



Board of Certification Professional Partners:

The Board of Certification has created the following news briefs to communicate information to BOC credential holders and partner organizations as well as the profession at large. Please feel free to publish any of the items on society websites, in newsletters, and on social media accounts at your leisure.

If you have any questions feel free to contact your BOC organizational representative or Robin Lewis at [robin.lewis@ascp.org](mailto:robin.lewis@ascp.org) or (312)541-4953.

### Membership versus Certification

**True or False – I need to be a member of ASCP to become certified or maintain my certification.**

**False:** The ASCP Board of Certification (BOC) is a certifying agency. You do not need to be a member of ASCP or any other professional organization to become ASCP certified or to maintain your certification. Membership in any professional organization which collaborates with the BOC is voluntary, separate and apart from certification.

### Licensure versus Certification

**True or False – The ASCP Board of Certification (BOC) grants state licenses.**

**False:** The BOC does not grant state licensure. Successful certification by the BOC does not automatically grant an individual a state license. The requirements for licensure are established by each state and must be met in order to become licensed in a particular state. [www.ascp.org/licensure](http://www.ascp.org/licensure)

Similarly, passing a state licensure exam does not automatically grant BOC certification. To become certified, an individual must meet the BOC eligibility requirement for the certification category and achieve a passing score on the examination.

### Credentials

**MT or CLS or MLS - What's in the name?**

In 2009 the two major laboratory credentialing agencies, the National Credentialing Agency (NCA) and the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) Board of Registry (BOR) unified to create the ASCP Board of Certification (BOC). Those who became certified as a Laboratory Generalist were given a new designation, Medical Laboratory Scientist, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>. This credential was developed from the Clinical Laboratory Scientist (CLS) designation used by the NCA and the Medical Technologist (MT) designation used by the ASCP BOR. The superscript "CM" indicates participation in the Credential Maintenance Program (CMP) every three years to maintain certification. Individuals with the previous Laboratory Generalist designation, MT(ASCP) may use the MLS credential, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup> by participating in the CMP on a voluntary basis.