



Eligibility Criteria for a Certificate of Added Competence (CAC) in Enhanced Surgical Skills (ESS)

The ESS designation is a recognition of the achievement of competence for Family Physicians who have successfully completed an accredited Family Medicine postgraduate program in ESS, or who have successfully completed equivalent training, or who can demonstrate evidence that they are currently satisfactorily performing surgical procedures that are consistent with the **full** scope expectations outlined in [ESS CAC priority topics and key features](#). The ESS Special Designation includes recognition of a family physician's ability to perform Cesarean sections and other relevant obstetrical and gynecological procedures.

The following list summarizes practice and professional development activities that justify an individual's status as a leader in family medicine in Canada in the domain of Enhanced Surgical Skills. This application route is intended for physicians who are actively practising and maintaining competence in the domain of care.

1. Membership

The applicant must be a member in good standing with the College of Family Physicians of Canada at the time of the application, holding either the Certification in the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CCFP) or Member of the College of Family Physicians of Canada (MCFP) designation.

2. Licensure

The applicant must have a licence to practise family medicine independently in a province or territory of Canada or elsewhere, as evidenced by a certificate of good standing from the current licensing authority.

Applicants are required to provide verification of registration or licensure for each medical regulatory authority in which they hold a certificate of registration or licence authorizing independent practice.

Applicants who have moved to a different province or abroad in the 12 months prior to the application date are required to provide the Certificate of Standing from the last province in which they practised.

3. Training

Graduates of Enhanced Surgical Skills (ESS) programs as part of an overarching accredited enhanced skills program at a Canadian university in duration of at **least 12 months** are eligible to apply immediately after the successful completion of training.

Successful graduates of ESS (12-month) programs that are part of accredited enhanced skills programs at Canadian universities who completed their training in 2019 **should not apply** through this route. Their applications will be processed through the **residency training route** in September 2020.

For those who have acquired training outside of an accredited ESS program in Canada, it will be incumbent upon the applicant to provide evidence of relevant training that shows **assessed** acquisition of the **full** scope of enhanced surgical skills typically acquired through a Category 1 ESS program, as outlined in the [priority topics and key features document](#). The peer review committee will make the final recommendation decision according to the offered evidence of achievement of competency and dedicated contribution within the CAC domain of care, provided in the application file. If you decide to apply and your application is not successful, please note that the application fee applied upon submission of the online application covers the cost of the review, and is, therefore, **non-refundable**.

4. Maintenance of CPD

Applicants must have maintained their continuing professional development (CPD) status with Mainpro+® activities or equivalent for at least **five years** for those applying based on years of relevant practice or **two years** for graduates of accredited enhanced surgical skills programs at Canadian universities in duration of less than twelve months.

5. Evidence of dedicated contributions to enhanced surgical skills in Canada, commensurate with years in practice

Please include:

- Brief narratives describing:
 - Current clinical practice in enhanced surgical skills (scope of practice)
 - List of CPD activities related to enhanced surgical skills as a participant and as a provider
 - Education, scholarship, and administrative activities
 - Active involvement in national, provincial, or local organizations

- Evidence of community involvement in enhanced surgical skills outside of your own practice
- Evidence of your commitment to the [principles of family medicine](#)
- Additional practice and activities that justify why a CAC should be awarded
- A copy of your curriculum vitae
- Evidence of attestations and/or diplomas (if applicable)
- Letters from three referees
 - For candidates who completed training in 2017 and 2018, an additional letter is required from the Program Director