

Abdominal Transplant Surgery Fellowship Requirements

Objective:

The objective of a Transplant Surgery Fellowship Training Program is to develop proficiency in the surgical and medical management of patients with end-stage organ diseases amenable to transplantation. This objective should be achieved through a 24-month structured supplemental program for the study and treatment of these diseases in an accredited and properly supervised transplant surgery fellowship. Candidates for training in an ASTS Accredited Abdominal Transplant Surgery Fellowship Training Program must have satisfactorily completed a residency which satisfies the educational requirements for certification by the American Board of Surgery, American Board of Urology, American Osteopathic Board Certification, or foreign equivalency. Individual training programs may also have additional requirements.

There are several requirements for fellowship training which include the following:

- The program must provide adequate volumes of various transplant procedures and have a formal structure of didactic and clinical training in place.
- The fellow must demonstrate proficiency by participating in the Principal Role in an adequate number of operative transplants for each organ in order to receive a certificate of completion of a fellowship in a particular organ system.
- Fellows will be eligible to train in the Basic Training Categories (BTF) and Specialized Training Categories (STF) category in which they match into and the program is accredited to train in. Upon successful completion, Program Directors will notify the ASTS which organ track(s) the fellow is competent in.
- The length of the fellowship period should be no less than 24 months.
- Fellows **MUST** apply for ASTS candidate membership BEFORE entering the fellowship training program. Fellows apply for online at www.ASTS.org for ASTS Candidate Membership as an ASTS-Fellow. The application must be completed and include your CV and letter of support from the Program Director. Applications should be submitted at least 3 months prior to the fellows start date.
- Programs must notify the ASTS National Office of their incoming fellows. Name, degree, organ training slot, email address and start date must all be submitted to ASTS prior to fellowship start date.
- Programs must submit surgical milestone assessments of fellows at 6-month intervals after start of training.
- Fellows must submit a request for their certificate of completion by filling out the Fellowship Completion Form and emailing it to chelsey.gordon@asts.org. Please note, the ASTS does not automatically process certificates.

Individual Fellow Requirements:

- Fellows must maintain a surgical log in the Academic Universe. This surgical log should be updated in a timely fashion and must be approved by the Fellowship Training Program Director.

- The fellow must demonstrate proficiency by participating in the Principal Role in an adequate number of operative transplants for each organ in order to receive a certificate of completion of a fellowship in a particular organ system. The Program Director will notify the ASTS which organ track(s) the fellow is competent in.
- "Principal Role" does not suggest that an Attending Surgeon was not present during the procedure. The Fellow can act in the Principal Role when working together with a Staff Surgeon. "Principal Role" does require that the Fellow was present for the vast majority of the procedure. Only one Fellow can be considered to have played the principal role for any one procedure.

Fellows are required to meet the following volumes over the course of their 2-year fellowship in order to receive a certificate of completion in the organ systems they matched into and the program is accredited to train in.

Total Transplant Volume (ALL fellows)	50
Multi-Organ Procurements (ALL fellows)	25
Kidney	40
<i>Living Donor Nephrectomies</i>	<i>12</i>
Liver	45
Pancreas	10 transplants in the principal role 10 back table preparations 10 pancreas procurements
*Intestine	10
*Hepatobiliary	Minimum 35 HB Cases
Minimum of 15 Hemihepatectomies in Principal Role Minimum of 15 Biliary procedures in Principal Role	
*Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary	Minimum 50 HPB Cases
Minimum of 15 Hemihepatectomies in Principal Role Minimum of 15 Biliary procedures in Principal Role Minimum of 15 Non-transplant major pancreatic procedures in Principal Role	

Fellows can perform a minimum of 12 living donor nephrectomies in the principal or participant role.

**Fellows must have successfully completed a fellowship in liver transplantation in order to be eligible for intestinal, hepatobiliary, or hepatopancreatobiliary certificate of completion.*

Online Curriculum:

All fellows will be required to complete ALL curriculum modules in each unit in the Academic Universe (outlined below) in order to receive a certificate of completion. Module completion will include the following:

- Viewing the slide show presentation
- Reviewing the references
- Completing the Self-Assessment Questions
- Providing general and specific curriculum feedback at the completion of each presentation

National Transplant Curriculum Units:	
1	Kidney

2	Liver
3	Pancreas
4	Immunobiology & Transplantation Research
5	Pharmacology & Immunosuppression
6	Organ Recovery
7	Medical Complications of Transplantation
8	Access for Renal Replacement Therapy
9	Public Policy and Organ Allocation
10	Ethics
11	HPB

Knowledge Assessment: Pathway to Certificate of Completion

Fellows in TACC Accredited Training Programs are required to take the annual Knowledge Assessment during their first and second year of fellowship training. In order to receive the Certificate of Completion from the TACC, fellows must complete all of the requirements outlined above as well as achieve satisfactory performance on the Knowledge Assessment.

The TACC Knowledge Assessment will be offered in April of each year for first and second year Fellows. **Fellows must have an average score of >50% correct when the scores from their first- and second-year assessments are combined.** The assessment will be administered using a secure online exam platform and will be proctored by the fellows' Fellowship Training Program Director. Individual scores as well as category breakdown performance will be sent to the fellows and their Fellowship Training Program director after the assessment.

The assessment will consist of 120 questions which fellows will have 2.6 hours to complete (1.3 minutes per question). The assessment will cover the following categories from the National Transplant Curriculum.

- Economics and Ethics
- Hepatobiliary/Hepatopancreato biliary
- Intestinal Transplantation
- Kidney Transplantation
- Liver Transplantation
- Medical Complications
- Multi-Organ Transplant
- Organ Procurement
- Pancreas Transplantation
- Pharmacology and Immunosuppression
- Transplant Immunology

Remediation

It is expected that there is improvement in fellows scores on the Knowledge Assessment from the first to the second-year assessment. For fellows that achieve a high score on their first attempt, the expectation is that they maintain that standard on their second-year assessment. All exams will be adjusted for difficulty and will be assessed for question quality.



Should a fellow not score an average of >50% correct when the scores of their first- and second-year assessments are combined, the following options will be available. Remediation must be completed within 60 days of their released exam scores.

Remediation 1: Repeat the same exam within 60 days of the first exam. Fellow will be provided category breakdown to review prior to the exam.

Remediation 2: If a fellow fails a repeat exam, a focused and incremental self-knowledge assessment will be administered based on areas of weakness.