

# OLAC Pre-Surgery Certification Checklist



All surgeons **must** be certified by OLAC vet staff prior to performing surgery independently.

## Steps to Certification:

**1) Certification in Anesthesia** (This **must** be done separately from your surgery certification)

References: [Guidelines for Anesthesia and Analgesia in Laboratory Animals](#) and [Recordkeeping Guidelines for Surgical Procedures on Laboratory Animals](#)

**2) Certification in Euthanasia** (Review Animal Disposition section of your AUP)

References: [Euthanasia Guidelines](#) and [Guidelines for Humane Endpoints in Animal Studies](#)

**3) Complete “Aseptic Technique & Recognizing Rodent Pain”** <https://olac.berkeley.edu/1/>

Additional resources:

- ACUC [Guidelines for Surgical Procedures](#)
- Sterile glove donning: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E4eJyK\\_wHo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E4eJyK_wHo)
- Care’s “Aseptic Technique” Series: <https://researchanimaltraining.com/article-categories/aseptic-technique/>
- Principles of Veterinary Suturing: [Suturing Workshop handout](#)

**4) Review the surgical procedure in the ACUC-approved AUP, including anesthetics and analgesics.**

**5) Obtain authorization for use of controlled substances:**

- [EHS/how-do-i-get-authorization-use-controlled-substances-my-research](#)
- Anesthetics and analgesics: submit a [Pharmacy Purchase Request](#) if needed.

**6) Practice a terminal surgical procedure in advance** (animal is euthanized prior to recovering from anesthesia).

- Submit a [Research Services Request](#) for isoflurane machine rental at least two (2) business days prior to your scheduled certification.

**7) When you are prepared to perform your surgical technique, request certification at:** [OLAC Certifications, Training, & Breeding Info.](#)

**Three** broad categories will be checked during the surgery process:

- 1) Are you following what your AUP describes?
- 2) Are you following proper aseptic surgical technique?
- 3) Does the animal recover and with no complications post-op? (survival procedure)

**8) Vet staff will confirm the above and send you an email confirming certification.**

- Your PI is responsible for keeping a record of your training. (keep a copy in a folder)

If you have any questions, please contact the OLAC trainer: [olactraining@berkeley.edu](mailto:olactraining@berkeley.edu).

