



Draft Minimal Criteria for Designation as Transplant Surgeon

The intent of creating standards for transplant surgeons is to establish criteria by which potential recipients can be assured that their surgeons are qualified to provide them with excellent care and outcomes. We recognize there are gifted transplant surgeons currently in practice who did not complete ASTS transplant surgical training programs. Moving forward, however, all new transplant surgeons should be successful graduates of ASTS approved organ transplant training programs. Organ transplantation is a rapidly changing field and a firm foundation in both operative technique and human immunology is critical for best recipient outcomes. Our goal is to delineate minimum qualifications for all surgeons involved in organ transplants and assist those regulating bodies with ASTS recommendations for developing policies in that regard.

Criteria:

1. Each surgeon must have a license to practice medicine in the state in which they work.
2. The surgeon must be credentialed to practice at the hospital where the transplant is performed.
3. Each new transplant surgeon must graduate from an ASTS approved transplant training program.

Surgeons who did not complete ASTS approved transplant training may fulfill criteria through the following alternate pathway:

4. The surgeon must meet criteria #1 and #2 above.
5. The UNOS designated surgical director of the transplant program must provide the UNOS Membership and Standards Committee with a letter affirming the surgeon's commitment to the transplant program. This letter should delineate the surgeon's surgical experience, training, and involvement in the pre- and post-transplant care of organ transplant recipients.
6. An experience of at least 10 transplants performed for that specific organ is done within a three year period to maintain currency and/or provide sufficient surgical experience.
7. New transplant surgeons that complete their transplant surgical training outside the United States or Canada may petition the ASTS Fellowship Committee for assessment of equivalency of their training to that provided by ASTS approved transplant training programs.

This document is respectfully submitted by:
ASTS, Standards on Organ Transplantation Committee