



2026
Qualifying
Examination
Fast-Track
Handbook

ABOMS

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



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 ABOMS and Fellows of the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS). One Director is elected each year to an eight-year term by the House of



Delegates of the AAOMS. An Examination Committee composed of Diplomates of ABOMS 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)
 - The first examination in our board certification process.
 - In 2020, ABOMS implemented the “Fast-Track” application. This is an opportunity for residents in their last year of training to begin board certification.
- Oral Certifying Examination (OCE)
 - This is the second examination in our board certification process. Hospital privileges are required upon applying. Please visit www.aboms.org for the OCE handbook for deadlines and more details.
 - ABOMS will accept proof of pending hospital privileges if you believe you will not have hospital privileges in time to meet the OCE application deadline.
 - **Do not apply for the Qualifying Examination Fast-Track if you will not have pending hospital privileges in time for the OCE application deadline.**

Education

All 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 (ADA).

Fast-Track applicants must be in their last year of training in advanced education in an oral and maxillofacial surgery program that is accredited by CODA of the ADA. Additionally, Fast-Track



applicants must be on track to complete their program by the following summer post-examination, to ensure successful completion of the entire application process. See page 7 for more details.

Applicants who are not enrolled or did not complete a CODA-approved program have a separate pathway. Please see our separate handbook for Foreign Trained applicants on www.aboms.org.

Licensure

Applicants for the Qualifying Examination (QE) 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.

Fast-Track applicants may apply for the QE without their unrestricted dental/medical license; however, it is required when completing Part 2 of the application (the Result Application) due August 25, 2026. See page 8 for more 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 takes place at Prometric Testing Centers.

The QE is made up of 300 multiple-choice questions covering 11 subject areas. There are two sections. The first section is allowed three hours, followed by an optional one-hour break, and the second section is allowed another three hours. After completing the first section, you may



not go back to review. Of the 300 questions, 30 of them are pretest questions and are therefore not counted towards one’s score. A full examination blueprint can be found on www.aboms.org.

Fast-Track Pathway

In 2020, ABOMS launched the opportunity for residents to begin their board certification process before completing the program. To be eligible as a Fast-Track applicant, the resident must be in their last year of training, on track to complete the program the following summer. Fast-Track applicants have a two-part application process.

When a Fast-Track applicant receives a passing result letter, the doctor is recognized as a Candidate at ABOMS. This will grant three opportunities to complete the Oral Certifying Examination (OCE) successfully. An OCE Candidate who does not pass the OCE within a three-year period will result in a void status with the Board. This three-year period begins in the first year after passing the QE. See page 8 for more information.

Timeline

Below is the examination timeline. It is the test taker’s responsibility to be aware and meet all deadlines. 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.

2026 QE Fast-Track Timeline		
Part 1	Applications Open	June 10, 2025
	Applications Due	September 17, 2025
	Schedule Examination	October 14 – November 20, 2025
	Examination Administered	January 10 – 17, 2026
Part 2	Result Application Open	June 2, 2026
	Result Application Due	August 25, 2026
	Examination Results	Email by Result Application Approval



Getting Started

Applicants have an existing account if they have taken the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery In-service Training Examination (OMSITE). As an applicant, you can log in with the email address your program used (for the OMSITE registration) and reset your password. Please email the Examination Services Coordinator, Linh Le (Lle@aboms.org) if you have trouble accessing your account. If needed, accounts can also be created on www.aboms.org. Do not create a duplicate account.

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.

To be eligible for the 2026 Qualifying Examination (QE) as a Fast-Track applicant, you must be in your last year of training, on track to complete the program by the summer of 2026. This will give you time to complete Part 2 (or Result Application) by the deadline.

Application Requirements

Part 1 of 2: Initial application is due September 17, 2025.

Requirements to submit through ABOMS account:

- Photocopy 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 \$675.00 USD
- Examination fee of \$1,600.00 USD



All fees are non-refundable and non-transferable.

Part 2 of 2: Result Application is due August 25, 2026.

Result letters with score reports are released to Fast-Track applicants after the Result Application is submitted and approved. Fast-Track applicants are recognized as a Candidate when they receive their official passing letter. Failure to complete the Results Application by the due date will void the Qualifying Examination.

Requirements to submit through ABOMS account:

- Photocopy 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.
 - The data collected is informational only. Entering “0” is acceptable and will not affect your application.

Planning for the Oral Certifying Examination

To plan for the 2027 Oral Certifying Examination (OCE), it is recommended to review the OCE requirements and timeline. The OCE handbook can be found at www.aboms.org. Hospital privileges are required to apply for the OCE. For QE Fast-Track applicants, ABOMS will accept proof of pending hospital privileges by the OCE application deadline.



Do not apply for the 2026 Qualifying Examination Fast-Track if you will not be able to obtain pending privileges in time for the 2027 OCE application deadline. **No exceptions will be made.**

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

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

Accommodation Policy

The American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (ABOMS) will make every effort to provide all appropriate and reasonable efforts to accommodate any 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 due date, September 17, 2025.

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 test taker'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 test taker'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



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 test taker does not have current information on file.

Refunds

When a test taker registers for an examination, significant costs are incurred by ABOMS; therefore, all fees are non-refundable and non-transferable.

Receipts for Fees Paid

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

Release of Examination Results

ABOMS will not release any direct examination results by phone or email. ABOMS reserves the right to withhold examination results if any application materials are found to be deficient, expired, or inaccurate. ABOMS does not report result information to other third parties.



Appeal Mechanism

- A. The test taker 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 test taker.
- 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 test taker 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. The decision of the ABOMS Board of Directors shall be considered final.



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 Examination Services Coordinator, 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. 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 the Qualifying Examination Application and Examination Fees are due upon submission.

Q: Can I take the Qualifying Examination Fast-Track and the OMSITE in the same year?

A: With your Program Director's approval, you may take both examinations.

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 (after submitting the Result Application). See page 7 for details.

Q: How long is the Qualifying Examination?

A: The examination is made up of 300 questions divided into two sections. The first section is allowed three hours, followed by an optional one-hour break, and the second section is allowed another three hours.



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

A: If you do not pass, you can submit a new application for any future QE. Because you will be applying as a first-time applicant post OMS residency, you will complete the regular QE application (not Fast-Track).

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

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Direct Examination Contact:

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Examination Services Coordinator

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