



Purpose

- This program was established to advance the reliability and validity of forensic evidence in the administration of justice through the accreditation of qualified organizations that credential and certify individual forensic specialists.

Purpose

- The program is designed to review and evaluate the operating procedures and standards of applicant forensic certification bodies to ensure that they meet or exceed a minimum set of standards.

Purpose

- The standards are based on those already applied by other nationally recognized accreditation programs and where they exist, international standards, but have been modified in recognition of the unique and diverse nature of the different forensic specialty organizations.

History

- 1995 Strategic Planning Committee (AAFS)
 - Noted that the quality and standards applied by different forensic boards for granting certification varied widely.
 - The Committee recommended that AAFS should assume a role in establishing a formal mechanism whereby the different credentialing processes of the various certification boards can be objectively assessed.

History

- AAFS recognized that an important aspect of professional oversight is monitoring the quality and consistency of credentialing of forensic specialists by the various forensic boards; i.e., accrediting the certifiers.

History

- 1996 – Groundwork laid by the AAFS
 - Professional Oversight Committee
 - Mini-Task Force on Criteria for Specialist Certifying Boards

History

- The Accreditation and Certification Task Force, now known as the Forensic Specialties Accreditation Board (FSAB) with grant assistance from the National Institute of Justice, (NIJ) was formed to develop a voluntary program to objectively assess, recognize and monitor the various forensic specialty boards which seek accreditation.

History

- June 23, 2000 – FSAB incorporated as an independent non-profit organization (Colorado)

Bylaws

Initial Nominating Organizations (INOs)

Within one year of the date of incorporation, the initial directors solicited various forensic certification bodies to become Initial Nominating Organizations

Bylaws

Nominating Organizations (NOs)

Each legally identifiable entity that has been accredited by the Corporation to offer certification in one of the forensic specialties is deemed a Nominating Organization.

2008 – Transition phase from INOs to NOs

Bylaws

- Public Directors

- There shall be at least one (1) public Director.
- Public Directors shall not be certificants of a Nominating Organization.
- Public Directors may or may not have any forensic experience or qualifications, but will represent public interests as determined by the Board. Public Directors shall be appointed by the President.

FSAB's Board of Directors

2011-2012

President

Derek L. Hammond, BA, D-ABFDE

Vice President

Madeleine J. Hinkes, PhD, D-ABFA

Secretary

David R. Senn, DDS, D-ABFO

Treasurer

Thomas L. Bohan, PhD, JD, D-IIFES

Immediate Past President

Yale H. Caplan, PhD, D-ABFT

Additional Directors

Dan Bergman, BS, D-ABC

Ann W. Bunch, PhD, D-ABFA

Mary Fran Ernst, BLS, F-ABMDI

Robert J. Garrett, CSCSA, CLPE-IAI

Bruce A. Goldberger, PhD, D-ABFT

Elizabeth K. Olsson, BA, D-ABC

Joseph J. Maltese, JD*

Anjali R. Swinton, MFS, JD*

Lyla A. Thompson, BS, CLPE-IAI

Emily J. Will, MA, BC-BFDE

*Public Director

Officers serve 1 year terms (not to exceed 8 consecutive terms)

Directors serve 3 year terms (not to exceed 4 terms)

Development of Standards

The following materials were used as references during the development of the FSAB standards:

ISO Guide 58 (1993)

Calibration and testing laboratory accreditation systems - General requirements for operation and recognition

Draft ISO/IES 17024 (October 1998)

General requirements for certification bodies operating certification of personnel

ISO/IES 17024 (April 2003)

Conformity assessment - General requirements for certification bodies operating certification of personnel

Development of Standards

ISO Guide 2 (1991)

General terms and their definitions concerning standardization and related activities

Draft ASTM Guide (E36.20 subcommittee on Certification/Registration) (1998)

Standard guide for establishing requirements for bodies operating certification systems for personnel

NCCA Standards (National Commission for Certifying Agencies) (1998)

NCCA standards for accreditation of national certification organizations

CESB Guidelines (Council of Engineering and Scientific Specialty Boards) (1991)

Guidelines for engineering and related specialty certification programs

FSAB Standards

Certification Body

- General Provisions
- Organization
- Subcontracting
- Policies and Procedures
- Management System and Review
- Scope of Program and Available Documentation
- Examination and Other Records
- Confidentiality

