

# Surgeon Credentials Checklist

Use this checklist of nonnegotiable surgeon credentials for any cosmetic or reconstructive plastic surgery procedure:

- Board Certification:**

Your surgeon should be certified by the American Board of Plastic Surgery (ABPS) or the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons in Canada. *Tip: Always verify the certification's date and current status. You can check this at [ABPlasticSurgery.org/Public](http://ABPlasticSurgery.org/Public).*
- Accredited Surgical Facility:**

Ensure the surgery center where your procedure will be performed is accredited. This ensures that the facility meets high standards for safety, cleanliness and quality. For surgeries under anesthesia (except minor procedures), the facility should be:

  - Accredited by a national- or state-recognized accrediting agency/organization such as the American Association for Accreditation of Ambulatory Surgery Facilities, the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care or the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Health Care Organizations
  - Certified to participate in the Medicare program under Title XVIII
  - Licensed by the state in which the facility is located
- Medical Training and Residency:**

Your plastic surgeon should, of course, have attended a medical school, followed by specialized training in plastic surgery. Some directly enter a plastic surgery training program, while others complete general surgery first and plastic surgery training after. Some plastic surgeons subspecialize and complete an extra year of specialty training called a fellowship after their residency.
- ASPS Membership:**

ASPS Member Surgeons are required to meet rigorous standards, including:

  - Board certification by the ABPS or in Canada by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada
  - Complete at least six years of surgical training following medical school with a minimum of three years of plastic surgery residency training
  - Pass comprehensive oral and written exams
  - Graduate from an accredited medical school
  - Complete continuing medical education, including patient safety each year
  - Perform surgery in accredited, state-licensed or Medicare-certified surgical facilities
  - Adhere to a strict Code of Ethics

