payable to ABOG in US funds, check or money order (credit cards not accepted)
 - 1) Does not include examination fee(s) assessed by the ABS
 - ii. Full or partial fee may be refundable at the discretion of the ABOG if examination is canceled
 - c. Late fee of \$250.00 if application or fee is received after the deadline (non-refundable)
3. Candidate is provided a letter of approval (or tentative approval if still in training)
 - a. Criteria for approval:
 - i. Satisfactorily completion of a SCC training program
 - ii. Obtained a passing grade on the Qualifying Examination in Obstetrics and Gynecology
 - iii. Submitted an affidavit attesting to the candidate's satisfactory completion of the training program
4. The SCC examination is contingent upon availability and acceptance by the ABS.

In order to receive Certification in Obstetrics and Gynecology with Added Qualification in Surgical Critical Care, the following requirements must be met:

1. Must have passed the SCC examination; and
2. Must be a Diplomate in Obstetrics and Gynecology in good standing and current in the Maintenance of Certification (MOC) process.

- a. If not yet certified, the results from the SCC examination will be released; however, the candidate will not be considered certified in SSC by the ABOG or the ABS until certification in Obstetrics and Gynecology is achieved

CERTIFICATES

Once all requirements are met, a certificate of added qualification will be administered by the ABS. This certificate will be time-limited (10 years).

MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION

Maintenance of Certification (MOC) will be accomplished through the standard MOC process administered by the ABOG in the specialty of Obstetrics and Gynecology and any applicable subspecialty (Maternal-Fetal Medicine, Gynecologic Oncology, Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility, or Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery).

RECERTIFICATION

Recertification must be accomplished by passing an examination administered by the ABS every ten years. There is no application process for this examination through the ABOG, only through the ABS.