

BACKGROUND, FUNCTION, AND PURPOSE

The need to identify qualified forensic scientists who can provide essential professional services for the nation's judicial and executive branches of government has long been recognized. In response to the professional need, the American Board of Forensic Toxicology was organized in 1975 to provide, in the interest of the public and the advancement of the sciences, a certification program in forensic toxicology. On February 18, 2014, the American Board of Forensic Toxicology (ABFT) and the Forensic Toxicologist Certification Board (FTCB) merged into a single organization. In purpose, function, and organization, the ABFT is analogous to the certifying board in various medical specialties and scientific fields.

The objectives of the Board are to establish, enhance, and revise as necessary the standards of qualification for those who practice forensic toxicology and to certify as qualified scientists those voluntary applicants who comply with the requirements of the Board. In this way, the Board aims to establish a practical and equitable system of readily identifying those who possess the requisite qualifications and competence in forensic toxicology.

Certification is based upon the candidate's personal and professional record of education and training, experience, achievement, and a formal written examination.

The Board is a non-profit 501(c)(6) organization incorporated in the District of Columbia. It is recognized by the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, the Society of Forensic Toxicologists, the California Association of Toxicologists, the Canadian Society of Forensic Science, and the Southwestern Association of Toxicologists. The Board is composed of the officers and other directors, who serve staggered terms and are selected from the Certificants at large by a Nominating Committee process.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

- The right to deny Certification is reserved.
- Certificates of Qualification in Forensic Toxicology are valid for five years and are renewable according to standards and under conditions established by the Board, including continuing education requirements.
- Persons holding a valid Certificate of Qualification issued by the Board are entitled to use the applicable designation and initials.
- Certificates may be suspended or revoked for appropriate cause under an elaborate system of safeguards for the individual concerned.
- Qualifications, requirements, and application procedures for certification are subject to revision by the Board. The latest version can be obtained online at www.abft.org or from the Colorado Springs office.

For additional information, contact:

Bruce Goldberger, Ph.D.
ABFT President
bruce-goldberger@ufl.edu

Robert Sears, M.S.
ABFT Secretary
robsears@sled.sc.gov

James Williamson, B.S.
ABFT Executive Director
jwilliamson@abft.org

American Board of Forensic Toxicology, Inc.
723 N. Weber Street, Suite 103
Colorado Springs, CO 80903
Telephone: (719) 362-0452
admin@abft.org
www.abft.org

© 2020 ABFT, Inc.



PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION

FELLOW IN FORENSIC TOXICOLOGY
DIPLOMATE IN FORENSIC TOXICOLOGY
DIPLOMATE IN FORENSIC ALCOHOL TOXICOLOGY
DIPLOMATE IN FORENSIC DRUG TOXICOLOGY
ANALYST IN FORENSIC TOXICOLOGY

An introduction to the nature and purposes of the Board with a summary of requirements for certification and application.

Complete details can be obtained from the ABFT website and application documents.

The American Board of Forensic Toxicology
is accredited by the
Forensic Specialties Accreditation Board

Certifying Forensic Toxicologists
since 1975

www.abft.org

AMERICAN BOARD OF FORENSIC TOXICOLOGY CERTIFICATION OVERVIEW

GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS

Applicants must be persons of good moral character, high integrity, and good repute and must possess high ethical and professional standings.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

After submission to the ABFT Colorado Springs office, completed applications are reviewed by the Credentials Committee of the Board, and following successful completion of an examination, their recommendation is considered by the Board of Directors for final action. A completed application file will contain:

- Non-refundable application fee—\$250 USD (\$150 for Analyst).
- Recent passport-style photograph.
- Completed application form.
- Official transcripts from all colleges or universities attended (regardless of degrees received) must be sent directly to the Board’s office by the registrar(s).
- Three professional character references from practitioners in Forensic Toxicology (other than members or individuals who sit on the ABFT Board of Directors) who are knowledgeable about the applicant’s forensic toxicology experience and will complete ABFT-provided reference forms to be returned directly to the ABFT Administrative Office. (Two references required for Analyst)

EXAMINATION

- Applicants who meet the listed requirements will be admitted to the examination. The examination must be completed within a period of two years.
- Applicants must successfully pass the comprehensive written examination based on the principles and practice of forensic toxicology.
- Applicants who fail the examination may apply for re-examination once within one year for a \$150 examination sitting fee.

CONTINUING EDUCATION AND ANNUAL FEES

- Once certified, all Certificants are required to provide annual documentation of continuing education in the field of forensic toxicology. Current documentation requirements are available on the ABFT website.
- An annual maintenance fee of \$100 is collected at the time continuing education documentation is submitted by the Certificant.
- The documentation and fee must be submitted every year, regardless of the amount or lack of continuing education activity that a Certificant has participated in for a given year.

REQUALIFICATION

- The purpose of the Requalification process is to determine and document that a Certificant has maintained qualifications and continues an acceptable practice of forensic toxicology. Requalification is distinct from annual documentation of continuing education and occurs every five years. There is no fee associated with the requalification process.
- Certificants must submit continuing education information and fee for each of the years prior to Requalification. Requalification applications will not be processed unless all continuing education material has been submitted.
- Continuing education credit minimum totals for a first time requalification may be prorated relative to an individual’s initial date of certification. Thereafter, a minimum total continuing education requirement for each full five-year period in consideration for requalification must be maintained.

Certification Categories

	Fellow	Diplomate			Analyst	
		Forensic Toxicology	Forensic Alcohol Toxicology	Forensic Drug Toxicology		
Designation	F-ABFT	D-ABFT-FT	D-ABFT-FA	D-ABFT-FD	A-ABFT	
Education Degree¹	Doctor of Philosophy or Science	Bachelor’s	Bachelor’s	Bachelor’s	Bachelor’s	Associate’s
Training Pharmacology and Toxicology²	Formal coursework and/or documented training	Optional	Optional	Optional	Optional	Optional
Professional Experience Subsequent to Receipt of Degree³	three years	three years	three years	three years	one year	two years
Immediately Prior to Date of Application	one year	one year	one year	one year	one year	one year
Areas of Expertise	Forensic Toxicology (multidisciplinary ⁴)	Forensic Toxicology (multidisciplinary)	Forensic Alcohol Toxicology	Forensic Toxicology Workplace/ Prescription Drug Monitoring	Analytical Toxicology/ Chemistry	

¹ Degrees must be obtained in biological or chemistry-related science (including pharmacy). Acceptable institutions are those accredited by regional accrediting commissions recognized by the United States Office of Education (USOE). Degrees awarded from institutions outside of the United States and Canada must be evaluated by a credentialing service accredited by the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES) such as the World Education Services (WES).

² All applicants must have adequate undergraduate and graduate (if applicable) education in biology and chemistry as determined by the Board. For Fellows, if transcripts do not reflect coursework in pharmacology or toxicology, details describing how such training was received are required. The Board reserves the right to request a letter from the individual(s) who provided such training.

³ Applicants must have completed at least a specified time of full-time professional experience (or the part-time equivalent thereof) in forensic toxicology subsequent to receipt of their degree.

⁴ Includes interpretation.