



*The only board devoted  
exclusively to  
Cosmetic Surgery*

# *AMERICAN BOARD OF COSMETIC SURGERY, INC.*

**AMERICAN BOARD OF COSMETIC SURGERY**

*The only board devoted exclusively to Cosmetic Surgery*

**2011 EXAMINATION**

**CANDIDATE APPLICATION BOOKLET**

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*Promoting the Safe Practice of Cosmetic Surgery*

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**AMERICAN BOARD OF COSMETIC SURGERY**

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**SECTION 1**



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## AMERICAN BOARD OF COSMETIC SURGERY, INC.

Email: [ambrdes1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ambrdes1@sbcglobal.net)  
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**THE MATERIALS CONTAINED IN THIS BOOKLET AND  
ACCOMPANYING CANDIDATE APPLICATION  
HAVE BEEN PREPARED SPECIFICALLY FOR THE 2011 EXAMINATION  
OF THE AMERICAN BOARD OF COSMETIC SURGERY, INC. (ABCS)**

Dear Doctor:

The enclosed information and Candidate Application are being furnished in response to your inquiry.

***We ask that you read all of the information contained in this booklet carefully prior to completing your Candidate Application.*** All of the required documentation must be submitted with your application and must be received in the General Office on or before **November 1, 2010**. Applications received after that date or applications which are incomplete will not be considered. All applications and accompanying materials submitted to the ABCS become the property of the ABCS and WILL NOT BE RETURNED. **ALL CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS WILL BE STRICTLY ADHERED TO WITHOUT EXCEPTION.**

The examination is scheduled as follows:

### **April 9 and April 10, 2011**

Hilton Chicago O'Hare Airport Hotel

Chicago IL 60666

(773) 686-8000 or (800) HILTONS (Reservations)

[www.HiltonHotels.com](http://www.HiltonHotels.com) (Choose O'Hare Hilton)

The American Academy of Cosmetic Surgery (AACS) conducts an Annual Review Course in conjunction with their Annual Scientific Meeting in January of each year. You may contact the AACS at (312) 981-6781 or via e-mail at [info@cosmeticsurgery.org](mailto:info@cosmeticsurgery.org) for further details regarding the Annual Review Course. While attendance at the Annual Review Course is not mandatory, it is strongly recommended that all applicants for certification attend.

Peter B. Canalia, J.D., Executive Director

## **MISSION STATEMENT:**

The mission of the American Board of Cosmetic Surgery (ABCS) is to serve the public by promoting the safe and ethical practice of the sub-specialty of Cosmetic Surgery. The ABCS is the only board devoted exclusively to Cosmetic Surgery. Diplomates of the ABCS shall demonstrate the highest standards of training, knowledge, and expertise, as determined by a process of peer review and standardized examination and certification.

The goals of the American Board of Cosmetic Surgery are:

- 1) To achieve and maintain the highest professional standards in Cosmetic Surgery.
- 2) To establish a method for the qualification of specialists in Cosmetic Surgery and a certification system.
- 3) To establish training standards.
- 4) To carry out such goals and objectives in full compliance with all laws and regulations relating to equivalent surgical specialists.

## **DEFINITION OF COSMETIC SURGERY:**

Cosmetic Surgery is a sub-specialty of medicine and surgery that uniquely restricts itself to the enhancement of appearance through surgical and medical techniques. It is specifically concerned with maintaining normal appearance, restoring it, or enhancing it beyond the average level toward some aesthetic ideal. Cosmetic Surgery is a multi-disciplinary and comprehensive approach directed to all areas of the head, neck and body.

Special skill and knowledge are essential and specialists in Cosmetic Surgery are competent in the anatomy, physiology, pathology and basic sciences. The educational profile of an ABCS board certified Cosmetic Surgeon is unique in that it begins with a fully trained and certified physician. Through continued post-residency education, training and experience, Cosmetic Surgery is taught and learned across traditional disciplinary boundaries. The sub-specialty fully incorporates the participation and knowledge from all contributing disciplines to attain a high level of skill and understanding. Contributing disciplines include dermatology, facial plastic surgery, general surgery, plastic surgery, otolaryngology-head and neck surgery, oculoplastic surgery, gynecological surgery, oral-maxillofacial surgery and others.

The ABCS board certified Cosmetic Surgeon offers specialized expertise in patient education and counseling, procedural skills, and the early recognition and treatment of complications. ABCS board certified Cosmetic Surgeons have enhanced the knowledge and training of fellow physicians and directly benefitted society through educational publications, scientific journals and in the development of safe and innovative techniques.

Competency in Cosmetic Surgery implies a combination of knowledge, surgical judgment, technical expertise and ethics in order to achieve the goal of providing aesthetic improvement.

### **HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN BOARD OF COSMETIC SURGERY:**

On March 26, 1979 the American Board of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery was incorporated in Delaware. The founders dedicated their practices to Cosmetic Surgery and recognized the interdisciplinary nature of this sub-specialty. They created the Board in the public interest to establish a standard of qualifications. A second corporation was formed in California on March 26, 1982 under the name of the Board of Cosmetic Surgery, Inc. The Delaware corporation and the California corporation subsequently assigned all their rights and obligations in 1990 to the American Board of Cosmetic Surgery, Inc., a corporation organized under the nonprofit law of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The American Board of Cosmetic Surgery is an independent organization, recognized as a nonprofit entity by the Internal Revenue Service under Section 501C-6 of the Internal Revenue Code. The American Board of Cosmetic Surgery has an independent set of officers, board of trustees, and executive director who manage, maintain, and set policy for the Board.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES OF DIPLOMATES:**

Becoming a Diplomate of the American Board of Cosmetic Surgery is a significant professional achievement and honor. Diplomates must strive to represent the high ethical and moral standards of the ABCS and to support the Board activities for the advancement of the sub-specialty of Cosmetic Surgery. Diplomates agree to adhere to the ABCS and American Medical Association guidelines regarding the ethical practice of Cosmetic Surgery, including advertising and representations to the public and to practice the highest standard of patient care and safety at all times.

**AMERICAN BOARD OF COSMETIC SURGERY**

**2011 EXAMINATION**

**CANDIDATE APPLICATION BOOKLET**

**SECTION 2**

**AMERICAN BOARD OF COSMETIC SURGERY**  
**Certification Requirements**  
**(Effective for the year 2011)**

**Areas of Certification and General Requirements**

- (1) Applicants may apply for the following areas of certification:
  - \* Body, Breast and Extremity Cosmetic Surgery
  - \* Dermatologic Cosmetic Surgery
  - \* Facial Cosmetic Surgery
  - \* General Cosmetic Surgery
  
- (2) All candidates must meet the following criteria:
  - (A) Applicant must complete a current application furnished in PDF format online or by the ABCS General Office (refer to application process and procedures).
  - (B) Applicant must affirmatively state and prove valid hospital operating room privileges in current good standing. If the applicant does not have current hospital operating room privileges and performs all surgical procedures in an outpatient facility, the facility must be currently accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO), Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC), American Association for Accreditation of Ambulatory Surgery Facilities, Inc. (AAAASF), MEDICARE or a similar accrediting body approved by the state medical board having jurisdiction where the applicant performs surgery.
  - (C) Applicant shall submit four (4) letters of recommendation, including but not limited to letters from: (a) the chairperson of his/her residency program, if available, or from the department chief of his/her current hospital facility; (b) his/her cosmetic surgery fellowship director, if applicable, or verification of completion of fellowship; (c) a diplomate of the ABCS; and (d) any other practicing physician.
  - (D) Applicant shall submit proof of a current valid and unrestricted medical license in good standing in the jurisdiction where the applicant practices. Applicant must submit an explanation of any current or past disciplinary action by any state medical or osteopathic board.
  - (E) Applicant shall submit current copy of his/her curriculum vitae, certified by applicant as being true and correct as of the date submitted.
  - (F) Applicant shall affirm that he/she has no history of, nor are actions currently pending regarding any felony, crimes, convictions, or substance abuse.
  - (G) Applicant shall furnish proof of valid Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) certification at the time of application (photocopy of valid card required).

- (H) Applicant must submit proof of at least 300 Category 1 CME credits in cosmetic surgery. These may be earned in one of the following ways:
- (i) Completion of a cosmetic surgery fellowship in the areas sought in a program approved by the American Academy of Cosmetic Surgery satisfies this requirement if completed within three (3) years of the date of application.
  - (ii) In the event an Applicant applies for the examination more than three (3) years but within six (6) years of completing his/her approved fellowship training, the Applicant shall receive credit for 150 CME credits in Cosmetic Surgery (Category 1) and must average 50 CME Category 1 credits in Cosmetic Surgery per year for each year following completion of his/her fellowship to the date of application; and
  - (iii) In the event an Applicant applies for the examination more than six (6) years after completing their approved fellowship training, the Applicant must average 50 CME Category 1 credits in Cosmetic Surgery per year for the six (6) years preceding his/her date of application.
- (I) Applicant shall provide a Physician Profile, ordered by the applicant from the American Medical Association (AMA), the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) or the Federation Credentials Verification Service (FCVS). Please note, it may take as long as 30 days to receive this form from the AMA, the AOA, or the FCVS.
- (J) Applicant shall submit two (2) current passport type photographs.
- (K) Applicant shall successfully complete a written examination covering general knowledge of cosmetic surgical procedures. The ABCS shall accept applications for the written component of the Annual Examination from:
- (i) Applicants who meet the current requirements; and
  - (ii) American Academy of Cosmetic Surgery (AACS) fellows who have successfully completed an approved AACS Cosmetic Surgery Fellowship Program.

Applicant must successfully complete an oral examination in the area of cosmetic surgery certification sought. The written and oral components must be successfully completed within three years of each other.

- (L) Applicant must furnish proof of prior board certification by:
- (i) one of the following boards recognized by the American Board of Medical Specialties, the Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists of the American Osteopathic Association (BOS), the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC):
    - 1) Dermatology
    - 2) General Surgery
    - 3) Obstetrics and Gynecology
    - 4) Ophthalmology with completion of an American Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Inc. (ASOPRS) approved Oculoplastic fellowship
    - 5) Otolaryngology
    - 6) Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery
  - OR-
  - (ii) The American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (ABOMS) with M.D. degree.

(The above boards collectively referred to hereinafter as the “approved boards”)

**Training Requirements and Eligibility Via FELLOWSHIP ROUTE**

(1) A candidate may be eligible for one or more areas of cosmetic surgery certification via the Fellowship Route based upon the following:

- (A) Initial certification by an approved board;
- (B) Postgraduate surgical training in accordance with the following training summary:

**FELLOWSHIP TRAINING SUMMARY**

APPROVED BOARDS	TRAINING	AREA ELIGIBLE
Dermatology	One year dermatologic cosmetic surgery fellowship _____	Dermatologic Cosmetic Surgery _____
	One year general surgery residency and one year facial cosmetic surgery fellowship _____	Facial Cosmetic Surgery _____
	One year general surgery residency and one year body, breast & extremity cosmetic surgery fellowship _____	Body, Breast & Extremity Cosmetic Surgery _____
	One year general surgery residency and two year general cosmetic surgery fellowship	General Cosmetic Surgery
General Surgery	One year facial cosmetic surgery fellowship _____	Facial Cosmetic Surgery _____
	One year body, breast & extremity cosmetic surgery fellowship _____	Body, Breast & Extremity Cosmetic Surgery _____
	One year general cosmetic surgery fellowship	General Cosmetic Surgery

Obstetrics and Gynecology	<p>One year facial cosmetic surgery fellowship</p> <hr/> <p>One year body, breast &amp; extremity cosmetic surgery fellowship</p> <hr/> <p>One year general cosmetic surgery fellowship</p>	<p>Facial Cosmetic Surgery</p> <hr/> <p>Body, Breast &amp; Extremity Cosmetic Surgery</p> <hr/> <p>General Cosmetic Surgery</p>
Ophthalmology with Oculoplastic Surgery Fellowship	<p>One year facial cosmetic surgery fellowship</p> <hr/> <p>One year general surgery residency and one year body, breast &amp; extremity cosmetic surgery fellowship</p> <hr/> <p>One year general surgery residency and two year general cosmetic surgery fellowship</p>	<p>Facial Cosmetic Surgery</p> <hr/> <p>Body, Breast &amp; Extremity Cosmetic Surgery</p> <hr/> <p>General Cosmetic Surgery</p>
Oral/Maxillofacial Surgery with M.D. degree	<p>One year facial cosmetic surgery fellowship</p> <hr/> <p>One year body, breast &amp; extremity cosmetic surgery fellowship, including one year general surgery residency</p> <hr/> <p>One year general cosmetic surgery fellowship, including one year general surgery residency</p>	<p>Facial Cosmetic Surgery</p> <hr/> <p>Body, Breast &amp; Extremity Cosmetic Surgery</p> <hr/> <p>General Cosmetic Surgery</p>
Otolaryngology	<p>One year facial cosmetic surgery fellowship</p> <hr/> <p>One year body, breast &amp; extremity cosmetic surgery fellowship, including one year general surgery residency</p> <hr/> <p>One year general cosmetic surgery fellowship, including one year general surgery residency</p>	<p>Facial Cosmetic Surgery</p> <hr/> <p>Body, Breast &amp; Extremity Cosmetic Surgery</p> <hr/> <p>General Cosmetic Surgery</p>
Plastic Surgery	<p>One year general cosmetic surgery fellowship</p>	<p>General Cosmetic Surgery</p>

