



ACADEMY OF SURGICAL RESEARCH

Surgical Research Specialist (SRS) Application Requirements

Application deadline is March 31st

SRS Certification Application Requirements

- ☐ [Pay fee](#)
- ☐ [Upload all completed required documents](#) (with all necessary signatures)
 - ☐ **Application Form**
 - ☐ **Resume/Curriculum Vitae**
 - ☐ **Anesthesia/Surgical Training**
 - Detailed description of courses or programs
 - Description of “on the job” training (length and nature of training)
 - List of self-study material
 - Syllabus of seminars and workshops
 - ☐ **SRS Surgical Case Log – details on page 2**
 - ☐ **SRS Narrative Case Descriptions – two total details on page 3**

Certification Application Guidelines

- Familiarize yourself with the certification requirements, application process, and application requirements.
- Ensure you will be able to meet all the specific requirements listed in the application package.
- If you have questions about your experience and whether you can meet the requirements, [email the Certification Committee](#).
- Plan! Completing all the requirements listed for certification typically takes at least 1 year.
- Before submitting your application, review to make sure all required information and documents are organized and included.
- Follow the instructions listed on the application to consolidate and upload documents to the ASR upload account. Be sure to submit payment as well.
- The ASR Certification Committee will only review applications if payment has been received.
- Ensure your complete application package is uploaded no later than March 31st of the year you intend to sit for the exam.
- Applicants will receive notification by July confirming application acceptance, additional information needed, or rejection.
- If additional information is required, you will be informed and given opportunity provide this. After this is provided, you will either be accepted or rejected to sit for the exam.
- If the application is rejected due to “insufficient cases”, you will be given the opportunity to defer to the following year.
- Start studying as soon as possible! Be sure to check out the resources available on the ASR website.

Surgical Case Log

Format: The log should be in chart form. Cases should be listed in chronological order.

Log duration: Cases must occur over at least one year. This means that the most recent case is at least 364 days apart from the oldest case. Cases older than 3 years from the application submission date will not count toward the total case count requirement.

Number of species: A minimum of 2 species is required.

Number of procedures: The minimum number of procedures required depends on the species included.

If at least one of the species included is not a rat or mouse, 2 different procedures are required.

If only rats and mice are included, 4 different procedures are required.

Number of cases: The minimum number of cases required depends on the species included.

If at least one of the species included is not a rat or mouse, 12 cases are required

If only rats and mice are included, 24 cases are required.

Case requirements:

- **Aseptic** (performed using standard aseptic technique)
- **Survival** (minimum recovery 72 hours post recovery)
- **Major procedures**
 - Involve complex surgical techniques
 - Entry into a major body cavity, microsurgical techniques such as vascular anastomosis, significant orthopedic surgery, or involve significant CNS manipulation such as intrathecal indwelling cannulations and nerve anastomosis

Applicant role: Procedure must be performed by the applicant. Procedures where the applicant acted as a secondary surgeon or sterile assistant may be accepted if the duties were relatively extensive (ex. instrumenting a cardiopulmonary bypass during a heart transplant procedure) and a detailed description of the duties performed by the applicant is included. *These cases will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the reviewing staff.*

Verification: The log must be certified for accuracy with a signature and date by the **supervising surgeon, laboratory animal veterinarian, or an SRS certified technician**.

Content: The log should include applicant name and verification signature and for each case, at minimum:

- **Date of case**
- **Case number** (to correlate to narratives)
- **Animal identification**
- **Animal description** (species, strain, sex, age)
- **Procedure performed**
- **Survival/non-survival**
- **Post-op pain assessment**
- **Complications**
- **Euthanasia date and method**
- **Role** (primary/assistant)

Cases of lesser complexity or that fall outside of the requirements listed here may and should be included to demonstrate the applicant's breadth of experience, but will not count toward the minimum requirement.

Exceptions to listed requirements will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the Certification Committee and the Academy's President.

If you have questions about your experience and whether you can meet the requirements, [email the Certification Committee](#)

Narrative Case Descriptions

Format: Narratives are to be written on 2 cases selected from the anesthesia case log. Narratives must be in paragraph form and should be comprehensive, specific, and detailed. Someone should be able to replicate the procedure exactly based on the description provided. Narratives should be typed and reviewed for spelling and accuracy.

Content: Each narrative must include at minimum:

- **Applicant name**
- **Date and case number**
- **Subject information**
 - Animal ID
 - Species, strain, sex, and age of the patient
- **Procedure**
 - Type (ex. recovery, VAP placement)
 - Goal of the procedure (ex. provide long-term venous access for test compound administration)
- **Animal selection**
 - Pre-surgical evaluation of fitness for surgery
- **Anesthesia/analgesic/drug regimen**
 - Each drug name, purpose, dosage, administration site/route, frequency
- **Animal preparation**
 - Fasting, hair removal, positioning, surgical site prep, drape
 - Fluid administration with type, purpose, dose, and route
- **Measures to assure asepsis**
 - Surgery area, surgeon prep regimen, instrument/supply sterilization methods, draping materials and methods
- **DETAILED description of surgical technique**
 - Incision site, description of tissues involved including names of tissues encountered, dissection methods, asepsis and tissue handling considerations
 - Equipment/instruments used
 - Procedure specific details
 - Any additional drugs/fluids administered with purpose
 - Site closure materials, methods/patterns
- **Intra-operative monitoring**
 - Parameters monitored with frequency (blood pressure, ECG, temperature, anesthetic depth, etc.)
 - Equipment/methods used (manufacturer, model, sensor types and placement, manual techniques, etc.)
 - Any drug interventions
- **Complications**
 - Any complications encountered and how they were addressed
 - Anticipated complications and how they would be addressed
 - Emergency interventions available with description of when/how would be used
- **Post-operative monitoring**
 - Acute recovery measures, personnel responsible, methods, frequency, observations, goals, etc.
- **Methods of pain assessment**
 - Signs of pain and distress anticipated, frequency of observations, duration of monitoring, etc.
- **Follow-up treatment**
 - Observations, medications, frequency, criteria for discontinuation, etc.
 - If applicable, euthanasia date, reason, method used