



NCCSA

National Commission for the Certification of Surgical Assistants

Certified Surgical Assistant (CSA) Eligibility Policy

Candidates may establish eligibility to take the CSA examination under the following conditions:

1. Candidate is a graduate from a Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) Accredited surgical assisting program. Candidates applying under this eligibility are required to submit one of the following: official notarized letter (on institutional letterhead) from the program director, certificate of completion, or official transcripts.
2. Candidate is a current or previous CSA certificant renewing (must provide evidence of NCCSA certification).
3. Candidate is a graduate from a CAAHEP Accredited surgical assisting program that has had accreditation revoked, rescinded, or failed to renew accreditation. Candidates are eligible to take the CSA examination if the candidate was actively enrolled or graduated from the program at any time it held the appropriate accreditation.
4. Candidate is a graduate from a program undergoing CAAHEP accreditation. Candidate is eligible to take the CSA examination as long as they were actively enrolled when the accreditation site visit occurred and are subsequently eligible upon the official granting of accreditation.
5. Candidate is a Doctor of Medicine/Doctor of Osteopathy.
6. Candidate is a Foreign Medical Graduate (FMG) surgical physician who received a basic medical degree from a medical school located outside the United States and Canada. FMGs must have passed Step 1 and Step 2 of the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE), which are the same examinations taken by U.S. and Canadian graduates.

Upon review and processing of application, the candidate will receive an Authorization to Test (ATT) letter allowing them 12 months to choose an examination date and location.

The CSA examination authorization to test time limit is 30 days. Candidates who are unsuccessful in passing may re-test after thirty days from the last examination date. Candidates are required to pay a re-testing fee (processing and examination) each time to test. Candidates may not test more than three times during any calendar year.