FSAB Standards

Certification Standards

- General Provisions
- Credentialing
- General Requirements for Initial Professional Development or Training in a Forensic Specialty Area
- Competency and Examination
- Ethics and Professional Standards

FSAB Standards

Recertification

- General Requirement
- Continuing Professional Development
- Work Experience
- Ethical and Professional Standards

FSAB Standards

Competency Evaluation Personnel

- Training and Instruction
- Conflicts of Interest

Examination for Initial Certification

FSAB Standards

Certificates

- Issuance
- Contents
- Expiration

Changes in Certification Requirements

- Notification

Principal Activities

- Annual meeting (in conjunction with AAFFS)
 - Open to the public
- Continual review of FSAB Standards
- Application Review Committees
 - Initial Accreditation
 - Reaccreditation (5 yrs)

Application Review Committee (ARC)

- Committee is appointed by the President
 - Minimum of 3 members
 - 1 must be a Board member
 - Non-voting consultants may be used to assist the ARC

Application Review Committee (ARC)

- Duties
 - Review all application materials to determine that the application is complete
 - Determine if the program standards have been met
 - Provide a written report documenting whether all standards have been met/not met

Application Review Committee (ARC)

- Recommendation to the Board

Application Process

- All application materials must be received by the ARC by April 1 in any year for the applicant to be accredited the next year
- ARC appointed
 - Initial review for completeness of the application within two (2) months of receipt

Application Process

- If necessary, the applicant shall provide additional information to complete the application by September 1
- The ARC shall review the completed application to determine compliance with the standards and notify the applicant of any deficiencies by December 1

Application Process

- The applicant shall address the deficiencies with the ARC by January 15
- The ARC shall make a written recommendation to the Board by February 1
- The Board shall consider the recommendation of the ARC at its annual meeting and will notify the applicant organization of its decision by March 1.

Fees/Financial Costs

- Application Fees
 - \$2000
- Annual Maintenance Fees
 - All accredited organizations will pay an annual fee of \$500 combined with a supplemental fee (below) that is based on the number of current certificants
 - \$3/certificant (up to 1000)
 - + \$2/certificant (1101-2000) *(if applicable)*
 - + \$1/certificant (2000+) *(if applicable)*
- Re-accreditation Fees (every 5 yrs)
 - \$500

Accredited Certification Boards

1. American Board of Criminalistics (2004-2009; 2009-2014)
2. American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators (2005-2010; 2010-2015)
3. American Board of Forensic Toxicology (2006-2011; 2011-2016)
4. Board of Forensic Document Examiners (2006-2011; 2011-2016)
5. American Board of Forensic Document Examiners (2007-2012)
6. International Board of Forensic Engineering Sciences (2007-2012)
7. American Board of Forensic Odontology (2008-2013)
8. American Board of Forensic Anthropology (2009-2014)
9. Bloodstain Pattern Examiner Certification Board, International Association for Identification (2010-2015)
10. Crime Scene Certification Board, International Association for Identification (2010-2015)
11. Footwear Certification Board, International Association for Identification (2010-2015)
12. Forensic Art Certification Board, International Association for Identification (2010-2015)
13. Forensic Photography Certification Board, International Association for Identification (2010-2015)
14. Latent Print Certification Board, International Association for Identification (2010-2015)
15. Tenprint Fingerprint Certification Board, International Association for Identification (2010-2015)
16. National Association of Forensic Counselors (2011-2016))

Complaint Process

- Complaints must be in writing
- The complainant may be a member of the subject certifying body or of the FSAB Board
- The complaint may be based upon public information (e.g., newspaper, court records, etc.) to which such Board member may become aware

Complaint Process

- Ad hoc Complaint Review Committee (CRC) appointed by the President
- Vice President is the chair of the CRC

Complaint Process

- Negative Action
 - The CRC can dismiss frivolous complaints outright
 - Alternatively, the CRC will make a recommendation to the full Board for dismissal

Complaint Process

- Positive Action
 - The CRC will continue with the investigation and will make a majority recommendation to the full Board
 - CRC has the authority to solicit assistance from non-Board members (i.e., lawyers, investigators, etc.)
 - Subject to a confidentiality agreement

Complaint Process

- Positive Action
 - May include notice of rectification of a sub-standard process, suspension of accreditation, or revocation

Complaints

- Two (2) complaints have been filed
 - 2009
 - 2010

www.theFSAB.org



Forensic Specialties Accreditation Board, Inc.

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