



# 2027

# Qualifying Examination

## *Fast-Track*

# Handbook

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## **Mission**

The American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (ABOMS) ensures that Diplomates meet our standards of training, education, and professionalism through our certification process. As the certifying body in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, ABOMS provides contemporary and innovative programs that promote optimal care and service to the public.

## **Vision**

To be the recognized leader in Board Certification of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and related disciplines.

## **Organization**

ABOMS is the certifying Board for the specialty of oral and maxillofacial surgery in the United States and is recognized and approved by the Council on Dental Education of the American Dental Association (CODA).

A committee was authorized at the 1945 annual meeting of the American Society of Oral Surgeons to establish an American Board of Oral Surgery, which would conduct examinations for the certification of specialists in oral surgery. In 1946, the American Board of Oral Surgery was incorporated under the laws of the State of Illinois. During the following year, the American Board of Oral Surgery was approved by the Council on Dental Education of the American Dental Association and was authorized to proceed with the certification of specialists in oral surgery. The American Board of Oral Surgery was renamed the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery in 1978 to reflect the scope of the specialty. The name modification was incorporated under the laws of the State of Illinois.

The operation of ABOMS is entrusted to an eight-member Board of Directors. These Directors are Diplomates of the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and Fellows of the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons. One Director is elected each year to an eight-year term during the Oral Certifying Exam by the Oral Certifying Exam Committee and ratified by the Board of Directors. The elected Director is affirmed during the annual meeting of



the House of Delegates of the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons. Members of the ABOMS Board of Directors serve without salary.

## **Board Certification Examinations**

The ABOMS certification process in oral and maxillofacial surgery is comprehensive, covering both the biological sciences and clinical practice. It consists of two examinations:

- Qualifying Examination (QE)
  - The first examination in the board certification process.
  - The QE Fast-Track pathway is an opportunity for senior residents to begin the board certification process while still in training.
- Oral Certifying Examination (OCE)
  - The second examination in the board certification process.
  - Hospital privileges are required. ABOMS will accept proof of pending hospital privileges if full privileges have not been obtained by the OCE application deadline; however, official privileges must be in place at the time of the examination.
  - Do not apply for the Qualifying Examination Fast-Track if you do not expect to have proof of pending hospital privileges in time for the OCE application deadline.
  - Visit [www.aboms.org](http://www.aboms.org) for the OCE handbook for deadlines and details.

## **About the Qualifying Examination**

The American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (ABOMS) Qualifying Examination (QE) is a secure, valid computer-based examination administered to Board applicants that test their knowledge in central principles of the specialty. The QE is the first step in becoming Board certified and is administered at Prometric Testing Centers. All test takers must be prepared to present one form of government-issued identification with a picture (i.e., driver's license, passport, military ID, or federal/state/country-issued ID).



The QE consists of 300 multiple-choice questions covering 11 subject areas and is administered in two sections. Each section is three hours in length, with an optional one-hour break between sections. After completing the first section, applicants may not return to review those questions. Of the 300 questions, 30 are pretest items and are not included in the final score. A full examination blueprint can be found on [www.aboms.org](http://www.aboms.org).

After receiving a passing QE result, the doctor is eligible to take the Oral Certifying Examination (OCE) as an ABOMS Candidate. This will grant three opportunities to complete the OCE successfully. An OCE Candidate who does not pass the OCE within a three-year period will result in a void Candidate status with the Board. To regain Candidate status, the applicant must successfully pass the QE again.

Upon attaining ABOMS Diplomate status, Diplomates are responsible for maintaining compliance with all ongoing certification requirements, including Annual Registration (AR) and Certification Maintenance (CM) requirements, as applicable. Failure to maintain these requirements may affect certification status. Diplomates are responsible for remaining informed of applicable requirements and deadlines and maintaining current contact information with ABOMS. More details can be found at [www.aboms.org](http://www.aboms.org).

## Timeline

Below is the QE timeline. It is the applicant’s responsibility to be aware and meet all deadlines.

2027 QE Fast-Track Timeline		
<b>Part 1</b>	<b>Applications Open</b>	<b>June 10, 2026</b>
	Applications Due	September 9, 2026
	Schedule Examination	September 24 – November 19, 2026
	Examination Administered	January 9 – 16, 2027
<b>Part 2</b>	<b>Result Application Open</b>	<b>June 15, 2027</b>
	Result Application Due	August 24, 2027
	Examination Results	Email by Result Application Approval



## **About the Fast-Track Pathway**

The Qualifying Examination (QE) Fast-Track pathway allows senior residents to begin the board certification process before completing their training program. The Fast-Track application process consists of two parts: Part 1 is used to register for the examination, while Part 2 (Result Application) must be completed to finalize the application process and receive examination results.

## **Education**

Fast-Track applicants for certification by the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (ABOMS) must have graduated from a U.S. or Canadian dental school that is recognized by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) of the American Dental Association (ADA).

