

CSFA FAQs

1. Do I have to hold two separate memberships?

No; however, maintaining your AST membership provides you with a multitude of benefits:

- Access to hundreds of CE readily at your fingertips
- Automatic processing of your CE
- Maintenance of your membership account
- Discounts to professional services and products including the CSFA examination
- Connection to a large professional network
- And much more

2. Will the membership fee be more for CSFAs who do not want to join ASA?

No. The same membership fees apply to anyone that joins AST.

3. Do my credits toward my CSFA still count for my CST if I am not an AST member?

All CE credits must be earned while you are an AST member. CE credits earned outside of the AST membership are subject to the \$400 non-member processing fee requirement.

Per the National Board for Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA), if you are a CST, CSFA, or hold both credentials (CST/CSFA), all credits must be submitted to AST for processing and approval.

4. Will there be CEs for first assistants through AST?

Yes. AST offers CEs for all members. Visit the AST website to get started.

5. Will I still be able to keep my CST?

Individuals who hold both credentials (CST/CSFAs) will keep their CST credential if their CSFA credential is renewed. If they do not renew their credential to keep both credentials, the individual will have to retake the CST and CSFA exams.

Individuals will only have to submit the required total of CEs for their CSFA and only a *CSFA Renewal Application*.

6. Will my CST and CSFA number be different or have different terms?

Your certification number will remain the same, per the NBSTSA. Individuals who hold both credentials (CST/CSFAs) will keep their CST if their CSFA credential is renewed, and their certification cycle will remain the same.

7. Where do I submit my credits?

To submit credits for the CST/CSFA credentials, submit your CE credits to AST by emailing or mailing them to the addresses below.

If you have earned credits outside AST, please complete the following steps:

- Fill out the AST CE Reporting Form
- Make a copy of your certificate/transcript or hospital sign-in sheet
- Send both documents via:
 - Email – scan the documents as a pdf and send to memserv@ast.org OR
 - Mail the documents to AST – 6 W Dry Creek Cir, Ste 200, Littleton, CO 80120

All CE for CST and CSFA certification renewal must be approved by AST. All approved CE for renewal must then be processed, recorded, and provided by AST to the NBSTSA.

8. If I'm an AST member, will I receive a discount on the CST or the CSFA examination?

Yes! It's one of the perks of being an AST member.

First-time examinees fees:

- \$190 – for AST members
- \$290 – for non-members

Renewal by exam:

- \$299 – for AST members
- \$399 – for non-members

9. Will I have to submit my credits twice if I join ASA?

AST is the only approved CE processor for the CST and CSFA credentials. Per the NBSTSA, all credits must be submitted to AST for processing and approval.

For ASA's policies, please contact them.

10. Will AST still recognize CSFAs?

Of course! AST will continue to recognize the commitment and dedication of both CSTs and CSFAs.



11. Does AST plan to work with ASA?

AST is a professional organization that will continue to work with our partnership organizations to better the professions of surgical technologists and surgical assistants.

12. Will there be a study guide?

AST will continue to utilize AST's First Assisting Study Guide to help support students in surgical assisting programs and programs utilizing the Gold Bundle option.