

PROPOSED PROCESS FOR BOARD CERTIFICATION AND MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION

Based on Model Framework of Optometry's
Joint Board Certification Project Team — May 4, 2009

BOARD CERTIFICATION

This proposed model will be discussed and voted upon at the AOA House of Delegates at Optometry's Meeting® in June, and is therefore subject to change or refinement upon the formation of the American Board of Optometry.

STEP 1: INITIAL APPLICATION TO THE AMERICAN BOARD OF OPTOMETRY

A candidate for Board Certification in Optometry must submit the eligibility application, application fee, and evidence of the following initial qualifying requirements:

- Graduate of school or college of optometry accredited by the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE).
- Possession of an active license to practice therapeutic optometry in a state, District of Columbia, U.S. commonwealth or territory.
- Clearance of Search of National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB) & Healthcare Integrity and Protection Data Bank (HIPDB)
- Statement of adherence to American Board of Optometry Code of Ethics

BOARD ELIGIBLE/ACTIVE CANDIDATE STATUS

Upon confirmation of the requirements, the American Board of Optometry will confer that the candidate is BOARD ELIGIBLE or an ACTIVE CANDIDATE for a period of one year. Candidates may renew this status for up to three years total by submitting proof of completion of 50 points progress toward completion of Post-Graduate Requirements by the end of each year of board eligibility.

POST-GRADUATE REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of 150 points after initial licensure establishes eligibility for the board certification examination. The following will be in effect for those who apply within a three-year window from the date on which the American Board of Optometry accepts applications. Completion of an ACOE-approved residency is worth all 150 points and completion of Fellowship in the American Academy of Optometry (Clinical) is worth 50 points, regardless of the date of completion. A maximum of 75 Experience in Practice Points will be accrued equal to three points per year of active licensure. A wide variety of educational experiences in Category I and Category II education are available, but must be attained within three years prior to taking the examination.

STEP 2: APPLICATION FOR THE BOARD CERTIFICATION EXAMINATION

Board Eligible/Active Candidate Optometrists must submit the certification application and evidence of the completion within the previous three years of the licensure and educational requirements. The Board Certification Examination is an Enhanced Patient Assessment and Management-like exam with areas of emphasis. Candidates will choose three topic areas to weight their exam toward their areas of interest. Upon successful completion of the exam, the American Board of Optometry will confer BOARD CERTIFIED status to the optometrist for a period of 10 years.

(See back for Routes to Certification)



American Optometric Association

www.aoa.org

ROUTES TO CERTIFICATION

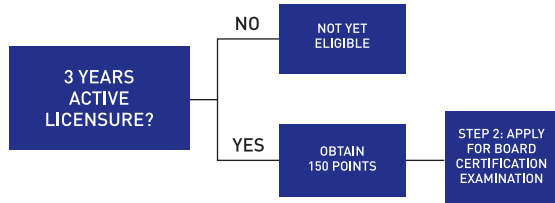
There are three basic paths to qualify for the initial board certification examination: Residency, Academy Fellowship, or Traditional.

RESIDENCY ROUTE

Completion of ACOE Approved Residency

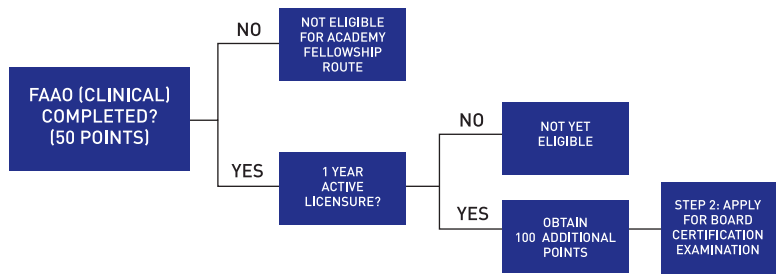


TRADITIONAL ROUTE



ACADEMY FELLOWSHIP ROUTE

Fellowship in American Academy of Optometry (Clinical)



MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION

Maintenance of Certification (MOC) is a 10-year process that consists of three 3-year stages plus an examination year.

EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Unique to Maintenance of Certification are Self-Assessment Modules (SAMs) and Performance in Practice Modules (PPMs). These Internet-based exercises are designed to enhance knowledge and skills significant to the practice of optometry.

STAGES I, II and III

Each stage of MOC has a requirement of 150 points during the three-year period. Each stage requires two SAMs (15 points each), one PPM (50 points) and 70 points from other educational activities.

RECERTIFICATION EXAMINATION

A board-certified optometrist may apply for recertification examination in either the ninth or tenth year of the certification cycle.

All Stage III requirements must be completed to be eligible for the examination.

PROTECTING OPTOMETRY'S FUTURE

The AOA, working with other optometric organizations, believes now is the time to take the next steps to engage the profession in efforts to deepen and enrich preparation for practice and to demonstrate the continuing competence of optometrists throughout their careers in clinical practice.

It is our belief that:

- Demonstrating continued competence will be an essential criterion - the price of admission - for participation in government and private insurance coverage.
- Optometry is the only prescribing doctoral-level health care profession that doesn't have a process to measure continued competence beyond entry level. Board certification is crucial to maintain equal status with other health care professions in the eyes of the public and policy makers.
- Optometry must always look forward to anticipate change and grow as a profession.

For questions on the Model Framework, please contact:

Jeffrey L. Weaver, OD | Director,
Clinical & Practice Advancement Group
American Optometric Association
Phone: 314-983-4244 | Fax: 314-991-4101 | E-mail: jlweaver@aoa.org