



2027 Qualifying Examination Handbook

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Table of Contents

Mission	3
Vision	3
Organization	3
Board Certification Examinations	4
About the Qualifying Examination	4
Timeline	5
Education	5
Licensure	6
Getting Started	6
First-Time Applicant Requirements	7
Second Opportunity Applicant Requirements	8
Repeat Applicant Requirements	8
Repeat Second Opportunity Applicant Requirements	9
Category I Continuing Education	9
Planning for the Oral Certifying Examination	10
Application Audit Process	10
Accommodation Policy	11
Examination Security	12
Other Policies	13
Frequently Asked Questions	15
Contact Information	16



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.
- 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.
 - Visit 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 computer-based examination administered to Board applicants that tests 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.



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.

Timeline

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

2027 QE Timeline	
Applications Open	June 10, 2026
Applications Due	September 9, 2026
Schedule Examination	September 24 – November 19, 2026
Examination Administered	January 9 – 16, 2027
Examination Results	Mid-March 2027

Education

Applicants for certification by the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (ABOMS) must graduate from a U.S. or Canadian dental school recognized by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) of the American Dental Association (ADA). Applicants must also complete an oral and maxillofacial surgery residency program accredited by CODA.



Application Pathways

Senior residents in their final year of training who are interested in the Fast-Track pathway should refer to the Fast-Track Qualifying Examination Handbook. Applicants who are not enrolled in, or who did not complete, a CODA-accredited residency program should refer to the handbook for foreign-trained applicants. All ABOMS handbooks are available at www.aboms.org.

Licensure

Applicants must hold an active dental/medical license from the appropriate authority that permits 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, 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.

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. Applicants have different requirements depending on status.



First-Time Applicant Requirements

First-time applicants are individuals applying for their first Qualifying Examination (QE) after completing an accredited oral and maxillofacial surgery residency program. Upon approval of the application, the applicant is granted Candidate status with the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (ABOMS).

Candidate status provides two consecutive opportunities to achieve a passing QE result. Applicants who achieve a passing result become eligible to take the Oral Certifying Examination (OCE) and are granted three consecutive opportunities to achieve a passing OCE result. Non-submission of an application, cancellations, no-shows, and unsuccessful attempts each count as one examination opportunity.

Applicants who do not achieve a passing QE result on their first attempt may apply in the following year as a second opportunity applicant while maintaining Candidate status (see Second Opportunity Applicant Requirements). Applicants who do not achieve a passing QE result within two consecutive examination opportunities will have their Candidate status voided and may reapply as repeat applicants (see Repeat Applicant Requirements).

Requirements to submit through ABOMS account:

- Copy of government issued ID
- Copy of unrestricted dental/medical license
- Copy of OMS certificate
- ABOMS Verification Form (signed by most recent program director)
 - The form is available in your ABOMS account
- Record of Operative Experience (ROE)
 - This is available in the application where you will enter the quantities. All relevant cases from the last 12 months should be included.
- Application fee of \$695.00 USD
- Examination fee of \$1,650.00 USD



Second Opportunity Applicant Requirements

Second opportunity applicants are applicants who are recognized as a Candidate after an unsuccessful attempt as a first-time applicant from the previous year.

Requirements to submit through ABOMS account:

- Copy of unrestricted dental/medical license
- Examination Fee of \$1,650.00 USD

Applicants who achieve a passing QE result will be eligible to take the Oral Certifying Examination (OCE). Applicants who do not achieve a passing result on their second opportunity will have their Candidate status voided.

Repeat Applicant Requirements

Repeat applicants previously had two opportunities to take the QE and are not recognized as a Candidate.

Requirements to submit through ABOMS account:

- Photocopy of OMS certificate
- ABOMS General OMS Training Attestation Form (signed by applicant)
 - The form is available in your ABOMS account
- Photocopy of government issued ID
- 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.
- Proof of 30 hours of Category I Continuing Education Credits within 12 months prior to the application date
- Photocopy of unrestricted dental/medical license
- Application fee of \$695.00 USD
- Examination fee of \$1,650.00 USD



Applicants who achieve a passing QE result are granted Candidate status and become eligible to take the Oral Certifying Examination (OCE). Applicants who do not achieve a passing result may apply for the QE in the following year as a repeat second opportunity applicant.

Repeat Second Opportunity Applicant Requirements

Repeat second opportunity applicants are individuals who applied as repeat applicants in the previous year and are seeking to retake the Qualifying Examination (QE) in the following year. These applicants do not hold Candidate status.

Requirements to submit through ABOMS account:

- Copy of Unrestricted dental/medical license
- Examination fee of \$1,650.00 USD

Applicants who achieve a passing QE result are granted Candidate status and become eligible to take the Oral Certifying Examination (OCE). Applicants who do not achieve a passing result may apply to retake the QE as a repeat applicant.

Category I Continuing Education

Category 1 activities are designated by an accredited provider before the applicant 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. Applicants 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.

ABOMS has identified providers of continuing education that meet the requirements set forth for the certification process. 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}

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.

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
- Medical/Dental 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) 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/mailed 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: This is my first time; how do I start?

A: To begin the application process, an applicant must create an ABOMS account on www.aboms.org. If you have taken the OMSITE before, you have an existing ABOMS account.

Q: Can I apply first and pay later?

A: All fees are due upon application submission. A confirmation email will be sent to the email address on file.

Q: Where do I take the Qualifying Examination?

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

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.



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

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

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