



**Transplant Accreditation & Certification Council (TACC)**  
**Abdominal Transplant Surgeon Certification**  
**Fellowship Certification Pathway**  
**Oral Exam**

**Examinee Information**

**Eligibility**

Individuals who have successfully completed a Transplant Accreditation & Certification Council (TACC) Accredited Abdominal Transplant Fellowship Training Program since 2019 and have been in practice for at least one year are eligible to apply for the TACC Abdominal Transplant Surgeon Fellowship Certification Pathway. Candidates whose applications are approved will be eligible to register for the TACC Oral Exam.

**Application & Registration**

Applications to the TACC Fellowship Certification Pathway will open in the spring. The fee to apply is \$250 (USD) and is non-refundable. Once a candidate's eligibility is approved, they may register for the oral exam, which includes a fee of \$1,500 (USD), due at the time of registration. The oral exam will take place in the fall. Candidates will be notified of specific oral exam dates after the close of registration. Once registration is confirmed, candidates will be asked to submit 3 transplant cases. Interesting cases or those with technical complications are encouraged if part of your experience. Cases submitted must have occurred after the application completed your fellowship. The write-up of each case will include an abbreviated history and description. Additional specifics regarding case submission are provided on the submission website.

Oral exam cancellation requests must be submitted in writing to [TACC@asts.org](mailto:TACC@asts.org) and be received 60 days or more prior to the exam date. Fees will be refunded less a \$500 cancellation charge. No refunds will be issued for cancellations received within 60 days of the oral exam date.

**Oral Exam**

The TACC Oral Exam will consist of two sessions that are 50 minutes each with a break between sessions.

**Candidates will be administered organ specific (kidney and/or liver) questions based on their Certificate of Completion from fellowship training and current practice.** When registering for the oral examination, candidates will indicate if their post-fellowship practice is in kidney and/or liver. **The allocation of organ-specific cases will reflect both the candidate's fellowship training and post-fellowship practice.**

The oral exam is designed to assess a candidate's clinical judgment and problem-solving abilities. The organ-specific questions on the oral exam may focus on recipient selection and evaluation, donor selection and evaluation, intraoperative management and technical factors, perioperative complication (diagnosis and management), and post-transplant management. Candidates will also be administered questions regarding general topics that are applicable across transplantation. General topic questions

may include deceased donor organ procurement, common infections post-transplant, risk of donor-derived disease transmission, psychosocial and compliance issues, immunosuppression, and ethical situation questions. The list of topics above is not exhaustive but is provided as an example.

### **Exam Day Overview**

The TACC Oral Exam will take place in an online testing environment. Before the start of the exam, candidates must show government-issued photo identification. Details will be provided to all examinees before the examination. A trained proctor will monitor each examination session to maintain the integrity of the exam and assess any technical irregularities or interpersonal conflict. Broadly, the following steps will occur.

- Log into the assigned Zoom link
- Enter Zoom waiting room
- Security checkpoint and orientation

### **Scoring Rubric**

During the examination, each question will be independently scored by two examiners. The scoring rubric and pass threshold will be determined by the TACC prior to the first exam. The TACC Oral Exam Committee will review the results of all examinations.

### **Rules of Conduct for Examination**

Candidates are expected to respect the integrity of the examination process. The use of electronics or outside resources is not permitted during the exam. Candidates must be in a quiet room without others present during the exam. Under no circumstances are candidates permitted to speak to other candidates or individuals about the content of the exam. Failure to abide by these rules may result in the barring of the candidate's ability to continue with the certification process on a temporary or permanent basis, the denial or revocation of a certificate, and other appropriate actions, including legal action.

### **The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accommodations for TACC Examinations**

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (as amended) ("ADA"), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 ("Section 504"), and other applicable laws, the Transplant Accreditation & Certification Council ("TACC") provides appropriate reasonable accommodations for individuals with documented disabilities for those who demonstrate a need and make a timely request for accommodations. Please review the [TACC Policy and Procedures for Individuals with Disabilities Seeking Examination Accommodations](#) for further guidance and submit a written request to [TACC@asts.org](mailto:TACC@asts.org). The request must be received by the ASTS office no later than 90 days before the exam date.

### **Appeal Process**

If a candidate feels there were irregularities during the examination process, including technical issues, or that they were the subject of discrimination or bias, a written appeal must be submitted within 24 hours of completion of the exam. If a candidate does not submit a written appeal within 24 hours of the exam, they waive their ability to appeal the exam. The TACC will not consider appeals based on examination content, scoring, or determination of the passing score. Written appeals will be reviewed by the Transplant Accreditation & Certification Council (TACC).

**Remediation**

If a candidate does not pass the oral exam, a remediation option will be available. Candidates will be eligible to register to take the oral exam the following year and will be required to pay another full registration fee. A candidate will be allowed a maximum of three times to pass the TACC Oral Exam.

***The TACC reserves the right to make changes to the rules and procedures for its certification at any time and without prior notice.***