At the time of application for the Qualifying Examination (QE) Fast-Track pathway, applicants must be in their final year of training in a CODA-accredited advanced education program in oral and maxillofacial surgery. Training must be completed by the Result Application deadline; failure to do so will result in the QE being voided.

Applicants who are not enrolled, or did not complete a CODA-approved program, have a separate pathway. Please see our QE Handbook for Foreign Trained Applicants on [www.aboms.org](http://www.aboms.org).

## **Licensure**

Fast-Track applicants may apply for Part 1 of the Qualifying Examination (QE) application without holding an unrestricted dental or medical license. However, an active unrestricted dental and/or medical license is required to complete Part 2 of the application (the Result Application).

The license must be issued by the appropriate authority and permit independent practice in the specialty of oral and maxillofacial surgery. Limited licensure, which permits practice only under



supervision, such as a “resident license” or a “fellowship license,” is not enough to satisfy this requirement.

## Getting Started

All applicants have an existing account if they have taken the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery In-service Training Examination (OMSITE). **Do not create a duplicate account.**

To access your account for the first time on [www.aboms.org](http://www.aboms.org), applicants should log in using the email address associated with their previous OMSITE registration and reset their password by clicking “Forgot Password?” For further assistance accessing the account, please email Linh Le, [Lle@aboms.org](mailto:Lle@aboms.org).

All materials must be uploaded to your application file through your ABOMS account. Supporting documents can be found under the “Resources” tab in your ABOMS profile. All application materials will be reviewed by the ABOMS Board and staff for approval

## Fast-Track Application Requirements

### Part 1 of 2:

Initial application opens June 10, 2026, through September 9, 2026.

### Requirements to submit through ABOMS account:

- Copy of government issued ID
- ABOMS Approval Form
  - To apply for the QE as a resident, it is required to have the program director’s approval
  - Available in your ABOMS account under “Resources”
- Application fee of \$695.00 USD
- Examination fee of \$1,650.00 USD



## Part 2 of 2:

Result Application opens June 15, 2027, through August 24, 2027.

Score reports are available in ABOMS account after the Result Application is submitted and approved. Fast-Track applicants are recognized as a Candidate when they receive their official passing result letter. Failure to complete the Results Application by the deadline will void the Qualifying Examination.

### Requirements to submit through ABOMS account:

- Copy of unrestricted dental/medical license
- ABOMS Verification Form
  - This is a form that verifies program completion date by your program director
  - Available in your ABOMS account under “Resources”
- Copy of OMS Certificate
- Training Information
- Record of Operative Experience (ROE)
  - This is available in the application where you will enter the quantities of cases. All relevant cases from the last 12 months should be accounted for.

## Planning for the Oral Certifying Examination

Applicants are encouraged to review the requirements and timeline for the 2028 Oral Certifying Examination (OCE) early in the certification process. Hospital privileges are required to apply for the OCE. The Oral Certifying Examination Handbook is available at [www.aboms.org](http://www.aboms.org).

**No exceptions will be made.**



## **Application Audit Process**

The submission of an application indicates your agreement to comply with the terms of the audit process. All applications are subject to an audit. The selection of an application for audit is random. If your application is selected for an audit, you will be notified by email. Failure to meet audit requirements will result in forfeiture of fees, and the application will be voided.

During an audit, ABOMS Credentialing Chair/Committee will verify the following documents:

- OMS Training Verification Form
- Dental/Medical License
- Record of Operative Experience

The Board may request documentation or other data to assess an applicant's standing within the specialty.

## **Accommodation Policy**

The American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (ABOMS) will provide appropriate and reasonable efforts to accommodate requests in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Issues such as a second language, test anxiety, slow reading without an identified underlying physical or mental deficit, and failure to achieve a desired outcome are not learning disabilities and generally are not covered by the ADA. ABOMS offers all examinations in the English language only.

Applicants that require special accommodations must contact Linh Le ([lle@aboms.org](mailto:lle@aboms.org)) with specific accommodation requests and required documentation by the application deadline. Supporting documentation must not be older than three years.



### **Required Documentation:**

- Documentation of previous accommodations provided by educational institutions
- Evaluation from an appropriate licensed professional (physician and/or psychologist). The report must be on professional letterhead and must include but is not limited to, the following:
  1. The professional's qualifications, address, telephone number and original signature.
  2. The applicant's name and date of evaluations.
  3. The specific diagnostic tests or procedures administered. Diagnostic methods used should be appropriate to the disability and in alignment with current professional protocol.
  4. The results of the tests or procedures and a comprehensive interpretation of the results.
  5. The specific diagnosis of the disability, with an accompanying description of the applicant's limitation due to the disability.
  6. A summary of the completed evaluation with recommendations for the specific accommodations requested and how they will reduce the impact of identified functional limitations and how they pertain to participation in the ABOMS examination.