- (2) The Fellowship Program must be approved by:
- (A) The American Academy of Cosmetic Surgery (AACS). A list of approved programs may be obtained from the AACS:
- 737 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 2100  
Chicago, Illinois 60611  
telephone: 312/981-6781; telefax: 312/981-6787  
e-mail at: [info@cosmeticsurgery.org](mailto:info@cosmeticsurgery.org); web site: [www.cosmeticsurgery.org](http://www.cosmeticsurgery.org)
- (3) Cosmetic surgery fellows of an AACS accredited cosmetic surgery fellowship program may apply and sit for the written portion of the ABCS exam during their fellowship training provided they are board eligible or certified by one of the “approved boards” by the ABCS.
- (4) Cosmetic surgery fellows of an AACS accredited cosmetic surgery fellowship program may apply and sit for the oral portion of the ABCS exam immediately following their fellowship training if they can comply with the following and are board certified by one of the “approved boards” by the ABCS.
- (A) Documented case logs as either surgeon, assistant surgeon or co-surgeon of at least 300 cosmetic surgery procedures in the specific area they seek board certification that encompass an adequate diversity as determined by the ABCS review committee.
- (B) If less than 300 cases were documented during the fellowship, the applicant must document an additional 50 cosmetic surgery procedures as primary surgeon following their fellowship in the specific area they seek board certification that encompass an adequate diversity as determined by the ABCS review committee.
- (5) A candidate that has not completed an approved American Academy of Cosmetic Surgery fellowship may be eligible for certification via a two-tiered process:

**Tier 1: Pre-Application / Petition of Equivalency**

Applicant must furnish:

1. Initial certification by an approved board;
2. Recommendation letter from fellowship director attesting to training in the areas being sought for certification or, alternatively, a certificate of completion of fellowship obtained at time of completion of fellowship training identifying training in the area of certification sought;
3. Surgical operative logs during fellowship training;
  - Experiences must meet minimal guidelines for training fellowship as set forth in GUIDELINES FOR CLINICAL FELLOWSHIP TRAINING IN COSMETIC SURGERY by the American Academy of Cosmetic Surgery; and
4. Initial application fee in the amount of \$500.00.

Upon review by the ABCS Fellowship Review Committee and affirmative majority vote of the Board of Trustees, candidates that meet this criteria will receive written notification of equivalency of training to that of an AACS approved fellowship program and will then be eligible to pursue ABCS certification via the Fellowship Route. Potential candidates that are denied equivalency of training by the Board of Trustees at its sole and absolute discretion will receive written notification.

**Tier 2: Standard Application Process**

The candidate will then be eligible to receive all directions and documentation of requirements of the ABCS examination application, and will be subject to all of the then current application, examination and certificate fees. The candidate will also be held to the same due process as those of approved AACS fellowship training. Candidates from non-AACS approved cosmetic surgery fellowships whose training is deemed equivalent to that of an AACS approved cosmetic surgery fellowship must submit a minimum of thirty (30) cosmetic surgery procedures as primary surgeon following completion of the fellowship program. Candidates shall submit the required operative reports with clearly labeled, publication quality, before and after photos to verify the completion of the case requirements. The operative reports must meet the standards set forth in the Application Booklet. The cosmetic surgery procedures must be in the area in which the applicant seeks certification and shall be of a sufficient mix to illustrate a depth and breadth of knowledge in the area of certification sought. Guidelines for the cosmetic surgical procedures acceptable to the credentialing committee shall be provided with the application Booklet furnished by the General Office.

