

Forensic DNA Certification Scheme
ABC-DNA

FORENSIC DNA SCOPE OF CERTIFICATION

The Forensic DNA certification examination is designed for individuals who meet the education, training, and experience requirements of the Quality Assurance Standards for Forensic DNA Testing Laboratories and who are actively working in a forensic science laboratory performing DNA Analysis work. This work may include, but is not limited to analysis, interpretation, and/or review of human DNA using autosomal-STR, Y-STR, and/or mitochondrial sequencing systems. These activities may be conducted in either Forensic DNA Testing Laboratories or DNA Databasing Laboratories.

The Forensic DNA examination has been developed utilizing a DACUM process to determine the Job Duties and Tasks, the knowledge and skills to perform the Duties/Tasks, and a validation process to develop the frequency, importance and criticality measures. See the Examination Blueprint for a more detailed breakdown of the contents of the examination.

The certification examination and scheme will be reviewed routinely and updates to the certification scheme will be published on the ABC website.

In the event ABC makes significant changes to the scope of certification that could impact the certification status of current certificants, affected certificants will be notified directly. Notification will include any necessary remedies to ensure continuous certification.

CRITERIA FOR INITIAL CERTIFICATION

Certification Eligibility

Education

Applicant must possess a minimum of an earned baccalaureate degree, or equivalent, in a natural science (e.g. chemical, physical or biological science) or forensic science from an accredited institution. Accredited institutions are those approved by regional accrediting commissions recognized by the U.S. Office of Education or foreign equivalent, and other institutions approved by the American Board of Criminalistics Board of Directors. At its discretion, the Board, through Credentials Committee, may request documentation which certifies compliance with this requirement.

Professional Experience

Applicant must be currently working for a FSSP (Forensic Science Service Provider) performing DNA Analysis work.

Applicant must have been authorized to perform forensic casework in the field of DNA Analysis. Authorization must be obtained from a FSSP.

Applicant must have a minimum of one year, full-time or equivalent, experience performing DNA Analysis casework for a FSSP.

A FSSP, as defined by the National Commission on Forensic Sciences, is a forensic science service provider having at least one full-time analyst (however named) who examines physical evidence in criminal and/or investigative matters and provides reports or opinion testimony with respect to such evidence in United States courts of law. Forensic science service provider is used interchangeably with forensic laboratory.

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Certification Application Process

A completed certification application must be completed for each certification an applicant is seeking. See *ABC Application Instructions (09-0302S)* for the application process requirements.

Applicants will be evaluated by the ABC Credentials Committee following the guidelines set forth by the ABC Board of Directors utilizing the criteria set forth in this document.

Applicants approved to sit for the certification examination will be considered candidates for certification. All candidates must successfully pass the Forensic DNA Examination to be considered for certification.

Upon successful completion of the Forensic DNA Examination, the names of candidates will be submitted to the Board of Directors for approval.

Candidates will be notified of their certification status, whether successful or unsuccessful.

Certificants may use the credentials ABC-DNA.

CRITERIA FOR RECERTIFICATION

Certificants are required to complete professional development requirements prior to the expiration of their certification in order to be recertified. The following are the recertification requirements for a Forensic DNA certification:

- Submitting signed Rules of Professional Conduct each year of certification
- Submitting annual maintenance fees each year of certification
- Attaining a minimum of 50 recertification points during the certification period, which includes the following:
 - Attaining a minimum of 15 recertification points in DNA Analysis during the certification period
 - Attaining a minimum of 10 recertification points in Professional Involvement during the certification period

CRITERIA FOR SUSPENDING OR REVOKING CERTIFICATION

Certificants may be placed on probation, suspension or have their certifications revoked for failing to complete the following:

- Submitting signed Rules of Professional Conduct each year of certification
- Submitting annual maintenance fees each year of certification

Certificants will be provided a minimum of a 60-day notice prior to any action being taken which would result in the change of status of the certification.

Additionally, certificants may have their certification suspended or revoked as a result of an ethics complaint.