

American Board of Criminalistics

Quality Policy Statement

The American Board of Criminalistics is a voluntary personal certification body offering examinations in a variety of forensic disciplines. Personal certification is a voluntary process of peer review by which a practitioner is recognized as having attained the professional qualifications necessary to practice in one or more disciplines of criminalistics. The mission of the ABC is to establish professional levels of knowledge, skills, and abilities; develop mechanisms to assess competency within the disciplines; recognize those who have demonstrated competency; and promote growth within the profession.

The ABC is managed by the Board of Directors, all volunteers, and is structured in a way to ensure competence, impartiality, and integrity. The Board is comprised of individuals representing a wide range of geographic areas and the range of forensic disciplines for which certification examinations are offered. The Board relies heavily on the work of other volunteers to fill committee roles and to perform some of the day to day work of the organization. The Board is committed to having sufficient financial and human resources to fulfill its mission. As needed, the Board will hire contractors to perform specific tasks of the organization.

The Board is committed to maintaining impartiality in the certification process. The certification process is structured so that no single individual can impact the certification of another. Personnel involved in examination development are not involved in granting certification. All personnel are required to sign non-disclosure agreements and conflict of interest statements. Personnel are required to notify the Board or the relevant committee chair of any potential conflicts of interest in conducting their work. Any potential conflicts of interest will be addressed by the Board.

The Board maintains a management system of robust policies and procedures to protect the integrity of the certification process and the quality system of the organization. The management system will be appropriate for the number of applicants and certificants. The Board will establish policies and procedures for the administration of the certification program. These policies and procedures will be fair, objective, and non-discriminatory. These management system documents will be reviewed on a routine basis to ensure relevancy to the organization and accrediting bodies. The Board is committed to continually improving the quality of the organization. Any quality concerns or opportunities for improvement will be addressed to the satisfaction of the Quality Assurance Committee.

The Board is responsible for managing the certification program and ensuring that all mechanisms used by the certification body to evaluate the knowledge, skills, and abilities of the applicants are reliable, valid, and non-discriminatory. The criteria used to evaluate candidates for certification are developed by the Board and will be periodically updated to remain current within the forensic community. Certificates will be awarded only to applicants who meet or exceed the criteria set by the Board. These criteria will be applied uniformly to all applicants and candidates.

The Board strives to be forward-thinking and to respond to the needs of the forensic community.