



# **2027 Full Annual Survey of the Recognized Dental Specialty Certifying Boards**

National Commission on Recognition of Dental Specialties and Certifying Boards  
401 North Michigan Avenue  
Suite 3300  
Chicago, IL 60611-4250

April 2026

### **Purpose of Annual Survey**

The purpose of the annual survey is to collect current information on the governance and operations of each of the recognized certifying boards for dental specialists and to ensure each certifying board's adherence to the *Requirements for Recognition of National Certifying Boards for Dental Specialists*. Data collected via the survey will be compiled and published in the *National Commission Annual Report of the Recognized Dental Specialty Certifying Boards* including:

- Board Executive Directors/Secretaries
- Current Certifying Board President
- Board of Directors and Certifying Board Bylaws
- Financial Operations
- Application and Registration Procedures
- Outsourcing of Administrative Duties
- Certification of Dentists as Diplomates
- Examination Details
- Current List of Diplomates
- Examination Technical Report related to validity and reliability provided by a psychometrician/statistician
- Policies Related to Test Construction and Evaluation
- Recertification/Certification Maintenance Policies
- Continuing Education Practices and Requirements
- Examination Statistical Data
- Certification and Examination Summary and Historical Data
- Certification and Re-Certification Examination Content
- Certification Pathways and Applications
- Re-Examination Policies
- Eligibility Requirements

**Please note that all “not applicable” or “uncertain” responses in the Annual Survey require clarification explaining why that specific response is being submitted. If additional clarification is not provided, the survey will be returned.**

**The Annual Survey of the Recognized Dental Specialty Certifying Boards is the official historical document submitted by the organization; therefore, the National Commission requests that the organization attach PDF copies of information located on the internet instead of live links to the internet. If a live link is submitted, the National Commission will return the Annual Survey with the directive to remove the link and submit a PDF copy of the information.**

### **RECOGNIZED DENTAL SPECIALTY CERTIFYING BOARDS**

- American Board of Dental Public Health (DPH)
- American Board of Endodontics (Endo)
- American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology (OMP)
- American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (OMS)
- American Board of Oral Medicine (OM)
- American Board of Orofacial Pain (OP)
- American Board of Orthodontics (Ortho)
- American Board of Pediatric Dentistry (PD)
- American Board of Periodontology (Perio)
- American Board of Prosthodontics (Pros)
- American Dental Board of Anesthesiology

### **Submission of the Requested Data**

Please submit the requested information through the electronic survey that was distributed via electronic mail on December 1, 2026 to the National Commission by **February 1, 2027 no later than 5:00pm Central Standard Time**. National Commission staff is available to answer questions regarding this application and can be reached on the Association's toll-free number: 800-621-8099, extension 7741 or [salernon@ada.org](mailto:salernon@ada.org).

## POLICY ON THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CERTIFYING BOARDS

The purpose of the annual survey is to collect current information on the governance and operations of each of the recognized certifying boards for dental specialists and to ensure each certifying board's adherence to the *Requirements for Recognition of National Certifying Boards for Dental Specialists*. Data collected via the survey will be compiled and published in the *National Commission Annual Report of the Recognized Dental Specialty Certifying Boards* including:

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- Examination Statistical Data
- Certification and Examination Summary and Historical Data
- Certification and Re-Certification Examination Content
- Certification Pathways and Applications
- Re-Examination Policies
- Eligibility Requirements

The recognized certifying boards are required to complete the full Annual Survey every three (3) years. In the intervening years, those certifying boards that are in good standing with the status of "Recognition" will be required to complete a modified version of the Annual Survey that collects information related to:

- Board Executive Directors/Secretaries
- Current Certifying Board President
- Financial Operations
- Application, Registration Procedures and Fees
- Examination Technical Report related to validity and reliability provided by a psychometrician/statistician Examination Statistical Data
- Certification and Examination Summary and Historical Data
- Certification Pathways and Applications

The certifying boards that **do not** have the status of "Recognition" will be required to complete the full annual survey until they achieve compliance with the *Requirements for Recognition*. Newly recognized certifying boards must show continued compliance on the full Annual Survey for a period of three (3) years before being allowed to complete the modified Annual Survey.

An initial review of the survey submitted by each certifying board is conducted by the director of the National Commission to determine whether all sections of the survey have been completed, including submission of required documentation showing compliance with the *Requirements for Recognition of National Certifying Boards for Dental Specialists*. When a certifying board submits Annual Survey documentation and related information to the National Commission, the National Commission has the right, in its sole discretion, to share the documentation and information with others, or to otherwise make use of the information, for legitimate purposes in furtherance of the National Commission's mission.

It is the expectation of the National Commission that the certifying boards respond honestly and submit all the required documentation by the prescribed deadline and not submit an incomplete survey. Further, it is the expectation that the certifying board does not submit vague and/or false information, by omission of essential information or by distortion of information. If documentation is found to be missing, the survey will be returned to the certifying board with a request to submit the required documentation within five (5) business days. Failure to comply with the request for the required documentation within the required deadline will result in the withdrawal of recognition.

Revised 3/19, 3/20, 3/22, 6/25, 4/26 Adopted 5/18

## **POLICY ON FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH REQUEST FOR INFORMATION AND MISSED DEADLINES**

The National Commission monitors the recognition of the dental specialty sponsoring organizations through the *Periodic Review of Dental Specialty Education and Practice* and monitors the recognition of the certifying boards through the *Annual Survey of the Recognized Certifying Boards*. Completion of the National Commission's Periodic Review and the Annual Survey are requirements for continued recognition. So that the National Commission may conduct its recognition program in an orderly fashion, all recognized specialty sponsoring organizations and recognized certifying boards are expected to adhere to deadlines for requests for information and/or submission of reports.

