

Mission

The Transplant Accreditation & Certification Council (TACC) serves the public, healthcare community, and transplant surgeons by promoting excellence and professionalism through education, accreditation, and certification.

Purpose

The Transplant Accreditation & Certification Council was formed for the following purpose:

- To improve the safety and quality of transplant care.
- To develop and maintain high standards of excellence by rigorous evaluation and accreditation of training programs.
- To establish professional standards through setting training benchmarks, examination, and certification of transplant surgeons.

Fellowship Certification Pathway

The Transplant Accreditation & Certification, LLC was founded by the American Society of Transplant Surgeons (ASTS) in January 2017 to oversee the accreditation of fellowship training programs and implement a certification pathway for transplant surgeons. Currently, the TACC offers a certificate of completion for fellows who successfully complete a TACC Accredited Abdominal Transplant Surgery Fellowship Training Program. Below are the steps candidates will take to become Certified Abdominal Transplant Surgeons. This certification process is available for fellows that have successfully completed an Accredited Abdominal Transplant Surgery Fellowship Training Program in 2019 and beyond.

Eligibility:

Candidates who successfully complete a TACC Accredited Fellowship Training Program are eligible to enter into the Fellowship Certification Pathway. Successful completion includes completing all requirements during the 24-month accredited fellowship program, as outlined in the [Fellow Requirements](#). This includes meeting the minimum volume requirements, successfully completing the Knowledge Assessment written exam requirements, and the candidate must receive a TACC Certificate of Completion.

In-Practice Requirement:

Candidates are required to be in practice for a minimum of one year and a maximum of five years. Candidates must also have an active (non-expired) license to practice. During the in-practice period of one to five years, candidates should maintain a surgical log which will be required to be uploaded in the ASTS Surgical Log format for the application process.

Certification Application Process:

Individuals who believe they meet the requirements for certification may submit a certification application. The first applications will be accepted starting in September 2021 through December 2021. The application requires candidates to provide their license and certification information, educational

background, and hospital appointments. Candidates will also need to upload two reference letters. One reference letter must be from their Fellowship Training Program Director (or Division Chief) addressing the candidate's surgical experience from fellowship. The second reference letter should be from their current Program Chief, Chief of Staff, or equivalent addressing the individual's surgical experience post-fellowship. The candidate must upload surgical case logs from their fellowship and one to five years of transplant and HPB in practice cases. The case logs must be uploaded in the ASTS Surgical Log format. In preparation for the oral exam, candidates will submit five cases in a rubric provided in the application. The cases must be from post-fellowship. The application process will be further detailed in an online application and candidates will need to pay a nonrefundable application fee. Completed applications will be reviewed by the Transplant Accreditation & Certification Council.

Oral Exam:

If the TACC approves the candidate's certification application and they meet all requirements to sit for the oral exam, the candidate will receive written notice and will be required to pay an oral exam fee. The first certifying oral exam will be held in Fall 2022. The oral exam will consist of two sessions which will include general transplant knowledge, organ specific topics, and cases submitted by the examinee in the certification application. The candidate will be assessed by two examiners during each session of the exam. The scoring rubric from the four oral examiners will be reviewed by the Transplant Accreditation & Certification Council.

Certification:

Upon successful completion of all certification components, the Transplant Accreditation & Certification Council will approve the candidate to become a Certified Abdominal Transplant Surgeon. The candidate will receive a letter and certificate from the TACC. A formal recognition ceremony will be held each year at the ASTS Winter Symposium. A registry of certified diplomates will be available on the ASTS and TACC website. If the candidate fails to meet the requirements and is denied certification, an appeals process will be provided, and candidates will be eligible to retake the oral exam.

Candidate Timeline:

