

## Requirements for Becoming a Member of the Major Surgical Societies for Pediatric Surgeons

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### **American Pediatric Surgical Association (APSA)**

#### **Applying for Membership**

Visit the APSA website for additional information and to submit an application. Questions? Contact APSA staff at [info@eapsa.org](mailto:info@eapsa.org)

#### **Regular Membership**

A regular member must be licensed to practice medicine in the United States or Canada and must be certified in pediatric surgery by the American Board of Surgery or by the Royal College of Surgeons of Canada. A regular member must have completed his/her training in a program that has been approved by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) or the equivalent Royal College of Surgeons of Canada. An applicant must have a practice devoted entirely to pediatric surgery, except as may be required by emergency care or special circumstance. An applicant may not be elected to membership until he or she has practiced pediatric surgery for one year after completion of the required surgical training.

#### **Application Checklist for Regular Membership**

For a list of benefits and to apply: <http://www.eapsa.org/membership/join-apsa/regular-membership/>

All applications and supporting documentation must be submitted online

- Curriculum Vitae
- Bibliography
- An operative experience report covering the previous calendar or chronological year. The report must be signed by the Surgeon-in-Chief in the hospital(s) where the surgery was performed and should indicate if the applicant was the surgeon, first assistant or teaching assistant.
- Letter of support from your Pediatric Surgery Training Program Director
- Two additional letters of support from APSA members in good standing
- Jpeg of your photograph

#### **Associate Membership**

Associate membership shall be extended to a person who has been exclusively engaged in the practice of pediatric surgery for five years, except as may be required by emergency care or special circumstances. An associate member requires written endorsement by a regular member sponsor as well as two other members at the time of application. Associate member applicants must provide a comprehensive current two-year case log as well as a letter from the chief of surgery at each hospital where he/she practices confirming the validity of the case log and indicating that the applicant is a member of the hospital staff in good standing.

### **Application Checklist for Associate Membership**

For a list of benefits and to apply: <http://www.eapsa.org/membership/join-apsa/associate-membershp/>

All applications and supporting documentation must be submitted online

- Supporting letter from your APSA member sponsor
- Two additional letters of support from APSA members in good standing
- Curriculum Vitae
- Bibliography
- An operative experience report covering the previous two calendar or chronologic years. The report must be signed by the Chief(s) of Surgery in the hospital(s) where the surgery was performed and should indicate if the applicant was the surgeon, first assistant or teaching assistant.
- A jpeg of your photograph

### **Candidate Membership**

A candidate member must be currently licensed to practice medicine in the United States or Canada. Candidate members must have successfully completed or they must be eligible for examination in general surgery given by the American Board of Surgery or the Royal College of Surgeons of Canada. Fellows in, or individuals who are within 12 months after completion of, an ACGME-approved pediatric surgical fellowship or RCSC-equivalent positions are eligible for candidate membership. An individual may remain a candidate member for five years following completion of an approved pediatric surgical residency program at which time the candidate membership will expire. This five-year period is in addition to the time spent as a candidate member during pediatric surgery residency. If candidate membership expires, one may still apply for regular membership at any time in the future. Candidate membership is not mandatory in order to qualify for regular membership. A candidate member who has completed his/her training in an ACGME-approved pediatric surgery residency position or equivalent Royal College of Surgeons of Canada approved program must practice pediatric surgery exclusively as stipulated in section for regular membership.

### **Application Checklist for Candidate Membership**

For a list of benefits and to apply: <http://www.eapsa.org/membership/join-apsa/candidate-membership/>

All applications and supporting documentation must be submitted online

- Curriculum Vitae
- Bibliography
- Supporting letter from your Pediatric Surgery Training Director
- Jpeg of your photograph

### **Resident Membership**

A resident member must be a general surgery resident in good standing in an Accreditation Council on Graduate Medical Education (ACGME)-approved residency program or Royal College of Surgeons of Canada (RCSC)-equivalent or in a training or research position during or after completion of the residency but not yet a fellow in an ACGME- or RCSC-approved training program in pediatric surgery. The term of membership will be for one year and will automatically expire after one year. Upon

notification from APSA headquarters, a written request for extension must be submitted to and approved by the Membership and Credentials Committee.

### **Application Checklist for Resident Membership**

For a list of benefits and to apply: <http://www.eapsa.org/membership/join-apsa/resident-membership/>

All applications and supporting documentation must be submitted online  
Requirements A: if you are enrolled in an ACGME-approved or RCSC-equivalent general surgery residency program

- Curriculum Vitae
- Bibliography
- Letter of support from your general surgery chair or program director
- Letter of support from an APSA member in good standing
- Jpg of your photograph

Requirements B: if you are in a training position during or after completion of general surgery residency, but not yet a fellow in an ACGME- or RCSC-approved pediatric surgery fellowship

- Curriculum Vitae
- Bibliography
- Letter of support from your general surgery chair or program director
- Letter of support from your current training program director
- Letter of support from an APSA member in good standing
- Jpg of your photograph

### **International Membership**

International members must be pediatric surgeons who do not live or practice in the United States or Canada, and who do not live within the Territory of the United States or Canada. Applicants for International Membership must have attended one APSA annual meeting prior to application date.