Executive directors who anticipate difficulty in submitting the completed report on time must submit a written request for extension prior to the date on which the report is due. Requests for extension must specify a submission date no later than thirty (30) days beyond the initial deadline date. If a recognized specialty sponsoring organization or recognized certifying board fails to comply with the National Commission's request for information, the National Commission will immediately notify the organization that it will withdraw the organizations recognition at its next scheduled meeting.

Recognized specialty sponsoring organizations and certifying boards that miss a required deadline and do not submit a written request for extension will be assessed a late fee in the amount of \$1,500, to be paid within 30 days of receiving the invoice/notification. If the recognized specialty sponsoring organization or certifying board does not adhere to the payment deadline, the National Commission will view this as an indication that the organization no longer wishes to be recognized by the National Commission and will withdraw recognition at its next scheduled meeting.

Revised 3/20, 3/22, 6/25 Adopted 5/18

**Please complete the following contact information for the Certifying Board Executive Director/Secretary**

**Name of Board Executive Director/Chief Operating Officer/Secretary:**

**Address:**

**Phone:**

**Email Address:**

**Website Address:**

**Please complete the following contact information for the Certifying Board President**

**Name of Certifying Board President:**

**Term Expiration:**

**Name of President-Elect:**

## Requirements for Recognition of National Certifying Boards for Dental Specialists

In order to become, and remain, eligible for recognition by the National Commission as a national certifying board for a dental specialty, the specialty must have a recognized sponsoring organization that meets all of the *Requirements for Recognition of Dental Specialties*. A close working relationship must be maintained between the recognized sponsoring organization and the certifying board. Certifying boards recognized by the National Commission must be able to show continued compliance with all the *Requirements for Recognition of National Certifying Boards for Dental Specialists*.

Following each requirement, please provide a short narrative (as appropriate), complete the appendices, and append the requested documentation current as of December 31, 2026.

### Organization of Boards

#### Requirement 1

**An applicant and a recognized certifying board must have no less than five (5) and no more than twelve (12) voting directors/officers designated on a rotation basis in accordance with a method approved by the National Commission. Although the National Commission does not recommend a single method for selecting directors/officers of boards, directors/officers may not serve for more than a total of nine (9) years. All voting directors/officers must be diplomates of that specific certifying board and the certifying board may establish additional criteria/qualifications if they so desire.**

Requested documentation to show compliance with the requirement:

- A list of the current voting directors/officers of the board including term starting and expiration dates
- Written full copy of current Board *Bylaws*
- Identify section and page number of the *Bylaws* related to the board members' selection process, length of term, membership criteria, diplomate requirement

**Please note that there are several areas in this survey where it pertains to the organizations *Bylaws*. The National Commission requests that the *Bylaws* document only be submitted once under this requirement and requests that the organization identify the specific section and page(s) of the *Bylaws* where the information related to this requirement is located.**

#### Requirement 2

**An applicant and a recognized certifying board must have a certification program that is comprehensive in scope and meets the needs of the diplomate practitioners in the recognized specialty and the profession and protects the public. Further, the certifying board must provide evidence of a close working relationship with a recognized specialty sponsoring organization that meets all of the *Requirements for Recognition of Dental Specialties*.**

Requested documentation to show compliance with the requirement:

- Identify section and page number of Board *Bylaws* that provides evidence of the certifying boards interdependent close working relationship with the recognized specialty sponsoring organization in the same discipline.

#### Requirement 3

**An applicant and a recognized certifying board must provide evidence of adequate financial viability to conduct its certification program.**

Requested documentation to show compliance with the requirement:

- Previous end of year Financial Statement/Audit Report/Treasurer's Report
- Completion of the section related to Application, Registration Procedures and Fees

**Please note that a copy of the boards tax return and/or bank statement does not meet this requirement and must not be submitted.**

**2026 APPLICATION, REGISTRATION PROCEDURES AND FEES**

Please ensure that all sections below are answered. If a section does not pertain to your certifying board, please place N/A in those sections.

Application Fee	
Administrative Fee	
Qualifying Exam Application Fee, if applicable	
Qualifying Exam Fee, if applicable	
Qualifying Exam Re-examination Fee, if applicable	
Qualifying Exam Reschedule Fee, if applicable	
Oral Exam Application Fee, if applicable	
Oral Exam Fee, if applicable	
Oral Exam Re-examination Fee, if applicable	
Oral Exam Reschedule Fee, if applicable	
Written Exam Fee, if applicable	
Clinical Exam Fee, if applicable	
Annual Registration Fee, if applicable	
Late Registration Fee, if applicable	
Reactivation Fee, if applicable	
Recertification Fee, if applicable	
Total Fee to Become Diplomate	
Number of Years Application is Valid	
Re-examination Fee	
Eligibility Determined By: Board= BD Board Committee=BC Executive Director =ED	
Candidates Notified of Results Within Number of Weeks	
Annual Fee for Diplomates	

**Requirement 4**

An applicant and a recognized certifying board may outsource administrative duties to suitable external consultants and/or external agencies to assist in daily operations and/or examination functions. If the certifying board does outsource administrative and/or examination functions, the certifying board must submit documentation describing the process. External and internal consultants who participate in the development and/or administration of certification examinations must be diplomates in the specialty that is being examined. **(This Requirement applies to certifying boards that outsource administrative functions and/or development of the examinations)**

**If the certifying board does outsource daily administrative and/or examination administration functions, the certifying board must submit documentation describing the duties of the external individuals/agencies. Individuals who participate in the development of certification examinations and/or the administration of certification examinations must be diplomates in the specialty that is being examined.**

Requested documentation to show compliance with the requirement:

- Identify section and page number of the *Bylaws* related to the process of selecting consultants or agencies and the duties these individuals/agencies fulfill for the organization
- Copy of Annual Report from the individual(s) and/or agency as applicable

**If the certifying board does not outsource administrative or examination functions to outside individual(s)/agencies, no evidence of compliance is required.**

## **Operation of Boards**

### **Requirement 1**

**An applicant and a recognized certifying board must only certify qualified dentists as diplomates in the specialty area recognized by the National Commission. No more than one (1) certifying board will be recognized by the National Commission for the certification of diplomates in a recognized specialty area of practice.**

Requested documentation to show compliance with the requirement:

- Mission Statement
- Identify section and page number of the *Bylaws* and/or documents providing evidence that it is only certifying dentists as diplomates

### **Requirement 2**

**An applicant and a recognized certifying board must give at least one (1) examination in each calendar year and must announce examination details at least six (6) months in advance of the examination. In extraordinary circumstances, recognized certifying boards may request a conditional waiver of exception from the National Commission.**

Requested documentation to show compliance with the requirement:

- Screenshot copy of announcement of examination(s) date and place posted by the certifying board

### **Requirement 3**

**An applicant and a recognized certifying board must maintain a current list of diplomates.**

Requested documentation to show compliance with the requirement:

- Current roster of diplomates

### **Requirement 4**

**An applicant and a recognized certifying board must submit to the National Commission data relative to financial viability and operations, written examination procedures, candidate examination guidelines and procedures, certification and recertification examination content, test construction and evaluation and the reporting of results. Examination procedures and results should follow the Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing, including validity and reliability evidence. A diplomate in good standing may, upon written request, obtain a copy of the annual examination technical and financial reports of the certifying board. The recognized certifying boards will submit the required documentation on a cycle established by the National Commission.**

Requested documentation to show compliance with the requirement:

- Written Examination Procedures
- Candidates Brochure/Guidelines/Procedures for Certification Examination
- Policy and/or public statement demonstrating diplomate's ability to obtain, upon written request, information on the board's annual financial viability and technical reports
- Certification and Recertification Examination Content, Guidelines and Procedures, if Candidate Guide is not submitted

Documentation/Policy Related to Test Construction and Evaluation including:

- Validity and Reliability Evidence provided by a psychometrician/statistician who has included an introductory letter to accompany documents provided in support of this requirement
- Documentation/Policy related to Test Development and Revision
- Documentation/Policy related to Test Administration, Scoring and Reporting
- Policies on Fairness in Testing and Test Use
- Policies in the Rights and Responsibilities of Test Takers
- Policies on Testing Individuals of Diverse Linguistic Backgrounds
- Policies on Testing Individuals with Disabilities

In lieu of submitting raw data related to each candidate, please submit a summary of the data.

### **Requirement 5**

**An applicant and a recognized certifying board must require diplomates to engage in lifelong learning and shall encourage continuous quality improvement.**

Requested documentation to show compliance with the requirement:

- Written Recertification/Certification Maintenance Policies
- Written Continuing Education Practices and Requirements

## **2026 RECERTIFICATION/CERTIFICATION MAINTENANCE POLICIES**

### **DENTAL ANESTHESIOLOGY**

1. Ninety-six (96) ADBA credits of continuing education over any six (6) year recertification cycle are required. Approved courses are granted 1:1 credit, i.e., one (1) ADBA credit for one (1) course credit hour.
  - a. The maximum allowable CE credit per day is 12 hours.
2. At least fifty-eight (58) credits must be in courses directly related to anesthesiology at the anesthesia specialist level. The remaining thirty-eight (38) credits may be courses that are broadly related to anesthesia practice, such as general pharmacology, general medicine, and moderate sedation. Completion of or teaching in high-fidelity human simulation courses in anesthesiology will be awarded 2:1 credit with a maximum of 12.5 simulation credits allowed (25 ADBA credits).
3. A maximum of twenty-four (24) credit hours will be allowed for media-based CE. Examples include video and other presentations that are not live and do not allow real-time bidirectional communication.
4. A maximum of twenty-four (24) credit hours will be allowed for presenting lectures on anesthesia-related subjects. In order for a Diplomate to claim teaching CE, the course must be sponsored by a nationally recognized CE provider, state dental society, or recognized educational institution with appropriate proof of teaching commensurate with ADA CERP guidelines. Examples may include publicity for the course, a copy of the slides, and/or a CE certificate issued. Repetition of the same lecture is not acceptable for additional credit.
  - a. Within these twenty-four (24) credits hours, Diplomates shall be credited for two (2) CE units per year if a full-time dental anesthesia faculty member in a department of anesthesia/dental anesthesia or dental school or one (1) CE unit per year if a part-time dental anesthesia faculty member in a department of anesthesia/dental anesthesia or dental school.
5. A maximum of thirty (30) credit hours will be allowed for publishing in peer-reviewed, national, or international professional anesthesia journals. Five (5) CE credits shall be allowed if the Diplomate is the first author, and three (3) CE credits shall be allowed if the Diplomate is other than the first author. Publications must be listed on PubMed or SCOPUS.
6. A maximum of twenty (20) credit hours will be allowed for publishing a textbook chapter on an anesthesia-related topic or being editor of an anesthesia-related textbook. Ten (10) CE credits shall be allowed for each chapter/editorship.
7. Credit awarded by the ADBA for participating as an oral board examiner will be acceptable, the specifics of which are to be determined by the ADBA Board of Directors each year.
8. Successful completion of the Maintenance of Certification in Dental Anesthesia (MOCDA) program in every year of your six-year cycle. See the MOCDA page for additional information.
9. Completion of American Heart Association or American Red Cross sponsored Basic Life Support – Health Care Provider Level (BLS) and either Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) or Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS). Copies of current completion cards are acceptable forms of documentation. **These do not count towards the required 96 hours of CE.**
10. Notification by the Diplomate or their representative if there are any current restrictions to the Diplomate's dental license or general anesthesia permit.
11. Submission of the Board-Approved Application for Recertification no later than the stated Diplomate renewal deadline. **Proof of attendance documentation for all CE courses claimed on a recertification application is required.**

