



# 2021 Qualifying Examination Handbook

ABOMS

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***The recognized leader in Board certification of  
oral and maxillofacial surgery and related disciplines***



## Core Purpose

The mission of the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery is to assure the public of safe and optimal care through the development and maintenance of high standards of certification and re-certification of Diplomates in the specialty.

## Core Values

- ❖ Patient First
- ❖ Integrity
- ❖ Fair and Valid
- ❖ Relevant
- ❖ Gold Standard of Excellence

## Organization

The American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (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.

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 the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery 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 by the House of Delegates of the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons. An Examination Committee composed of Diplomates of the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery is appointed by the Board of Directors to prepare and conduct the annual certification examination. The Board of Directors and its Examination Committee serve without salary.

## Examinations

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

- Qualifying Examination (QE)
- Oral Certifying Examination (OCE)

## General

Acceptable ethical and moral standing in the specialty and by review of any data pertaining to such standing may be requested by the Board.

## Education

Applicants for certification by 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. They must have also completed advanced education in an oral and maxillofacial surgery program that is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association.

## Licensure

Applicants must provide evidence of an active dental/medical license from the appropriate authority enabling the individual to practice independently in the specialty of oral and maxillofacial surgery. **An individual with limited licensure, which permits practice only under**



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

### Qualifying Examination (QE)

The 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. The examination is made up of 300 questions covering 10 subject areas. An applicant who does not take or pass the QE within the two-year period will result in a void application.

### 2020 Qualifying Examination Schedule

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

Qualifying Examination	
Examination Application Opens	June 16, 2020
Applications Due	October 2, 2020
Information on how to schedule sent	Mid-October
Scheduling of Examination with Test Center	November 11-25, 2020
Examination Administered (Prometric Centers)	January 9-16, 2021
Examination Results Mailed	March 2021



## Examination Applications

Application forms must be completed electronically using the Candidate profile on the ABOMS website ([www.ABOMS.org](http://www.ABOMS.org)). Supporting materials must be uploaded to your application file on the website. 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. Upon approval of a first-time application, the applicant is then considered a “Candidate” of ABOMS.

The ABOMS goes to great lengths to assist applicants when participating in the certification process. In return, it is requested that individuals seeking Board Certification comply with set requirements and deadlines. All application materials must be received by the ABOMS Administrative Office by the stated deadline.

### **NEW Fast Track for Senior Residents Application Requirements**

#### **For senior residents on track to graduate in spring/summer of 2021**

- Applicants’ demographics - contact information and both dental and OMS training background
- Application Fee of \$675.00 USD
- Examination Fee of \$1,600.00 USD
- Letter of approval from current program director
- Photocopy of current dental and or medical license (if they do not possess an unrestricted license, they must send in a copy of one before their results are released)
- Photocopy of government issued ID



## **First Time Application Requirements**

**Applicants applying for their first QE any time after graduating from their OMS program.**

- Applicants current contact information
- Application Fee of \$675.00 USD
- Examination Fee of \$1,600.00 USD
- OMS Training Background
- Verification of OMS Training form
- Photocopy of OMS Certificate
- Record of Operative Experience
- Photocopy of Current Dental Licensure
- Photocopy of Government Issued Identification

## **Re-Application Requirements**

**Applicants who have taken the QE, however, have been unsuccessful.**

- Applicants current contact information
- Application Fee of \$675.00 USD
- Examination Fee of \$1,600.00 USD
- Record of Operative Experience
- Proof of 30 hours of Category I Continuing Education Credits within 12 months prior to the application date
- Photocopy of Current Dental Licensure

All fees are non-refundable and non-transferable.



## Frequently Asked Questions

### *Is this your first time applying for the QE?*

To begin the application process, an Applicant must submit their contact information at [www.ABOMS.org](http://www.ABOMS.org). An applicant can update their contact information at any time by visiting his/her profile at [www.ABOMS.org](http://www.ABOMS.org). The QE application and examination fee will also be required at the same time. Upon submission of the applicant's contact information and fees a confirmation e-mail will be sent to the e-mail address on file.

### *What is required for the QE application for first time applicants?*

**Once an applicant's profile is created and the fees are paid, all application materials can be submitted online and at once.**

- ✓ Verification of current licensure
  - Applicants must upload a copy of their current, unrestricted dental/medical license. The photocopy must clearly contain the license issued and expiration dates.
- ✓ Verification of Government Issued Identification
  - Acceptable forms include: State driver's license, state identification card, passport, passport card, U.S. military ID or permanent resident card
- ✓ OMS Training Background
  - Applicants must provide detailed information on dental school and advanced OMS training while submitting the application
- ✓ Verification of OMS Training (submit items 1 AND 2)
  - Applicants are required to provide proof of completion of training in an OMS program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association. Applicants are required to submit:
    1. The Verification of Training form with signatures, from current program director attesting to the applicant's satisfactory completion of the program and showing the name(s) of the training institutions and the inclusive dates of the applicant's training. **And;**
    2. A copy of the applicant's OMS program Certificate of Completion
- ✓ Record of Operative Experience (ROE)



- Submit number of surgical procedures completed using your application profile. You may reference your OMS Resident Surgical Log from OMSNIC. All cases from the last 12 months must be submitted. If the applicant is still a resident or recently graduated, cases from residency also apply here.
- There is no minimum number of cases that is required. The information provided by the applicant is strictly informational.

***Alternative pathways are available for those who did not train at an OMS program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association.***

**All foreign trained applications will be reviewed, approved, or denied by the ABOMS Credentialing Committee.** All applicants trained outside of an accredited program must show proof of **one** of the following:

- Completed 12 months of training at the Senior Resident level at a CODA accredited OMS program; **or**
- Completed an accredited OMS Fellowship; **or**
- Employed for 12 consecutive months as a full-time faculty member in an accredited OMS training program during the past 2 years.