### **Application Checklist for International Membership**

For a list of benefits and to apply: <http://www.eapsa.org/membership/join-apsa/international-membership/>

All applications and supporting documentation must be submitted online

- Curriculum Vitae
  - Bibliography
  - Letter of support from a local reference
  - Three additional letters of support from APSA members
  - Attendance of at least one APSA annual meeting
  - Jpeg file of your photograph
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### **American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)**

Specialty Fellowship - The three requirements for Specialty Fellowship in the Section on Surgery are:

1. Completion of an ACGME approved residency in general surgery or an equivalent residency accredited by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC).
2. Completion of an ACGME approved residency in pediatric surgery or an equivalent residency accredited by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC).
3. Applicant must have obtained special certification in pediatric surgery from the American Board of Surgery (ABS) or the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC).

**Or:**

Have the equivalent of two years specialized training in a pediatric center (such training is defined as full-time activity devoted to the candidate's specialty field including one year of senior responsibility and occurring in an acceptable hospital that delivers both inpatient and outpatient activity), and a devotion of seventy-five percent (75%) or more of the candidate's current operative practice, exclusive of minor surgical procedures, to the care of children over a minimum period of 5 years after training. This activity must be documented by a case list of all (adult and pediatric) operations performed in the one year prior to application, and is certified by the surgeon-in-chief from each hospital in which the candidate practices.

If providing a case list instead of a special certification from the ABS or RCPSC, sponsor letters of recommendation must come from A) the program director of the training program, B) two members of the Surgical Section within the same district as the applicant, and C) a pediatrician (who is a member of the AAP) within the same district as the applicant. A curriculum vitae must accompany the application.

**Candidate Members** are pediatric surgeons who have recently completed training in pediatric surgery, but have not yet attained ABS board certification in pediatric surgery. Applicants must devote at least 75% of their professional activities to infants, children, and adolescents under age 21. Candidate Members must advance to Specialty Fellowship within 5 years following completion of their pediatric surgical residency training. If the Candidate Member has not previously been a Post-Residency Training Member, then he/she must submit their curriculum vitae and one letter of recommendation from the director of their pediatric surgical training program, and two letters from current Specialty Fellows in the Section on Surgery.

**Fellowship Trainees** are surgeons who are enrolled in a pediatric surgical training program in the U.S. or Canada. These applicants must submit a curriculum vitae and a letter from the director of their training program. Once they complete their pediatric surgery fellowship program, they are automatically advanced to Candidate Membership. *At this time, the Section on Surgery is offering to pay for half of the AAP membership*

*dues. Please communicate with Vivian Thorne, Section Manager, at [vthorne@aap.org](mailto:vthorne@aap.org) if you are interested.*

**Residents** are surgeons who are enrolled in a general surgery residency training program in the U.S. or Canada. These applicants must submit a curriculum vitae and a letter from the director of their residency training program.

**National Affiliate Membership** is available to Nurse Practitioners and Physicians Assistants who practice in the area of pediatric surgery. Applicants for National Affiliate Membership must submit a curriculum vitae, one letter from the chief of surgery at their main children's hospital and one letter from another pediatric surgeon who is a Specialty Fellow in the Section on Surgery.

- Link to join the AAP Section on Surgery: <https://www.aap.org/en-us/about-the-aap/Committees-Councils-Sections/Membership-Criteria/Pages/Surgery.aspx>
  - Link to AAP membership information: <http://shop.aap.org/aap-membership/>
  - Link to Section on Surgery website: <http://www2.aap.org/sections/surgery/>
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## **American College of Surgeons (ACS)**

**Link to: I'm a Pediatric Surgeon. Why should I join the ACS?**  
<https://www.facs.org/member-services/benefits/specialty/pediatric>

**Resident Membership** in the ACS is open to all surgical residents enrolled in an accredited graduate education program.

To complete the application, you will need

- The name of your medical school and dates of attendance
- The name of your residency program, the name of your residency program director, the date you started and expect to complete residency, and verification of current status as a surgical resident
- Your medical license state or province and number
- Other professional activities you may be involved in
- The date you completed your surgical residency, if applicable

**Associate Fellowship** in the ACS is open to young surgeons who are within five years of graduation from formal surgical residency training.

See more about Resident and Associate Membership at:  
<https://www.facs.org/member-services/ras/membership>

**The Resident and Associate Society of the American College of Surgeons (RAS-ACS)** is open to all ACS Resident and Associate Members, and serves to familiarize young surgeons with College programs and leadership. RAS-ACS provides an avenue for participation in ACS affairs as a trainee, fosters development of leadership skills, and provides opportunities for opinions and concerns as young surgeons and trainees to be heard by the College leadership.