There is no fee for recertification. This service is included in the annual registration fee.

*\*Clarification and details about the type/content of CE*

For a detailed explanation on approved CE and specific requirements, please review Approved Courses and Recertification FAQs below.

### **Approved Courses**

The board considers nearly all continuing education courses and activities to fall into one of the following categories:

- A. Courses That Are Accepted by The Board Without Any Review:
  - Attendance at annual sessions or continuing education courses sponsored by the American Society of Dentist Anesthesiologists, American Dental Society of Anesthesiology or state components, International Federation of Dental Anesthesiology Societies and its affiliated societies, Society of Ambulatory Anesthesia, American Society of Anesthesiologists, or its affiliate societies, or International Anesthesia Research Society or its affiliate societies.
- B. Courses That Are Accepted Upon Review by The Board:
  - A broad range of formal continuing education courses given by other legitimate anesthesiology sponsors directly related to anesthesiology at the anesthesia specialist level.
  - A broad range of formal continuing education courses given by legitimate sponsors in subject areas related to anesthesiology, such as general pharmacology, general medicine, and moderate sedation.
- C. Courses That Are Not Credited for Recertification:
  - Dental study clubs.

- Courses that are not related to anesthesiology, such as dental or oral surgery courses.
- Courses in Basic Life Support, Advanced Cardiac Life Support, and/or Pediatric Advanced Life Support.

### **DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH**

Beginning in 2017, recertification by the Board requires completion of an average fifteen (15) hours annually of continuing education from an approved CERP or public health organization over a ten-year period (150 hours, total, for recertification). Scholarly activity, such as manuscripts published in peer-reviewed journals, presentations at scientific meetings and providing continuing education courses and lectures will be counted toward the 150-hour requirement.

In addition, the Board initiated a voluntary recertification program for all diplomates certified prior to January 1, 2000. These diplomates are requested to seek voluntary recertification within ten (10) years beginning in 2010. Upon review of the diplomates' recertification credentials, the American Board of Dental Public Health will issue a supplemental certificate that will remain valid for ten (10) years.

### **ENDODONTICS**

Applicants making Preliminary Application on or after January 1, 1997, will be required to be recertified every ten years from the date they are declared Diplomates by the ABE. The purpose of recertification is to ensure that Diplomates are current in the science and clinical practice of the specialty of endodontics.

During the 10-year recertification period, 150 continuing education hours must be earned by the Diplomates to meet the re-certification criteria.

Diplomates who submitted Preliminary Applications prior to January 1, 1997 and complete the examination process without having to make a second Preliminary Application after January 1, 1997, are not subject to recertification. However, the Directors of the American Board of Endodontics encourage all Diplomates to seek and maintain the highest level of knowledge of technical skills in the specialty of endodontics.

### **ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL PATHOLOGY**

It is the position of the ABOMP that oral pathology-related continuing education and practice experience are required to maintain knowledge after successful completion of the certification process. The Certification Maintenance (CM) program is directed primarily toward those oral and maxillofacial pathologists with time-limited certificates (certificate received in 2004 or after). The process will be open, however, to all certified Diplomates. A Diplomat who holds a non-time-limited/lifetime certificate will not put that certificate in jeopardy by participating in the CM program.

Certification Maintenance will be based on three components:

- 1. Evidence of professional standing.** Diplomates of the ABOMP must maintain a current license or a teaching license to practice dentistry in at least one jurisdiction of the United States, its territories, or Canada. Diplomates who do not have a current license or teaching license but have a faculty appointment or are enrolled full-time in a post-graduate educational program at an accredited dental or medical school may substitute evidence of academic appointment or standing. Diplomates practicing outside the United States or Canada must maintain an equivalent license to practice dentistry issued by their respective jurisdictions.
- 2. Evidence of commitment to lifelong learning and involvement in periodic self-assessment** (organized continuing education [CE] and self-learning). Each Diplomat must maintain a minimum of 40 hours every 2 years of pathology-related continuing education sponsored by the AAOMP, or by an ADA/CERP-approved provider, or AGD/PACE accredited courses that are pathology related, or by an organization or institution accredited by the AMA Council on Medical Education. Diplomates practicing outside the United States must maintain 40 hours of equivalent continuing education every two years. As many as 5 hours per year may be earned as faculty participating in these CE programs.

