

FAQs for AOBFP OCC Process

General

1. What is OCC?

Osteopathic Continuous Certification (OCC) is a process in which board certified DOs can maintain and demonstrate continued and updated competency in their specialty. 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.

The entire process is outlined within our website document 'Osteopathic Continuous Certification'. OCC is comprised of five components –

1. Unrestricted licensure
2. Lifelong Learning/Continuing Medical Education
3. Cognitive Assessment
4. Practice Performance Assessment and Improvement
5. Continuous AOA Membership

Component 4, Practice Performance Assessment and Improvement, is the only new requirement when compared to the previously named recertification process.

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**

5. Will I receive any CME credits?

CME hours will be earned for the following components –

CAP Clinical modules – 20 Category 1-B credits after 2nd chart abstraction; 1 Category 1-B after completion of ACOFP educational unit

Professional modules –

Cultural Competency - 3 Category 2-B credits for each ‘theme’ completed in ‘A Physician’s Practical Guide to Culturally Competent Care’ (website – www.thinkculturalhealth.hhs.gov)

Communication – est. 5-7 Category 1-B credits

Medication Safety Communication – 3 Category 1-B credits

Getting Started with OCC

1. How do I start OCC for my specialty?

FPs will start with component 4 of the OCC process, which requires completion of clinical and professionalism modules to demonstrate performance improvement in knowledge and skills as compared to national benchmarks and standards of care based on documented evidence. The issuance date of a current certificate will determine the transition schedule for the number of modules to be completed. The transition schedule is displayed in the ‘Special Cases of OCC’ category of these FAQs.

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

Yes, every diplomate must complete an application as provided by the AOBFP, submit an exam fee for module completion, and be approved before proceeding with the OCC process. A separate application and fee for the cognitive and practical exam, Component 3, is submitted in the 7th or 8th year of the certification cycle.

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

The AOA has developed a ‘Physician Portal’ in which you may view your OCC status. Login on AOA home page, select ‘My AOA’, then select ‘My OCC’, and the ‘Open Physician Portal’.

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

Fees will be remitted with the application for module completion and with the application for the cognitive and practical exams. The fees are listed within each application.

Maintaining OCC

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

A committee supervised by the Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists has been created that 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?

Component 3 requires successful completion of both a cognitive and OMT practical exam, which are taken in the 7th or 8th year of the certification cycle, after completion of

the modules. These exams are administered twice yearly in the Spring and Fall. Three exam attempts are allowed for each portion prior to further Board review.

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

Newly certified FPs are required to complete 2 clinical modules and 2 professionalism modules within the first six years of the eight year certification cycle. The issuance date of a current certificate will determine the transition schedule for the number of modules to be completed by currently certified diplomates. The transition schedule is included in our website document 'Osteopathic Continuous Certification' and in the 'application for module completion' downloadable from our website at www.aobfp.org

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

Full information is included in our website document 'Osteopathic Continuous Certification' and in the 'application for module completion' downloadable from our website at www.aobfp.org

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

Component 1, unrestricted licensure, and component 5, continuous AOA membership in good standing, must be current and verified. Component 2, Lifelong Learning/Continuing Medical Education, is a continual CME process required of all diplomates. Component 4, Practice Performance Assessment and Improvement, must be completed prior to the completion of Component 3, cognitive assessment.

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

If the modules are not completed and prevent a diplomate from completing the cognitive assessment portions of the exam prior to the expiration of their current certificate, certification will be inactivated and so noted on the AOA Physician Profile. The diplomate will be noted as being non-compliant with OCC.

Special Cases of OCC

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

There are three professional activity pathways – Full-scope clinical practice, limited-scope family medicine and non-clinical practice. Limited-scope and non-clinical practice FPs will have to complete two OCC modules in topic areas relative to their current activities as well as complete two professionalism modules .

2. How are those OCC requirements different?

Diplomates will have to identify an assessment tool that provides performance data that demonstrates practice performance improvement in an area relative to the activity.

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

Non-clinical practice FPs will have to complete two OCC modules in topic areas relative to their current activities as well as complete two professionalism modules .

4. Who do I contact with questions?

Full information is included in our website document 'Osteopathic Continuous Certification' and in the 'application for module completion' downloadable from our website at www.aobfp.org.

The AOBFP may be contacted at 847-640-8477 with further questions that may not be addressed in our OCC documentation.