See more about RAS-ACS at: <https://www.facs.org/member-services/ras>

### **Regular Membership**

What you should know before applying

- When you submit an application, you are inviting an evaluation of your practice by your peers.
- The application process can take up to one year.
- While board certification is a requirement, it does not entitle a surgeon to Fellowship.
- The complete list of [Fellowship Requirements](https://www.facs.org/member-services/join/fellows/fellowreq) is available for review.  
<https://www.facs.org/member-services/join/fellows/fellowreq>

Before you start the application, you will need

- Certification by an American Surgical Specialty Board which is a member of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS), or an American Osteopathic Surgical Specialty Board, or an appropriate specialty certification by the Royal College of Surgeons of Canada
- One year of practice after the completion of all formal training
- A full and unrestricted license to practice medicine and surgery in the state or province where you currently practice with no adverse actions that could affect your licensure status
- A current appointment on the surgical staff of a hospital with no reportable action pending that could adversely affect your staff privileges at any hospital
- A practice as a general surgeon or surgical specialist within the scope of your specialty

Completing the application

- To [access the application](#), you will need your current ACS members-only login information, or you will need to create a login.  
<https://web4.facs.org/eBusiness/ACS/domesticchecklist.aspx>
- Applications received by the deadline date of December 31 will be processed for consideration in the following year.
- A completed application form is required from each applicant along with an application fee. (Note: Current Associate Fellows are not required to pay an application fee for full Fellowship.)
- By submitting your application, you have agreed to abide by the terms set forth in the [Authorization to Release Information](#).  
[https://www.facs.org/~media/files/member%20services/member%20benefits/aut\\_hpledge.ashx](https://www.facs.org/~media/files/member%20services/member%20benefits/aut_hpledge.ashx)
- Each applicant is required to provide the names of five Fellows of the College, practicing surgery in the same geographic area, to serve as references. Two of these references should be practicing in your specialty. You will also be asked to provide the Chief of Surgery at your primary hospital. You may view a list of FACS members in your area at [Find a Qualified Surgeon](#).  
<https://www.facs.org/search/find-a-surgeon>

After you complete the application

- You will be asked to provide a 12-month surgical list of all of your cases performed as primary surgeon and as an assistant (instructions will be provided after your completed application has been received).
- You will be required to participate in an interview with a College committee in your local area.
- Upon review of all information received, the Board of Regents of the College will make the final decision regarding application approval.
- Successful applicants (Initiates) are admitted into Fellowship during the Convocation at the College's Clinical Congress held in October of each year.



## Canadian Association of Pediatric Surgeons (CAPS)

Membership to CAPS is open to Pediatric Surgeons in active surgical practice (see below) and to Life Members. Trainees in Canadian Pediatric Surgical training programs are encouraged to submit an application for affiliate status that is valid during the time of their training program. This allows access to the CAPS website, once approved. Trainees must submit an application for membership (Active or International) upon completion of their training in order to obtain membership with the Canadian Association of Pediatric Surgeons.

**Membership Categories:** Link to: <https://www.caps.ca/caps-membership/requirements>

**Active Members:** Pediatric Surgeons in active practice in Canada who hold a Certificate of Special Competence in Pediatric Surgery from the Royal College, have Board Certification in Pediatric Surgery from the American Board of Surgery or have international training in Pediatric Surgery and hold a faculty appointment at a Canadian Pediatric Surgical Centre.

**International Members:** Pediatric Surgeons who are non-resident in Canada and have received a substantial portion of their pediatric surgical training in Canada. This category includes a) applicants who did all of their pediatric surgical training in a Royal College accredited program and practice outside of Canada, b) applicants who spent at least one year in a Canadian Pediatric Surgical Centre without a Pediatric Surgery training program formally recognized by the Royal College with supporting letters from two CAPS members, one of which must be a mentor from their training program, c) Canadian citizens who trained outside of Canada but hold a certificate of special competence in Pediatric Surgery from the Royal College, American Board of Surgery or equivalent certifying body and are in active Pediatric Surgical practice outside of Canada, and d) Active members who will end a pediatric surgical practice in Canada and move to maintain an active pediatric surgical practice in another country.

**Life Members:** Active members who retire from pediatric surgical practice and are residents of Canada. A request for change in membership status from Active or International to Life Member must be made in writing to the Chair of the Membership and Credentials Committee or by email to [membership@caps.ca](mailto:membership@caps.ca). This request must be approved by the membership at the next Annual General Meeting before the change to Life Member is granted. The associated privileges of exemption from Annual Dues and meeting registration under Life Member will become valid the following calendar year.

**Affiliate Members:** Canadian trainees enrolled in pediatric surgical training programs in Canada or the US are eligible for affiliate membership. These applicants must have successfully completed training in general surgery recognized by the Royal College of



Physicians and Surgeons of Canada or the American Board of Surgery. Submission of an application form with a letter of support from the director of their training program is required. Once affiliate members complete their pediatric surgery fellowship program, they can apply for either active or international membership, depending on whether they practice in or outside of Canada.