### **The following documentation will not be accepted:**

- Handwritten/emailed letters from licensed professionals
- Handwritten patient records or notes from patient chart
- Diagnoses on prescription pads
- Self-evaluations
- Research articles



## **Examination Security**

All applicants' performance is continuously monitored and may be analyzed to detect fraud. This rigorous process is in place to ensure the fairness and integrity of the examination. To protect this integrity, Applicants are expected to adhere to the following behavior:

- During testing, between exams, and after the exam, there shall be no conversation regarding the examination with other applicants.
- Any applicant who violates security measures by giving or receiving help from other applicants during the examination will be asked to leave the examination.
- All examination materials, including all questions and all forms of the examination, are copyrighted and the property of ABOMS—any distribution of these materials or information through reproduction or memorization, whether oral or written, is prohibited.
- Anyone involved in such behavior is subject to the following disciplinary actions: their examination scores will be invalidated, the associated examination fee will be forfeited, and any involved applicants will be permanently prohibited from taking any future ABOMS examinations.

## **Other Policies**

### **Applicants' Responsibilities**

The timely submission of applications and the accuracy of the information submitted therein are the sole responsibility of the applicant. It is recommended to read and follow all instructions thoroughly.

It is the applicant's responsibility to keep a current address, email and telephone number on file. ABOMS does not share contact information with any other organization. Third party requests for information on a doctor's application or results will not be granted. Time-sensitive information regarding applications, test registration and results require direct contact. ABOMS will not be



responsible for missed communications when the applicant does not have current information on file.

### **Refunds**

All fees are non-refundable and non-transferable.

### **Receipts for Fees Paid**

Applicants will receive email confirmations including transactions numbers for any fees paid. Additionally, receipts can be found in the applicant's ABOMS account under "View My Past Payments."

### **Release of Examination Results**

ABOMS does not release examination results by phone or email and does not disclose examination pass/fail information to third parties. For verification purposes, ABOMS may only confirm an applicant's Candidate status. Candidate status is determined based on an individual's eligibility and application status.

Following completion of the certification process, passing the Oral Certifying Examination, ABOMS provides the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS) with a list of newly certified Diplomates.

### **Appeal Mechanism**

- A. The applicant must contact the ABOMS headquarters within five (5) days from taking the examination if they believe the examination has not been conducted in a fair manner. The request with an explanation of why an appeal is needed must be made in writing and received by either email or certified mail within five (5) calendar days.
- B. All appeals will be reviewed by the Computer-Based Testing (CBT) Chair for evaluation and decision. During this time, results of the said exam will not be disclosed to the applicant.



- C. If the request is granted:
  - a. the result of the appealed examinations, regardless of whether pass or fail, will be discarded, and never disclosed.
  - b. a second examination will be provided one year later at the regularly scheduled time.
  - c. the applicant must resubmit any required application materials and submit an amended examination fee as defined by the CBT Chair.
- D. Candidates on their last year of having the “Candidate” status may appeal their examination; however, they will lose their “Candidate” status with the Board. A candidate cannot appeal in two consecutive attempts.
- E. ABOMS will not consider appeals based on examination result, content, delivery, scoring or psychometric validation.

### **Examination Fairness**

The American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (ABOMS) abides by the Principles of Fairness, developed by The Council on Licensure, Enforcement and Regulation (CLEAR), to ensure fairness through the design, development, administration, and scoring of the examinations. ABOMS makes every attempt to provide the necessary information before, during and after the examination to applicants to ensure testing fairness.



## Frequently Asked Questions

***Q: What if I already completed my OMS training program?***

A: If you have completed your training, do not apply for the QE Fast-Track application. To correct the application available in your ABOMS account, please email Linh Le (Lle@aboms.org).

***Q: This is my first time. How do I start?***

A: First begin by logging into your ABOMS account on [www.aboms.org](http://www.aboms.org). If you have taken the OMSITE, you have an existing ABOMS account. Do not create a new account.

***Q: Where do I take the Qualifying Examination?***

A: The Qualifying Examination is available through Prometric Testing Centers and proctored in-person.

***Q: Can I apply first and pay later?***

A: Both Application and Examination Fees are due upon registration.

***Q: Am I considered a “Candidate” after I apply for the QE Fast-Track application?***

A: Applicants who apply for the QE Fast-Track are not recognized as a “Candidate” until they receive a passing result letter.

***Q: What happens if I do not pass the QE as a Fast Track applicant?***

A: If you were not successful, you can submit a new application for the QE the following year as a first-time applicant.

***Q: What if I did not train at an OMS program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association?***

A: Please see our separate Qualifying Examination Handbook for Foreign Trained applicants on [www.aboms.org](http://www.aboms.org).



## Contact Information

### ABOMS Administrative Mailing Address

American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (ABOMS)  
8770 W Bryn Mawr Ave, Suite 1370  
Chicago, IL 60631

**Website:** [www.aboms.org](http://www.aboms.org)

**Telephone:** 312-642-0070

### Direct Examination Contact:

Ms. Linh Le

Coordinator of Examination and Diplomate Services

TEL: 312-642-0070 x127

EMAIL: [LLe@aboms.org](mailto:LLe@aboms.org)

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