Member surgeons of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS) must meet rigorous educational standards. Many members complete the following training path to become a surgeon certified by the American Board of Plastic Surgery (ABPS):

**EDUCATION**

- Undergraduate Degree: 4 YEARS
- Graduate Medical Degree: 4 YEARS
- Clinical Surgical Training: 3½ YEARS
- Plastic Surgery Residency Training: 3+ YEARS

ABPS establishes specific educational, training and professional standards for physicians within this specialty. Once certified, members must complete comprehensive testing and continuing-education requirements in order to maintain board-certification.

Plastic surgery is more than just cosmetic procedures. Over 80 percent of ASPS member surgeons perform reconstructive plastic surgery, including the treatment of abnormal structures of the body caused by trauma, infection, tumors, disease, congenital defects, developmental abnormalities, etc.* These procedures are generally performed to improve function, but may also be done to approximate normal appearance.

**RECONSTRUCTIVE PROCEDURES:**

- Breast reconstruction post-mastectomy or lumpectomy
- Cleft lip & cleft palate surgery
- Skin cancer removal
- Acute burn care & post-burn reconstruction
- Face & hand transplantation
- Complex wound care

Reconstructive plastic surgery is covered by many health insurance policies, although coverage for specific procedures and levels of coverage may vary. ASPS’s mission includes raising public awareness of insurance-coverage options for reconstructive plastic surgery.

**PATIENT SAFETY**

Thousands of Member Surgeons

One High Standard

The top priority of ASPS and its members is patient safety. ASPS requirements ensure that surgery is only performed in accredited, state-licensed or Medicare-certified surgical facilities, where stringent national standards are met for equipment, operating-rooms, personnel and surgeons.