

2019 Recertification Point Structure Survey Results

Surveys were distributed to over 1100 certificants and affiliates; 478 Surveys were returned.

The results are presented in the same table that was distributed in the survey. The percentage of votes are presented, with the number of votes in parenthesis.

Based on the proposed point structure, please answer the questions below:

	Proposed value	Point value should be lower	Fair in accessing the current competence	Point value should be higher
Full time forensic work	2 pts/year	1.46% (7)	73.22% (350)	25.10% (120)
Full Time Forensic Teaching	2 pts/year	6.49% (31)	80.33% (384)	13.18% (63)
Forensic Organization Membership	1 pt/yr/org	1.26% (6)	89.12% (426)	9.62% (46)
Elected Officer/Committee Chair	2 pts/yr/org	5.02% (24)	87.24% (417)	7.74% (37)
Committee Member	1 pt/year/org	1.05% (5)	88.08% (421)	10.88% (52)

Certificants will be required to attain 10 points in Section I over 5 years. Do you agree with this point value?

No, certificants should have to earn a LOWER number of points over the 5-year certification cycle.	4.60% (22)
Earning 10 points over 5 years in Section I is fair in accessing the continued competence of ABC certificants.	79.71% (381)
No, certificants should have to earn a HIGHER number of points over the 5-year certification cycle.	7.95% (38)
There should be no total points requirement for Section II during the certification cycle.	7.74% (37)

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Based on the proposed point structure, please answer the questions below:

	Proposed value	Point value should be lower	Fair in accessing the current competence	Point value should be higher
Participation in SWG, TWG, OSAC, etc.	3 pts/yr/org	12.76% (61)	82.01% (392)	5.23% (25)
Elected Officer/Committee Chair, Sub-committee chair in SWG, TWG, OSAC, etc.	2pts/yr/org	6.69% (32)	81.80% (391)	11.51% (55)
External audit, inspection or assessment:	2 pts/day	11.51% (55)	80.54% (55)	7.95% (55)
Internal Audit of Technical Specialty	1 pt/day	2.93% (14)	76.15% (364)	20.71% (99)
Workshop/Seminar/Meeting Attendance	3 pts/day	7.32% (35)	85.77% (410)	6.90% (33)
Successful completion of relevant college course	5 pts/ semester credit hour	11.30% (54)	84.52% (404)	4.18% (20)
Panel/Plenary Discussion	2 pts/ discussion	9.83% (47)	86.40% (413)	3.77% (18)
Technical Presentation: Author or Co-author	5 pts/ presentation	6.69% (32)	90.59% (433)	2.72% (13)
Technical Presentation: non-author presenter	2 pts / presentation	3.97% (19)	89.33% (433)	6.69% (32)
Technical Training Presentation	1 pts / presentation	0.42% (2)	71.34% (341)	28.24% (135)
Technical Paper Publication/review: Peer Reviewed article	15pts/paper	11.09% (53)	87.03% (416)	1.88% (9)
Technical Paper Publication/review: Non-peer reviewed article	3pts/paper	3.14% (15)	86.61% (414)	10.25% (49)
Technical Paper Publication/review: Technical review paper/thesis	5 pts/paper or thesis	6.28% (30)	89.33% (427)	4.39% (21)
Book Chapter Authorship	20 pts/ chapter	14.02% (67)	84.10% (402)	1.88% (9)
Book Editing	20 pts/book	15.90% (76)	82.85% (396)	1.05% (5)
Conducting workshop / seminar in other forensic skill area	5pts/full day	3.14% (15)	89.96% (430)	6.90% (33)
Training examiner(s) for forensic casework	5pts/40 hours of training	4.81% (23)	82.64% (395)	12.34% (59)
Primary Instructor of forensic science related course	5pts/credit hour	7.95% (38)	83.47% (399)	8.58% (41)

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Certificants will be required to attain 50 recertification points over 5 years. Do you agree with this point value?

No, certificants should have to earn a LOWER number of points over the 5-year certification cycle.	22.18% (106)
Earning 50 points over 5 years for is fair in accessing the continued competence of ABC certificants.	72.18% (345)
No, certificants should have to earn a HIGHER number of points over the 5-year certification cycle	2.09% (10)
There should be no total points requirement for certification during the certification cycle.	3.56% (17)

Certificants will be required to attain 15 points for each specialty certification over 5 years. Do you agree with this point value?

No, certificants should have to earn a LOWER number of points over the 5-year certification cycle.	17.15% (82)
Earning 15 points over 5 years for each specialty is fair in accessing the continued competence of ABC certificants.	72.38% (346)
No, certificants should have to earn a HIGHER number of points over the 5-year certification cycle.	3.77% (18)
There should be no total points requirement for each specialty certification during the certification cycle.	6.69% (32)

PLEASE NOTE: certificants with two or more specialties will continue to be required to earn an additional 15 points for each additional specialty certification. Certificants with two specialty certifications will continue to be required to earn 65 points, three certifications will be required to earn 80 points, etc.

Do you feel this new format will make the recertification process easier?

I believe this new format will make the recertification process more confusing	6.90% (33)
I believe this new format will have no impact on the on the ease of the process	43.51% (208)
I believe this new format will make the recertification process easier	28.45% (136)
I have no opinion on this.	0.84% (4)

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Does your state or municipality have any requirements, mandated by a forensic science commission, legislative policy, or other legally enforceable arrangement, for continuing education or professional development for forensic examiners?

YES	NO	STATES	
24.9% (119)	75.1% (359)	Alabama (listed as a NO state) California (listed as a NO state) DEA Florida (listed as a NO state) Georgia (listed as a NO state) Hawaii (listed as a NO state) Idaho (listed as a NO state) Indiana (listed as a NO state) Kentucky (listed as a NO state)	Maryland (listed as a NO state) Minnesota (listed as a NO state) Mississippi (listed as a NO state) North Carolina (listed as a NO state) New York (listed as a NO state) Texas Virginia (listed as a NO state) Washington (listed as a NO state)

ABC is working towards accreditation to the ISO standard. This presents challenges for the organization with regards to our current certification programs. As new certifications are being created, we are also developing a plan for transitioning current certificants to the new certifications, where applicable. This will be accomplished through the recertification program. Based on conversations with our prospective accreditation body, we have determined that it is unlikely that we will be able to have the Fellow status accredited. This is because proficiency testing, a key component of this status, is not controlled by ABC. Because of this, we are trying to determine the best path for managing current Fellows and the potential for future Fellows. We could choose to have the certification accredited and have Fellow as a non-accredited additional status. If the Fellow status were to be accredited, it would be a separate accreditation with added costs, which will be reflected in the cost of attaining and maintain Fellow certification. Please choose the answer that you believe would best serve the forensic community.

The ABC should pursue accreditation of the Fellow status (with proficiency testing) and continue offering this status as an accredited certification, if possible. The additional cost of an accredited Fellow status would be reflected in certification and recertification fees.	27.62% (132)
The ABC should continue offering a Fellow status (with proficiency testing), but the accreditation of this status is not necessary.	24.90% (119)
The ABC should allow current certificants to choose to remain a Fellow (with proficiency testing) under legacy certification OR transition to the ISO accredited certification without Fellow status.	27.62% (132)
The ABC should discontinue Fellow status (with proficiency testing) completely.	19.87% (95)

Does your laboratory offer financial, training or other incentives for certification?

No incentives for certification	57.11% (273)
Incentives for certification regardless of the status.	37.45% (179)
Incentives for certification based on Fellow, Diplomate or other	5.44% (26)