As part of those 40 hours, each Diplomat must participate each year in at least one diagnostic oral and maxillofacial pathology self-assessment program acceptable to the ABOMP, as defined by the Board of Directors. Acceptable programs are:

1. ABOMP Head and Neck Case Review Program
2. AAOMP Continuing Competency Assurance Program

No more than 2 (ABOMP and AAOMP) slide programs will be accepted as CE in any given year. Virtual slide programs related to Head and Neck Pathology may be available from the College of American Pathologists (CAP) and the United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology (USCAP). To make up additional missing CM hours, Diplomates may log onto the USCAP eLearning site and see the list of CE programs available. After paying for the course, they will take it and once completed, be issued a certificate. Courses that are suitable for ABOMP CE credit will be determined by a simple majority vote of the Board of Directors. If there are any questions regarding the eligibility of the course, please contact the Board prior to registering for the course.

**3. Evidence of cognitive expertise** (certification maintenance examination). The CM examination is mandatory, will be given annually at the AAOMP meeting, as well as remotely via computer testing hardware, and must be taken no later than ten years after initial (or most recent) certification. The examination may be taken as soon as seven years after the most recent certification, giving the Diplomate the opportunity to take the CM examination up to four times. The exact nature of the CM examination will retain the ability to evolve. However, the exam will contain questions related to:

- Fundamental knowledge
- Current and clinically valid practice-related knowledge, including information new to the field designed to evaluate the Diplomates lifelong learning and self-assessment experience.

The CM examination will be a closed-book assessment based on knowledge that a competent oral pathologist would be expected to possess without access to reference material. It will consist of 50 multiple choice questions with illustration when appropriate.

The certification maintenance program is a continuous process and consists of a microscopic slide component, which is a yearly requirement, 40 hours of pathology-related continuing education, which is a two-year continuing requirement, as well as a successful challenge of the CM exam within a 10-year cycle. A Diplomate will be allowed to sit for the certification maintenance examination in years 7 - 10 of his/her 10-year CM examination cycle. Regardless of the date at which the CM process is completed, the anniversary dates for CM examination cycle will be derived from the initial certification date. For example, a Diplomate who is initially certified in 2004 and completes all CM requirements in 2011 (their 7<sup>th</sup> year in the cycle) will start their 10-year CM examination cycle again in 2015.

Certification Maintenance is a continuous and ongoing process. Diplomates who do not remain current with CM requirements will lose their Board certification based on the following criteria:

- Failure to participate in an approved annual slide program. If the deficiency is not made up within a 12-month grace period, Diplomates will lose their Board certification.
- Failure to complete 40 hours of CE every 2 years. If the deficiency is not made up within a 12-month grace period, Diplomates will lose their Board certification.
- Failure to successfully pass the certification maintenance examination within years 7 - 10 of the 10-year CM examination cycle. There is no grace period.

Individuals dropped from the diplomate roll may continue to participate in CM activities and may request to be recertified when all CM requirements have been satisfied. Such a request must occur within five years of loss of certification. If such an individual wishes to regain certification after five years, he/she must retake the initial certification examination. There will be no time-limit to become compliant with CM and no requirement to take additional training.

Diplomates with time-limited certificates who are granted emeritus status will not be required to participate in CM activities, but emeritus diplomates who wish to return to active diplomate status, will be required to participate in all parts of the CM process and complete the certification maintenance examination within one year of returning to active status.

### **ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY**

The Certification Maintenance program is a comprehensive process providing verification the board certified oral and maxillofacial surgeons are continuously engaged in learning and developing their skills within the specialty. The four (4) objectives of certification Maintenance include:

#### **Professional Standing**

Annual Registration is a yearly, online application. Diplomates must provide attestations of professional standing by answering a series of credentialing questions. The credentialing process will indicate whether the Diplomate has an unrestricted dental and/or medical license and maintains continuous hospital privileges that permits the OMS to perform core procedures in oral and maxillofacial surgery. An alternative care plan is offered as an alternative pathway for those who are unable to meet the continuous hospital privileges requirement.

#### **Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment**

Diplomates with limited certificates are required to attest to having 20 hours of continuing education recognized by ADA CERP or AMA certified **each year** on the Diplomates AR application.

In addition to a Diplomates CE attestation, the doctor is required to answer questions from two referenced articles **every year**. Due to copy write issues, articles are not available by ABOMS, rather, the reference is provided for the doctor to use while answering its questions. Many of the references are from resources like the Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. ABOMS **does not** provide a subscription to these outlets. It is the Diplomates responsibility to meet the standards.

A Diplomate must answer **100%** of the questions correctly to successfully meet this requirement and can re-take the questions if needed. The component of CM is available year-round on Diplomates profiles.

#### **Cognitive Expertise**

Diplomates are required to complete questions from two clinical case scenarios **during years three, six and nine** of their time

limited certificate. Clinical case questions focus on treatment and terminology that reflect modern management of oral and maxillofacial surgery. A Diplomate must answer **80%** of the questions correctly to successfully meet this requirement and can re-take the questions if needed.

### **Performance in Practice**

Quality improvement initiatives and an up-to-date Office Anesthesia Evaluation (OAE) by AAOMS or a jurisdictional licensing body is required to successfully meet this component of CM in **years five and ten**. Diplomates must attest to having an active OAE (or alternative pathways available through ABOMS). The attestation will be displayed on Diplomate profiles listed under *Dues and Renewals*.