***What are the application requirements if I need to re-apply for the QE?***

**A re-applicant is someone who has not successfully completed the QE in the very first two years they apply for the examination. An applicant is no longer recognized as a Candidate after the first two consecutive years.**

**A re-applicant must resubmit application and examination fees in addition to the following:**

- ✓ Upload a copy of current licensure
- ✓ Upload proof of 30 hours of Category I Continuing Education Credits within 12 months prior to the application date
- ✓ Record of Operative Experience (ROE)
  - Submit number of surgical procedures completed using your application profile. You may reference your OMS Resident Surgical Log from OMSNIC, or the handout provided at the end of this handbook to help complete this portion of your application. Applicants five years out of residency should report the last 12 months



- There is no minimum number of cases that is required. The information provided by the applicant is strictly informational.

Individuals who re-apply for the QE must upload proof of successful completion of 30 hours of Category I Continuing Education (CE) to their applicant profiles. Continuing Education certificates must be within 12 months prior to the application date.

## **Definition of Category I Continuing Education**

Category 1 activities are designated by an accredited provider before the Diplomate participates in them. Examples include attendance and presentations at a conference where the American Dental Association (ADA) Continuing Education Recognized Provider (CERP) Category 1 credit will be given. Diplomates may also earn Category 1 credit for publishing an article in a peer-reviewed journal and meritorious learning experiences that have been pre-approved for credit.

The ABOMS has identified providers of continuing education that meet the requirements set forth for the certification process. The ABOMS does not have an approval process for CE providers but is familiar with the groups identified below and acknowledges their expertise of offerings that support continued learning for oral and maxillofacial surgeons.

- ACLS/PALS/BLS/ATLS/NCLS regardless of the provider
- Courses approved by Academy of General Dentistry (AGD)
- Courses offered by American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS) component societies (state or regional)
- Courses approved by the ADA (American Dental Association) Continuing Education Recognition Program (CERP)
- Courses sponsored by ADA CODA (Commission on Dental Accreditation) accredited dental schools
- Courses sponsored by ADA CODA accredited OMFS programs
- Courses approved by the AMA (American Medical Association) Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) {both single and dually degreed Diplomates may earn this credit}



## Qualifying Examination 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, although only a percentage of applications are selected. The selection of an application for audit is random. If your application is selected for an audit, you will be notified by email. If you fail to meet the audit requirements, your fees will be forfeited, and your applications will be moved to void.

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

- OMS Training Verification Form
- Authentication of OMS Certificate
- Record of Operative Experience
- Dental License
- Continuing Education Credits **(Re-Applicants Only)**



## **Policy**

### **Applicants' Responsibilities**

The timely submission of applications and the accuracy of the information submitted therein are the sole responsibility of the applicant. The ABOMS recommends reading and following all instructions thoroughly.

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

The ABOMS will not be responsible for missed communications when the applicant does not have current information on file. Applicants/Candidate may check their contact information and the status of their applications by logging into their profile online at [www.aboms.org](http://www.aboms.org).

### **Accommodation Policy for Applicants/Candidates**

The ABOMS will make every effort to provide all appropriate and reasonable efforts to accommodate any requests in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. 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 Americans with Disability Act.

**ABOMS offers all examinations in the English language only.** Extra time or other accommodations can be granted for all examinations by completion and acceptance of a special accommodation's application.



Candidates that require special accommodations must contact the ABOMS administrative office to receive detailed information concerning documented disability or qualifying medical conditions.

### **Extensions on Expiring Application**

Requests for extension of eligibility must be made after expiration of the current application for the Qualifying Examination or the Oral Certifying Examination. Requests for extensions must be in writing and additional supporting documents may be required. Each request will be individually reviewed and considered by the Credentials Committee.

### **Refunds**

When an application/Candidate registers for an examination, significant costs are incurred by ABOMS. Therefore, all fees are non-refundable and non-transferable.

### **Receipts for Fees Paid**

Applicant/Candidates who submit application materials online will receive e-mail confirmations including transactions numbers for any fees paid. Applicant/Candidates can also visit their profile and located their receipt under “View my Past Payments”.

### **Release of Examination Results**

The ABOMS will not release any examination result information by phone or e-mail. The ABOMS reserves the right to withhold examination results if any application materials are found to be deficient, expired or inaccurate.

Following the examination, the ABOMS will release a list of the new Diplomates with American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (AAOMS). Please contact the ABOMS if you would prefer to opt out.

The ABOMS does not report pass or fail information to other third parties.



## Appeal Mechanism

- A. A Candidate must contact the ABOMS headquarters within **five (5) days** from taking the examination if he/she believes 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 e-mail or certified mail within five (5) calendar days.
- B. All appeals will be reviewed by the CBT Chair for evaluation and decision. During this time, results of the said exam will not be disclosed to the Candidate.
- C. If the request is granted:
  - 1. the result of the appealed examinations, regardless whether pass or fail will be discarded and never disclosed.
  - 2. a second examination will be provided one year later at the regularly scheduled time.
  - 3. a Candidate 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 eligibility may appeal their examination however will lose their "Candidate" status. A Candidate cannot appeal in two consecutive attempts.
- E. The ABOMS will not consider appeals based on examination result, content, delivery, scoring or psychometric validation.

**The decision of the ABOMS Board of Directors shall be considered final.**



## Contact Information

### ABOMS Administrative Mailing Address

American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery  
625 N Michigan Avenue, Suite 1820  
Chicago, IL 60611

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

**Telephone:** 312-642-0070

**Fax:** 312-642-8584

### Direct Examination Contact:

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