

AOBNM OCC - FAQs

General

1. What is OCC?

Osteopathic Continuous Certification (OCC) is a process in which board certified DOs can maintain currency and demonstrate competency in their specialty area. The goals for OCC are to provide certified physicians with a process to continually assess and improve their skills and to assure patients and the public that certified physicians are being assessed through reliable and valid measures.

2. Who is required to participate in OCC?

All time-limited certificate holders will be required to participate in OCC.

3. Can I remain certified if I don't participate in OCC?

No. By choosing not to participate in OCC you are voluntarily suspending the rights to your board certification.

4. Who has the option of participating?

If you have a **non-time-limited** certification, you will **not be required** to participate in OCC at this time. We strongly encourage your participation. The Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) has agreed to accept OCC for Maintenance of Licensure (MOL). If you do not participate in OCC, you may have additional requirements for MOL as prescribed by the state(s) where you are licensed. Remember that "non-expiring" is not a lifetime certification. **You are required to maintain your license to practice and to maintain AOA membership, which also includes meeting all CME requirements for your specialty.**

Getting Started with OCC

1. How do I start OCC for my specialty?

If you hold a time-limited certificate, OCC participation is automatic.

If you hold a non-time-limited certification, you have the option of volunteering to participate in OCC. The member with a non-time-limited certificate, who volunteers to participate in OCC, will be required to participate in all components of OCC. All OCC activity will be monitored, recorded and reported as usual. Exam failures will not result in loss of certification but will be recorded. Retakes of a failed exam will be allowed according to the regular policies and procedures of the AOBNM.

Click [here](#) to access the BOS Handbook, see Policies and Procedures, Article VIII. Board Eligibility

2. Do I need to register in order to participate?

Registration is not required for physicians with time-limited certificates.

If you hold a non-time-limited certification, you may volunteer to participate in OCC.

3. How can I track my progress on the continuous certification requirements?

The AOA is developing an online platform that will be accessed through Osteopathic.org in order to track the progress of an OCC cycle.

4. Are there any new fees associated with the OCC process?

Component 1: There will be no additional fees beyond the current fees associated with this component.

Component 2: An annual fee (of \$30.00) will be added for each specialty certificate to the annual specialty fee for a total of \$95.00 which is paid as a part of the annual AOA dues.

Component 3: There will be no additional fees beyond the current fees associated with this component.

Component 4: The following additional fees will be assessed:

Osteopathic Continuous Assessment and Training (O-CAT): There will be a subscription based fee associated with participation in this module.

Component 5: There will be no additional fees beyond the current fees associated with this component.

Maintaining OCC

1. I have a restricted license. What happens to my AOA board certification?

A committee underneath the supervision of the Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists has been created what will monitor license suspensions on a case by case basis alongside the certifying boards.

2. Do I still have to take an exam? How often and when can I take it?

Diplomates with time-limited certification and diplomates with non-time limited certifications (who have volunteered) to participate in OCC must take and pass a secure, proctored, written examination every ten years to maintain certification.

3. How many Practice Performance Assessments (PPA) will be required?

The examination will need to be taken once every 10 years.

4. Where can I find these PPAs, and how do I register?

Coming Soon!

5. What components need to be completed before I can take the exam?

Osteopathic Continuous Assessment and Training (O-CAT)

6. What if I miss a step and don't complete all of the requirements by the deadlines?

Failure to complete OCC requirements during the specified OCC will result in a review of the individual's certification status by the board. Specific recommendations may be made by the board regarding achieving compliance or the individual may be referred to the BOS for further review and possible action.

Special Cases of OCC

1. I don't currently practice in my field of certification. How can I meet the Component 4 requirements?

Physicians with a Limited Scope of Practice

- The physician must document that greater than 90% of the practice is spent in the area of special interest.
- For Component 4 requirements, the practitioner may submit practice performance data specific to the area of clinical practice. Data may be collected on ten (10) patients and this is then compared to national standards.
- Final reports demonstrating that standards were met or exceeded can then be submitted to the board for OCC credit.

2. How are those OCC requirements different?

The only difference in OCC requirements for these individuals will be with OCC Component 4. All other OCC requirements for these individuals will remain the same.

3. I don't provide patient care. How can I meet the OCC requirements?

The board will require that the individual participate in a "professional evaluation" component in place of practice performance assessment.

In addition, the nonclinical physician will be required to participate in the communication module, Osteopathic Continuous Assessment and Training (O-CAT) developed by the AOA to meet requirements for the core competency regarding inter-personal and communication skills.

OCC Requirements for Certifications Ending In:

	Component 1	Component 2	Component 3	Component 4	Component 5
2012	Active License	N/A	Recertification Exam	N/A	AOA Member
2013	Active License	Required by 12/31/2015 Part 1: CME 120 CME hours (includes 30 in Category 1-A and 50 in primary specialty)	Recertification Exam	Coming Soon!	AOA Member
2014	Active License		Recertification Exam		AOA Member
2015	Active License		Recertification Exam		AOA Member
2016	Active License	Required by 12/31/2018 Part 1: CME 120 CME hours (includes 30 in Category 1-A and 50 in primary specialty)	Recertification Exam	Coming Soon!	AOA Member
2017	Active License		Recertification Exam		AOA Member
2018	Active License		Recertification Exam		AOA Member
2019	Active License	Required by 12/31/2021 Part 1: CME 120 CME hours (includes 30 in Category 1-A and 50 in primary specialty)	Recertification Exam	Coming Soon!	AOA Member
2020	Active License		Recertification Exam		AOA Member
2021	Active License		Recertification Exam		AOA Member
2022	Active License	Required by 12/31/2024 Part 1: CME 120 CME	Recertification Exam	Coming Soon!	AOA Member

		hours (includes 30 in Category 1-A and 50 in primary specialty)			
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4. Who do I contact with questions?

AOBNM

www.aobnm.org

Email: aobnm@osteopathic.org

Phone: (800) 621-1773 ext. 8263