In addition to an OAE attestation, a Diplomate will also be asked to attest to quality improvements initiatives.

### **ORAL MEDICINE**

ABOM Diplomates are expected to conduct continuous professional education in the area of oral medicine. All Diplomates are required to maintain Continuing Education (CE) at 35 CE for any given past three-year period. All Diplomates may be audited at any given time at random to ensure that this level of CE is being maintained. Diplomates must also complete an annual renewal to keep information current with the ABOM office and pay annual fees (currently \$425). Those that do not stay in compliance will become Inactive.

In addition, ABOM Diplomates are required to recertify every ten years based on the date they passed the ABOM Board examination, or the most recent passing of the re-certification examination. Eligible diplomates will be sent a notice by ABOM to begin the re-certification process at the beginning of the tenth year since last certification. Diplomates that do not recertify every ten years will become Inactive.

**Recertification Components** 1. ABOM Diplomate status must be active status (fees paid). 2. Hold a current license to practice dentistry in any state or territory of the United States or in any nation with equivalent standards. 3. Moral and ethical standing satisfactory to the Board. 4. Membership in an appropriate Oral Medicine Organization 5. Submit 35 CE units for the past three years. 6. Pass the recertification examination.

**Application Process** 1. Diplomates will receive a letter from ABOM notifying them that it is time to recertify. 2. Diplomates must submit evidence of having achieved a total of 35 CE hours in continuing education *related to oral medicine as a specialty* during the preceding three years. For example, if recertifying in 2025, evidence must be submitted from years 2022-2024. Please submit evidence for each claimed point as a single combined PDF document uploaded with the application. CE certificates are typically used.

Points are awarded for the activities listed below:

- 1 point for each 'Continuing Education' hour
- 1 point for a scientific or clinical presentation
- 1 point for a published abstract as part of a scientific meeting
- 1 point for presenting a poster at a scientific meeting
- 2 points for publishing a peer-reviewed article
- 2 points for publishing a chapter in an oral medicine textbook
- 2 points per year for a part-time faculty appointment (0.1-0.3 FTE)
- 4 points per year for a part-time faculty appointment (0.4-0.6 FTE)
- 6 points per year for a part-time faculty appointment (0.7-0.9 FTE)
- 8 points per year for a full-time faculty appointment
- 10 points for publishing an oral medicine book

3. Pay the recertification fee (see below, subject to change). Re-Certification Fees: Initial Application fee \$350.00 USD Re-take of Re-Certification (for first two retakes) \$200.00 USD Re-take of Re-Certification (more than 2 retakes) \$350.00 USD
4. The completed application is then sent to the Board for review. Once approved by the Board, Diplomates will receive a confirmation email with instructions to access the online testing system, Classmarker, to complete the ABOM Re-certification exam.
5. The re-certification is open resource (honor code): books, journals and websites may be used by the examinee.
6. A passing grade on the recertification examination is 70%.
7. Grading will be performed by the software, and all examinees will be notified by the ABOM Secretary of their grade within 30 days of taking the re-examination via e-mail. The certificate will be sent to the examinee from the ABOM office.
8. If a diplomate does not pass the re-certification examination, then they have two opportunities to retake the exam and they must wait a minimum of month before retaking the exam. (see Examination fee)

### **Recertification Examination Content & Format**

The goal of the board re-examination is to fairly and accurately periodically re-test current knowledge of practicing Diplomates, pertinent to patient care in Oral Medicine as it is practiced in the USA. Diplomates are expected to maintain expert knowledge in the same domains as the ABOM Qualifying Examination and Oral Clinical Cases Examination.

The exam consists of questions on the topics of: 1. Laboratory Evaluation/Diagnostics in Oral Maxillofacial Radiology and Oral

Pathology 2. Medically Compromised Patients 3. Orofacial Pain 4. Pharmacology and Evidence-Based Therapies 5. Mucosal and Salivary Gland Disease

The examination construction is similar to that of Qualifying Examination in terms of content and weighting, with a total of 55 questions (10-15 questions per section).

### **OROFACIAL PAIN**

All ABOP Diplomates are subject to recertification based on guidelines established by the ABOP. In addition to annual renewal fees, a recertification fee may be assessed every 5 years at which time Diplomates must present documentation of 100 hours of continuing education activity specific to the field of Orofacial Pain. These credits must be accumulated during the previous 5 years.

### **ORTHODONTICS AND DENTOFACIAL ORTHOPEDICS**

The certification renewal process may be started no earlier than 36 months prior to the expiration date printed on the board-certified orthodontist's certificate. A new certificate will be awarded stating an expiration date of ten (10) years from the original expiration date, regardless of when the renewal process is completed.

Successful completion of this exam is required to maintain Board Certification status. Board certified orthodontists completing certification renewal will receive an updated certificate.

Retake Policy: If unsuccessful, an examinee may pursue the BCE up to three times (a different exam assigned for each attempt). If all three opportunities have been exhausted, the examinee will be required to petition the board for further instruction regarding options to fulfill the certification renewal requirements. It is necessary to re-register each time an examinee will be tested. The registration system is set up to accommodate re-registration as early as the same day, and examinees are not charged for re-examination.

Voluntary Certification Renewal Examination (Lifetime Certifications): All lifetime board certified orthodontists are encouraged to voluntarily renew their certification. This is a requirement for all lifetime board certified orthodontists before they are eligible to act as an ABO Examiner and/or ABO Director.

