

ABU CUC Participation Policy

The recent change in continuing certification from Lifelong Learning to Continuing Urologic Certification has resulted in many valid questions regarding certification status. Your certification status remains active until the expiration date of your current certificate established under Lifelong Learning. (e.g. Expiration date February 28, 2032, you remain certified through 2032). Continuing certification beyond your expiration date requires entering in Continuing Urologic Certification as of, February 28, 2024. This requirement was developed to comply with the new standards for continued certification established by American Board of Medical Specialists (ABMS).

As a member board of the ABMS, the ABU must comply with the 2024 standards. New standards went into effect January 1, 2024, requiring a longitudinal, formative assessment of the knowledge, judgement, skill, and professionalism of all Diplomates culminating in a summative decision regarding certification status at least every 5 years.

Previously, participation in Lifelong Learning required ongoing activities (practice assessment protocol, professionalism and ethics module, peer review, patient safety video, patient safety module, practice log, CME, complications and mortality narratives) that needed to be completed in one of two levels (L), L1 and L2. Noncompliance during L1 and L2 resulted in the ABU re-evaluating the certification status of a Diplomate based on the participation requirement below. Those activities have not changed and new activities have not been added. The activities have been distributed throughout the two 5-year cycles of CUC in order to decrease the burden to the diplomate to complete all activities at one time.

The last step in Lifelong Learning was a secure Knowledge Assessment Exam taken at Pearson VUE testing center, to assess the knowledge, judgement and skill of diplomates. Gaps in knowledge were identified and reinforced with required CME remediation. The ABU made the decision to eliminate the 10-year secure knowledge assessment exam largely due to the feedback received from our diplomates. CUC established new educational elements to replace the 10-year secure exam that favor the Diplomate allowing them to learn self-paced and in their own environment. The continuous learning program utilizes contemporary educational tools and rewards Diplomates who consistently perform above the established threshold with the option to opt-out of the 5-year knowledge assessment. As the 10-year secure exam had been given prior to certificate expiration, the CUC educational activities also occur prior to an expiration date on your current certificate. Moving forward, Diplomates will hold a certificate without an expiration and will remain certified provided they are compliant with all CUC requirements.

Based on three years of pilot testing, Diplomates have responded favorably to the new learning activities, with almost unanimous selection of the CUC program over the 10-year secure exam. Most Diplomates exceed the threshold allowing them to opt out of their 5th year knowledge assessment exam.

Active participation in Lifelong Learning has always been required and that requirement has not changed. The CUC participation will have similar requirements as follows:

PARTICIPATION

- One-year deferral considered case-by-case upon written request by the Diplomate due to a life event. All activities must be completed within the following year.
- Noncompliance with requirements up to 2 years without notification. All incomplete activities must be completed within the following year, along with a late fee of \$1,500. The Knowledge Assessment will be completed regardless of past performance on the Knowledge Exposure and Knowledge Reinforcement.
- Noncompliance with requirements >2 years without notification: Re-entry plan considered and developed on a case-by-case basis upon written request by the Diplomate.

Your certification will continue until the date of your current Lifelong Learning Certification. However, maintaining certification beyond your expiration date requires you to be compliant with the CUC participation as of February 28, 2024.

Your entrance level into CUC has been selected to correspond to your current year in Lifelong Learning giving you the longest time between your last secure Knowledge Assessment exam and the 5-year summative knowledge assessment.

ABU certification is a voluntary process. You do not need to be certified in order to practice urology and you have a choice to begin the activities in CUC. However, obtaining certification after your expiration date, or initiating continuous urologic certification after a 2-year lapse as indicated above, will require a written letter sent to the Board requesting re-entry. A re-entry plan will be developed on a case-by case basis and could include cognitive testing, a practice log, peer review, mortality/complication narratives and other knowledge assessment testing requirements. A fee for re-entry will be assessed.

Certification is an expectation of the public and many health care institutions. Certification by the ABU is an indicator that you have met the standards established by the ABU to practice urology in a safe and professional manner. The ABU will continue to work with certified Urologists as certification evolves providing high quality, safe and ethical urologic care for our patients.