



Board Status Representation

Representation of Certification Status Policy

Diplomates of the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (ABOMS), as well as individuals currently in the process of achieving certification and maintaining certification, must accurately state their certification status at all times. This includes descriptions in *curriculum vitae*, advertisements, publications, directories, letterhead, business cards and websites.

Individuals may describe themselves as certified by ABOMS or as an ABOMS Diplomate only when they hold a current certificate awarded by ABOMS. Diplomates with expired time-limited certification, or those whose certification is suspended or revoked, may not claim ABOMS certification and must revise all descriptions of their qualifications accordingly. Prior or retired Diplomates may indicate the dates of previous certification but must indicate that the certification is no longer valid. If a Diplomate has a Certificate of Added Qualification (CAQ) and allows the CAQ to lapse, they should revise public materials (letterhead, business cards, advertisements, etc.) to reflect only their status that is currently valid.

When a provider misrepresents board certification status, ABOMS will contact the individual and may notify local credentialing bodies, licensing bodies, law enforcement agencies, and others. Individuals in violation of this policy may be subject to legal action. In addition, use of the ABOMS logo/trademark for anyone other than an Active Diplomate is strictly prohibited. Individuals in violation of this policy will be notified and may be pursued in a civil lawsuit for trademark infringement and misuse if they use any part of the trademark of the ABOMS.

ABOMS Status Types

ABOMS recognizes three status types:

- Active Diplomate
- Candidate
- Not Board Certified

The following pages describe what each of those mean.



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Active Diplomate

A Diplomate who is actively engaged in the practice of oral and maxillofacial surgery or receives monetary remuneration by virtue of being an oral and maxillofacial surgeon and is currently in good standing with ABOMS.

- An individual becomes an Active Diplomate of the Board when the Qualifying Examination (QE) and Oral Certifying Examination (OCE) have been satisfactorily completed and the ABOMS certificate has been awarded.
- Diplomate status is time-limited and requires participation in and completion of all parts of the Certification Maintenance (CM) process.

Candidate

An oral and maxillofacial surgeon who has met the requirements and is actively pursuing Board Certification. After completing or nearing completion of a CODA-approved residency program in oral and maxillofacial surgery and meeting certain requirements, an individual completes an application to begin the certification process. When and if the Board rules that they have fulfilled the requirements to take the Qualifying Examination, that person becomes a "Candidate."

- To maintain Candidate status, the Candidate must fulfill all requirements for admission to the OCE and must not have exceeded the limitations to admissibility for the OCE.
- Active Candidate status which has expired may be regained by repeating and passing the ABOMS QE.

The term "Board Eligible" is not to be used nor recognized by ABOMS.

Not Board Certified

Diplomate: Suspended Status

- A Diplomate who meets any one of the following criteria and has been recommended by the ABOMS Credentials committee and approved by the Board for suspension.
 1. Has one or more licenses that have been placed on probation by a licensing authority
 2. Has been delinquent in Annual Registration (AR)
 3. Has been delinquent with CM



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("Not Board Certified: Suspended" continued...)

- Suspended status will not be allowed if the provider has been convicted of a felony.
- Suspended status will end, and the provider will be returned to Active Diplomate status, when all restrictions and probations have been removed by the licensing authority, or when their AR and/or CM are current, has been recommended by the ABOMS Credentials committee and approved by the Board for removal from suspended status.

Expired Certificate

- An individual who has failed to complete the CM process prior to the expiration of their time-limited certifying diploma will have an expired certificate.
- Individuals with expired certificates are no longer Diplomates of ABOMS and may not represent themselves in any medium as being "ABOMS Board Certified."
- Former Diplomates, whose time-limited certificates have expired, may regain Diplomate status by successfully completing a re-entry process as recommended by the Credentials Committee and approved by the Board. Depending upon the recommendation of the Credentials Committee, these individuals may be required to complete and pass the QE and OCE in order to re-establish Diplomate status.

Retired Diplomate

- This is an individual who has retired from all aspects of the oral and maxillofacial surgery profession at a time when they were an Active Diplomate. They must inform ABOMS of this fact to gain retired status.
- If they return to Active practice after their time-limited certificate has lapsed, they may regain Diplomate status by successfully completing a re-entry process as recommended by the Credentials Committee and approved by the Board. Depending upon the recommendation of the Credentials Committee, these individuals may be required to complete and pass the QE and OCE in order to re-establish Diplomate status. If they wish to return to Active status before their certificate has lapsed, they must contact ABOMS and begin paying AR and participating in CM again.



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Revoked Certificate

- This is an individual who has had their Diplomate status revoked for cause by the ABOMS.
- Revocation may be due to, but is not limited to, licensure revocation or disciplinary restriction by any State Board of Dental or Medical Examiners, violation of ABOMS or AAOMS rules and/or ethical principles, or a felony conviction.
- If revoked, the former Diplomate must return their ABOMS Certificate to ABOMS, may not claim ABOMS certification, must remove any reference to ABOMS certification, and revise all descriptions of their qualifications accordingly. This includes but is not limited to descriptions in curriculum vitae, advertisements, publications, directories, letterhead, business cards and websites.
- Such individuals will have the reason(s) for restriction(s) made available for public review if requested.
- It is the responsibility of each Diplomate to inform ABOMS when the Diplomate is convicted of a felony or disciplinary restrictions are placed on their license to practice dentistry or medicine.
- In order for a Revoked Diplomate to re-establish certification, in the instance of licensure revocation or disciplinary restriction by any State Board of Dental or Medical Examiners, these individuals must inform ABOMS that the restrictions on their license(s) have been removed and contact ABOMS to request reinstatement. The Credentials Committee will make a recommendation and the Board will determine what will be required to re-establish Diplomate status.