### **PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY**

In order to recertify, ABPD Time-limited Diplomates must complete the following requirements to maintain their board certification. Three requirements are required annually, and one every ten years.

A Diplomate who completes each requirement of the ROC-P by the annual deadline of November 30 will remain in good standing with ABPD and will be considered Active. Any Diplomate not fulfilling all annual requirements, including having an active dental license, will be placed inactive until all requirements have been met.

#### **Annual Requirements**

1. Annual Diplomate Renewal (ADR) –Professional standing  
ADR includes an attestation of having an active license to practice dentistry, completion of a credentialing survey, and payment of an ADR fee (\$200). The ADR requirement is used as a verification of professional standing as a pediatric dentist.
2. Continuing Education – Lifelong learning and continuing scholarship  
15 Continuing Education (CE) hours are required annually. CE must be related to the clinical aspect of pediatric dentistry.
3. Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) modules – Lifelong learning and assessment  
2 web-based modules required annually. Each CQI module counts as 1 hour of CE Credit.

#### **10-year Requirement**

1. Renewal of Certification Examination – Knowledge based assessment Successful completion of a 50-question open-book examination every ten years

Practice within the specialty of pediatric dentistry is varied. The majority (87.7%) 1 of pediatric dentists' primary practice is in out-patient (private practice, group practice or corporate practice) settings. The majority (67%) 2 of pediatric dentists maintain hospital privileges to treat patients with special health care needs or extensive dental needs under general anesthesia in a hospital or in an ambulatory surgery center. Most hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers require pediatric dentists to maintain board certification and verify certification yearly.

## **PERIODONTOLOGY**

### **CONTINUING CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**

As of January 1, 2025, Diplomates shall be required to answer fifteen (15) questions per quarter, per year, for each year of a six-year certification cycle. No more than 15 questions may be answered per day.

Diplomates who miss answering questions during any of the first three quarters of the year may make up the missed questions in a subsequent quarter. The annual continuing certification requirement shall be met so long as sixty (60) questions are answered by a Diplomate no later than December 31 of each year. At the conclusion of each year, those questions that remain unanswered shall be treated as incorrect answers.

As of January 1, 2025, the initial rollout of the continuing certification requirements shall be implemented as follows:

- 1) Diplomates with a certification cycle ending December 31, 2025, are required to complete 60 continuing certification questions and attest to completion of 60 Activity Points by December 31, 2025. Diplomates who have engaged with ABPerio Minute for a minimum of one quarter's requirement of questions (15 questions) throughout the year and who have met all other continuing certification requirements shall, for this certification cycle only, be permitted to maintain certification.
- 2) Diplomates with a certification cycle ending December 31, 2026, are required to complete 120 continuing certification questions and attest to completion of 60 Activity Points by December 31, 2026. Diplomates who have engaged with ABPerio Minute for a minimum of one quarter's requirement of questions (15 questions) in 2025 and an additional 15 questions in 2026, and who have met all other continuing certification requirements shall, for this certification cycle only, be permitted to maintain certification.
- 3) Diplomates with a certification cycle ending December 31, 2027, are required to complete 180 continuing certification questions and attest to completion of 60 Activity Points by December 31, 2027. Diplomates who have engaged with ABPerio Minute for a minimum of one quarter's requirement of questions (15 questions) each year for 2025, 2026, and 2027, and who have met all other continuing certification requirements shall, for this certification cycle only, be permitted to maintain certification.
- 4) Diplomates with a certification cycle ending December 31, 2028, are required to complete 240 continuing certification questions and attest to completion of 60 Activity Points by December 31, 2028. Diplomates who engage with ABPerio Minute each year and answer a minimum of 50% of required questions (120 questions) and who have met all other continuing certification requirements shall be permitted to maintain certification.
- 5) Diplomates with a certification cycle ending December 31, 2029, are required to complete 300 continuing certification questions and attest to completion of 60 Activity Points by December 31, 2029. Diplomates who engage with ABPerio Minute each year and answer a minimum of 50% of required questions (150 questions) and who have met all other continuing certification requirements shall be permitted to maintain certification.
- 6) Diplomates with a certification cycle ending December 31, 2030, are required to complete 360 continuing certification questions and attest to completion of 60 Activity Points by the end of 2030.

All Diplomates shall be required to participate in the continuing certification process in order to maintain Board Certification. Diplomates who fail to activate their account in ABPerio Minute by December 31 of the year they are enrolled shall be placed on inactive status. At the conclusion of the third year of a Diplomate's certification cycle, the Diplomate must have answered a minimum of 75% of the required questions (equal to 135 questions). At the end of a Diplomate's certification cycle (year six) a Diplomate must have answered a minimum of 75% of required questions (equal to 135 questions) for years four through six. If at either assessment point (year 3 and/or year 6) a Diplomate has not satisfied the required number of questions, the Diplomate shall be referred to the Credentialing Committee for assessment and possible remediation steps which may include, but are not limited to, 1) additional questions to answer each quarter; 2) additional CE activity; 3) financial penalties; 4) placement on inactive status; 5) loss of certification.

The ABP Board of Directors shall provide a waiver of up to two (2) calendar quarters per certification cycle for Diplomates who submit a timely written request and provides evidence of:

- 1) Active military deployment with a lack of computer access; or
- 2) A current severe illness as verified, in writing, by the Diplomate's physician.

