



AMERICAN COLLEGE OF VETERINARY SURGEONS 2024 DUAL CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

In effect for Diplomates initiating training July 1, 2024 –June 30, 2025.

Dual certification is the process by which ACVS Diplomates in good standing can be certified as surgically trained experts in an additional animal emphasis to their current certificate. Diplomates who achieve dual certification are endorsed by the College to advertise and practice in an animal emphasis for which they hold a current certificate.

The pathway to dual certification is based on the date of original certification. All candidates for dual certification are required to take the ACVS Phase II Surgical Competency Examination following acceptance of the application for dual certification.

- **Diplomates certified before 2001 must follow the retraining requirements for Option A.**
- **Diplomates certified in 2001 or later must follow the retraining requirements for Option B.**

INTENT

Diplomates who plan to pursue dual certification should notify ACVS of their interest by submitting the **Statement of Intent – ACVS Dual Certification** form. This form is available at www.acvs.org/dual-certification.

APPLICATION

Diplomates who have met the minimum requirements for their pathway should submit a current application for Dual Certification. The [Guidelines for Applying for Dual Certification](#) and application form are published in April each year on the ACVS website. **Applications packets and fees are due at the ACVS office on or before August 1.**

APPLICATIONS WILL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

1. **Application form.** The current form should be used.
2. **Two letters of support** from animal emphasis appropriate ACVS Diplomates.
3. **A one-page narrative** outlining their surgical practice and other relevant experience.
4. **Documentation of Retraining.**

Option A: Diplomates who have certificates dated before 2001

- a. **Surgical Case Log** documenting completion of 100% of the required minimum number of surgical cases as described in the current [Residency Training Standards and Requirements](#) (Standards) as primary or supervised surgeon. There are no requirements for direct supervision of cases or minimum requirements in any particular Core Curriculum Category. The surgical log file (Excel) is available online at www.acvs.org/dual-certification.

Diplomates retraining in small animal must document the required minimum number of cases for small animal residents.

Diplomates retraining in large animal must document the required minimum number of cases for large animal residents.

- 1) Cases should be included in the log for no more than five years prior to the submission of the application to ACVS. The [current surgical procedures lists](#) can be found on the ACVS website.
- 2) Up to 100 additional cases beyond the minimum requirement may be included in the surgical log.

Option B: Diplomates with Certificates dated 2001 or later

- a. **Surgical Case Log** documenting completion of a minimum number of surgical cases as described in the current [Residency Training Standards and Requirements](#) (Standards) as primary or supervised surgeon. **These procedures are tracked using an Excel workbook available at www.acvs.org/dual-certification.** The [current surgical procedures lists](#) can be found on the ACVS website. Procedures considered minor or nonoperative as detailed in the Standards should not be included in the Excel workbook. Only current cases should be included in the surgical log (i.e., cases performed beginning with the effective date of retraining listed on the Statement of Intent.)
 - 1) **Diplomates who are retraining in small animal** must adhere to the requirements in the Small Animal Curriculum and complete the following:
 - (a) A minimum of 60% of the total number of required surgical procedures in the Small Animal Curriculum
 - (b) A minimum of 50% of the total required surgeries in each Core Curriculum Category
 - (c) A minimum of 50% of the procedures must be directly supervised by an animal emphasis appropriate Diplomate of the ACVS.
 - 2) **Diplomates who are retraining in large animal** must declare which curriculum they are following (Large Animal-General or Large Animal-Equine) and complete the following:
 - (a) A minimum of 60% of the total required surgical procedures in the declared curriculum
 - (b) A minimum of 50% of the total required surgical procedures in each Core Curriculum Category.
 - (c) A minimum of 50% of total procedures must be directly supervised by an animal emphasis appropriate Diplomate of the ACVS.
- b. **Supervisor Log:** Documentation on ACVS Index of Supervisors (Form 5) for the cases listed on the case log (Form 7).
- c. **Specialty Service Training:** Documentation on of specialty service training in anesthesiology, diagnostic imaging, and internal medicine/critical care in the appropriate species, as well as emergency duty. **Use the Specialty Service and Emergency Training forms (PDF) for each rotation.**

- 1) **Anesthesiology:** Candidates must complete 50% of the hours required in the *Standards* under the supervision of a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Anesthesia and Analgesia (ACVAA). Candidates should review the recommended objectives for this rotation with the ACVAA Diplomate.
- 2) **Diagnostic Imaging:** Candidates must complete 100% of the hours required in the *Standards* under the supervision of a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Radiology. Candidates should review the recommended objectives for this rotation with the ACVR Diplomate.
- 3) **Internal Medicine/Critical Care:** Candidates must complete 100% of the hours required in the *Standards* under the supervision of a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (ACVIM) or a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care (ACVECC). Candidates should review the recommended objectives for this rotation with the ACVIM or ACVECC Diplomate.
- 4) **Emergency Duty:** Candidates must perform emergency surgery and manage emergency surgical cases in the new animal emphasis being studied. A minimum of 80 hours of emergency duty, supervised directly by an ACVS, ACVIM, or ACVECC Diplomate, must be completed. This requirement must be fulfilled under a program mutually agreeable to the ACVS and ACVIM/ACVECC Diplomates at the institution(s) involved.

NOTIFICATION

The Resident Credentialing Committee will review applications and make a recommendation to the ACVS Board of Regents. **Candidates will be notified by October 1** of the outcome of their applications and their eligibility to take the Phase II Surgical Competency Examination.

EXAMINATION

All candidates for Dual Certification must successfully pass the ACVS Phase II Surgical Competency Examination in the new species emphasis. Both the practical and case-based sections must be passed.

The registration deadline for the Phase II examination is in July for the following year's exam (for the 2023 Phase II exam, the registration deadline is July 25, 2022). Any Diplomate who is nearing completion of their training who plans to submit the application for dual certification for the August 1 deadline must register for the Phase II examination in July. Examination rules and security policies, details on the format of the examination, schedule, fees, and a suggested reading list can be found in the [ACVS Phase II Surgical Competency Examination Information Pamphlet](#). The information pamphlet is available in late June/early July each year. Candidates who pass the Phase II examination will be awarded dual certification status and will receive a new time-limited certificate in the new animal emphasis.

Failure to complete successfully both sections of the Phase II examination after three attempts will require submission of a new credentials application to the Resident Credentialing Committee and complete re-examination. Candidates whose reapplications are approved must then pass both sections of the Phase II examination.

TIME LIMITS

Diplomates pursuing Option A are under no time limit to submit proof of training to ACVS.

Diplomates pursuing Option B should submit dual certification documentation each year by August 1 to the ACVS office for review by the Resident Credentialing Committee. Email a copy of the Excel workbook to residency@acvs.org for review.

Diplomates pursuing Option B must submit an application for dual certification within five years of submitting the Statement of Intent form to ACVS. If a Diplomate is unable to apply within five years, the Diplomate will need to continue training following any new surgical procedures or specialty service training changes in the current *Residency Training Standards and Requirements*.

DISCONTINUANCE

Candidates who choose to discontinue pursuit of dual certification training entirely or who have put their training on hold should notify ACVS of their status.

MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION

Diplomates who are approved by the Board of Regents for dual certification status will be awarded a time-limited certificate in the new animal emphasis. Diplomates with time-limited certificates must maintain their certification in the new emphasis every five years following the requirements for Maintenance of Certification, available at www.acvs.org/moc.