



2020 Oral Certifying 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 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 sufficient to satisfy this requirement.



Examination Applications

Application information may be found on the ABOMS website (www.ABOMS.org). Application forms must be completed electronically using the applicant profile. Supporting materials must be uploaded to your application file on the website. All application materials will be reviewed by the ABOMS Board and staff for approval. Upon approval of a first-time applicant, 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.

2020 Oral Certifying Examination

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

Oral Certifying Examination	
Examination Application Opens	June 11, 2019
Applications Due	September 5, 2019
Scheduling Information Emailed	Mid-December
Examination Administered (Raleigh, NC)	February 3-7, 2020
Examination Results Mailed	March 2020



Oral Certifying Examination (OCE)

The second step to becoming a board certified Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon is taking the Oral Certifying Examination. Once a Candidate has successfully completed his or her Qualifying Examination, he or she is eligible to begin their application for the OCE. The OCE is an oral based examination designed to test a Board Candidate's clinically applicable knowledge and judgement. The examination consists of three sections, each with four twelve-minute cases for a total exam time of 144 minutes.

The Surgery Section topics are:

Section I

Orthognathic Surgery
Infection
TMJ
Pathology

Section II

Trauma
Implants
Reconstruction
Dentoalveolar

Section III

Adult Medicine/Anesthesia
Pediatric
Medicine/Anesthesia
Emergency Management
Focused Additional Short
Topics (FAST)

Examples of topics that may be covered within Focused Short Topics are Aesthetic Surgery, Sleep Apnea, MRONJ, Ethics, Professionalism, Pre-prosthetic Surgery, Soft Tissue Grafting and others. This is not meant to be an exhaustive list, but simply to highlight some topic examples.



Application Requirements

- Application Fee of \$450.00 USD
- Verification of Hospital Staff Appointment
- Verification of Current Licensure
- Examination Fee of \$2,850.00 USD

Fees for the Qualifying Examination can be made using VISA, MasterCard, or American Express credit cards. All fees are non-refundable and non-transferable.

Application Requirements

Candidates must have the ability to manage patient care at a hospital where they maintain privileges to perform core oral and maxillofacial surgery procedures. A hospital is an institution primarily engaged in providing, by or under the supervision of physicians, in patient diagnostic and therapeutic services or rehabilitation services; and is accredited by the Joint Commission or approved by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Privileges at an ambulatory surgery center are acceptable if it is associated with a hospital where the Candidate maintains surgical privileges.

Candidates that are actively enrolled in an ADA accredited fellowship may use their hospital privileges they have as part of their fellowship. Candidates must provide documentation from the institute verifying their enrollment in the fellowship that includes their start and anticipated end date. Candidates must also provide verification from their hospital detailing their privileges.

Verification of Current Licensure

Applicants seeking Board Certification must have a current unrestricted dental license to practice dentistry. The photocopy must clearly contain the license issued date and expiration date.



Oral Certifying 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:

- Verification of Hospital Staff Appointments
- Verification of Current Licensure

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. Application submissions arriving at the ABOMS Administrative Office past the posted deadline, regardless of the reason will not be accepted

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 Candidate's application, Board status, or results will not be granted. Throughout the certification process, it is necessary for the Board to communicate with Candidates on issues that are imperative. In addition, 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 with the ABOMS Administrative Office. Applicants may check their contact information and the status of their applications by logging into their profile online at



www.aboms.org. Please allow one business day for electronic submissions to update on your profile and 1-2 weeks for processing of submissions made by mail.

Accommodation Policy for Applicants with Special Needs

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.

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. Candidates must contact the Administrative Office by the designated deadline to request for fee deferment and/or extensions. All requests will be reviewed for consideration.

Receipts for Fees Paid

Candidates who submit application materials online will receive e-mail confirmations including transactions numbers for any fees paid.



Release of Examination Results

The ABOMS will not release any examination result information by phone, fax, or e-mail. The ABOMS does not report pass or fail information to third parties. The ABOMS reserves the right to withhold examination results if any application materials are found to be deficient, expired or inaccurate. All result letters for an examination are mailed out in identical envelopes on the same day. The ABOMS is not responsible for delays because of outdated contact information on file or mail service.

Appeal Mechanism

An applicant/Candidate who is unsuccessful in the Qualifying Examination or the Oral Certifying Examination has a mechanism to appeal the outcome. Information about the appeal process is available upon written request from the ABOMS Administrative Office.



Contact Information

ABOMS Administrative Mailing Address

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