AOA Board Certification: Recent Innovations and Future Opportunities

Andrea L. Ciccone, JD Senior Vice President, Certifying Board Services (CBS)
Virtual OMED21 is here!

• 200+ hours of CME across 18 specialties.
• Dual AOA and ACCME credit.
• Content available for 30 days post-OMED.
• NEW! Affiliate Leader Track.
• NEW! Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Social Determinants of Health Tracks.
• Attendees claim up to 30 hours of AOA Category 1-A credits and 20 hours of AOA Category 1-B credits or 50 hours AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™.
Board certification is an added credential that a doctor can achieve to demonstrate they have achieved a high level of expertise in a specific area of medicine.

It documents a physician’s mastery of their specialty, achievement of highest standards, and commitment to continuous learning.

Why Board Certification Matters

- Required by most employers and insurers
- Builds patient trust
- Mark of excellence in specialty
AOA Board Certification Overview

AOA established first osteopathic certification board in 1939

Primary certifying body for DOs for 80+ years

Today - 16 boards offering certification in 27 specialties & 49 subspecialties.

Developed by and for practicing physicians

Nationally recognized indicator of clinical excellence
Certification For Your Future

- Over 35,000 osteopathic physicians maintain certification with the AOA
- 16 Certification Boards and Conjoint (multidisciplinary) Examination Committees
- Administer over 190 exams per year
  - 165 written exams
  - 28 oral exams
  - 3 Osteopathic Manipulative Treatment (OMT) hands-on practical exam administrations
- Clinical Exams for AOBS and AOBA

Envision a Path To Success
With Osteopathic Certification

- Nationally recognized
- Indicator of clinical excellence
- Competitive career advantage
- Affordable process
- Convenient exam scheduling
- Remote proctoring

More than 80 Years of Excellence
16 Specialty Certifying Boards | 27 Primary Specialties | 49 Subspecialties

Scan to learn more or visit: certification.osteopathic.org

OMED21
AOA Specialty Board Certification

- AOA Specialty Certifying Boards
  - Anesthesiology
  - Dermatology
  - Emergency Medicine
  - Family Physicians
  - Internal Medicine
  - Neurology & Psychiatry
  - Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine
  - Obstetrics & Gynecology
  - Ophthalmology & Otolaryngology
  - Orthopedic Surgery
  - Pathology
  - Pediatrics
  - Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
  - Preventive Medicine
  - Radiology
  - Surgery

- AOA Conjoint Examinations
  - Addiction Medicine
  - Allergy & Immunology
  - Correctional Medicine
  - Dermatopathology
  - Hospice and Palliative Medicine
  - Pain Medicine
  - Sleep Medicine
  - Sports Medicine
  - Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine
Achieving Certification

1. Graduate with a DO or MD degree
2. Obtain valid, unrestricted license to practice
3. Complete 3-7 years of residency training
4. Take board certification exam(s)

Early entry pathways:
- Family Medicine
- Internal Medicine
Pathways to Board Certification

Pathway 1: AOA Board Certification in (Specialty Name)
Pathway 2: AOA Board Certification in (Specialty Name) with OMT/OMM

You choose your path!

DOs who have completed an AOA or ACGME accredited residency program are eligible for both Pathway 1 and Pathway 2.

MDs who have completed an ACGME accredited residency program with osteopathic recognition are eligible for both Pathway 1 and Pathway 2.

MDs who have completed an ACGME accredited residency program without osteopathic recognition are eligible for Pathway 1 only.**
Pathway 2: OMM/OMT Distinction

• Pathway 2 will include a written exam and a practical exam demonstrating competency and providing an additional and optional credential to specialty certification
• Distinct Osteopathic Examination Committee:
  • Establishing procedures for the issuance of a certification in OMT/OMM in conjunction with the respective specialty certifying board
  • Finalized a Table of Specifications (TOS) for the exam program
  • Completed development of the written exam component
• Target for implementation in 2022
# Osteopathic Continuous Certification (OCC) Requirements

**COMPONENT 1: LICENSURE**
- AOA board-certified physicians must hold a valid, active license to practice medicine in a U.S. state, commonwealth, District of Columbia, or U.S. territory.

**COMPONENT 2: LIFE-LONG LEARNING**
- Continuing Medical Education Credits (requirements vary by specialty).

**COMPONENT 3: COGNITIVE ASSESSMENT**
- Movement to Longitudinal Assessment.

**COMPONENT 4: PRACTICE PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT AND IMPROVEMENT**
- Engage in continuous quality improvement activities (requirements vary by specialty).
Longitudinal Assessment

- Diplomates receive items on their computer or mobile device
- Responses can be timed or untimed
- Once a response is made, the diplomate can be asked their level of confidence
- Provided with immediate performance feedback
- Provided relevant learning resources
- Dashboard that shows overall progress and performance against blueprint domains
AOA Primary Board Implementation Timeline

2021
- JUL: AOBFP
- OCT: AOBFP, AOBMP-N, AOBMP-P

2022
- JAN: AOBS-GS, AOBS-CC
- MAR: AOBOS, AOBP, AOBPa*, AOBPMR
- APR: AOBFP
- MAY: AOBP, AOBOD, AOBNNM, AOBGOO
- JUN: AOBPM*.
- AUG: AOBEM
- OCT: AOBA, AOBGOG, AOBMP-N, AOBMP-P
- DEC: AOBS-NS, AOBS-PI/Re, AOBS-US, AOBS-CS, AOBS-GV

2023
Ongoing Innovation

Efficient, convenient, cost-effective, physician-friendly, relevant certification

- Improving testing convenience to remote platforms
- Enhancing test content clarity and relevance
- Offering options designed for an expanded DO market
- Innovate OCC to support lifelong learning
Ambassador Program

• Strategic, peer-to-peer approach to cultivate relationships between AOA physician Ambassadors and residency program directors.
• Launched January 2021.
• Initial focus on Family Practice, Internal Medicine and Obstetrics & Gynecology
• Survey of current ambassadors underway to inform the expansion of the program.
Reciprocity for ABMS Certified DOs

- Developed, communicated, and implemented initiative to welcome all DOs back “home”
- Launched communication Nov. 21, 2020
- Available to any DO physician certified by ABMS prior to Nov. 21, 2020

### ABMS Reciprocity Applicants as of 10/4/2021

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Connecting with the Community

- Ambassador Program
- Reciprocity Program for ABMS certified DOs
- AOA Affiliate News
- Affiliate Newsletters
- Updates to diplomates on the LA transition
- CBS Townhalls and newsletters
- Affiliate webinars
- Continuing updates to certification webpages

- Display Ads, Web banners.
- Morning Brief.
- Digital ads on The DO and JOM sites.
- CBS newsletter (quarterly).
- Social media (including targeted ads on Facebooks and LinkedIn).
- Livestreamed event on social media
- Resident Member Value email (monthly).
- The DO.
Thank you!

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Please visit the website at certification.osteopathic.org for more information.