By participation in the continuing certification platform, ABPerio Minute, a Diplomate agrees and attests that they shall answer the questions independently and without assistance from or by others. Use of any artificial intelligence services, platforms, or tools is strictly prohibited.

### **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS**

A statement of compliance with continuing educational requirements and other professional activities directed toward maintaining current knowledge and competence in periodontics shall be required of all Diplomates, except those in retired status. Diplomates must acquire points of continuing education credits based on the ABP point system and complete all stated continuing certification requirements as determined by the Board of Directors. No exceptions will be made for Diplomates regarding completion of the continuing certification requirements on the basis of computer access.

An attestation statement regarding current licensing credentials must be signed by all Diplomates during the sixth year of each certification cycle. A Diplomate who is in the sixth year of his or her certification cycle but about whom the Board has unresolved evidence of (1) a physical or psychological condition that may interfere with the practice of dentistry or (2) unethical, unlawful, or incompetent conduct described in the Board's Policy for Handling Complaints About Diplomates may be placed on Inactive status.

The Board of Directors reserves the right to make the final determination of whether a Diplomate has satisfied all necessary requirements for Continuing Certification, including professional standing and the ability to perform independently in the specialty, with or without reasonable accommodation for disabilities.

## **PROSTHODONTICS**

Maintenance of Diplomate status requires periodic recertification. Certificates of Diplomate status are issued for eight (8) year periods. All active Diplomates are required to undergo a process of continued proficiency (i.e., recertification) involving *continuing education* and a *recertification* examination. The following details the continued proficiency process that all Diplomates must undertake.

### **Continuing Education**

All Diplomates, except for those with Life Diplomate status, must obtain at least two hundred forty (240) continuing education hours over an eight (8) year period. A maximum of sixty (60) hours per year may be accumulated in fulfillment of the two hundred forty (240) hour total. Hours may be accrued in the following ways:

- Attendance by the Diplomate at a scientific session sponsored by a major prosthodontic organization (6 hours per day of session attendance).\*
- Attendance by the Diplomate at other courses, conferences, or meetings applicable to prosthodontics, preferably courses with "CERP" approval (hours of meeting attendance).\*
- Presentation by the Diplomate of invited professional prosthodontics lectures or study club activities related to prosthodontics (hours of presentation).\*
- Article publication by the Diplomate in peer-reviewed professional journals. Abstract publications will not be accepted for continuing education points (12 hours per article).\* <https://www.abpros.org/recertification>
- Prosthodontic book chapter publication by the Diplomate (6 hours per chapter).\*

*\* A maximum of ninety-six (96) hours in an eight (8) year period may be accrued from article and chapter publications, professional presentations, and study club activities.*

Continuing education activity is reported on the Diplomate registration website. All Diplomates are responsible for maintaining updated documentation of their continuing education activity. To periodically audit reporting accuracy, randomly chosen Diplomates are required to furnish documentation to the ABP supporting the continuing education activities reported.

### **Recertification Examination**

Successful completion of an examination focusing on contemporary prosthodontics is required of Diplomates wishing to maintain Active status. A recertification examination must be successfully completed within every eight (8) year recertification period.

Successful completion of the recertification examination requires a score of 70% correct or greater. The recertification examination will be administered online at our [membership portal](#). A fee of \$350 is charged each time the examination is challenged. Each examination consists of 25 multiple-choice questions with associated literature citations. Review of associated literature citations is required to answer questions. Results will be made available to the Diplomate upon submission of the examination. Each Diplomate may challenge the examination repeatedly, upon payment of each separate examination fee, until a passing grade is achieved. Diplomates must successfully complete the examination prior to expiration of their existing certification to maintain Diplomate status. It is the responsibility of the Diplomate to ensure requirements for recertification are met within the timeframe required to maintain Active Diplomate status.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The ABP assumes all Diplomates challenging the recertification examination will respect the confidentiality of the process by not reproducing or sharing contents. Although the recertification examination in "open book" format, it is expected that each Diplomate completing the recertification examination will do so independently and without external assistance beyond the literature citations provided. Recertification is a responsibility of the specialty of prosthodontics and each Diplomate is a representative of the specialty. Diplomates are expected to uphold the highest ethical standards of prosthodontics by not compromising the recertification examination.

### **Requirement 6**

**An applicant and a recognized certifying board must provide to the National Commission evidence of examination and certification of a significant number of additional dentists in order to warrant approval of and continued recognition by the National Commission. The recognized certifying boards will submit the required documentation on a cycle established by the National Commission.**

Requested documentation to show compliance with the requirement:

- Evidence of holding at least one (1) certification examination
- Completion of section related to the type of examinations and applicants declared ineligible
- Completion of section related to Certification and Examination Summary and Historical Data

**Dates/Locations of Examinations Given in 2026:**

Dates		Location		
Type of Examination		Total # Candidates	# Passed	# Failed
Written Examination				
Oral Examination				
Clinical Examination: Case-based, images, slides, etc.				
Clinical Oral Examination				
Other				
Applicants Declared In-Eligible for 2026 Board Examination(s)				Number
Educational program inadequate length				
Educational program not accredited by CODA				
Insufficient practice experience				
Insufficient data provided by candidate				
Other (please specify)				

**2026 CERTIFICATION AND EXAMINATION SUMMARY AND HISTORICAL DATA**

	Dent Anes	DPH	ENDO	OMP	OMS	OM	OP	ORTHO	PED	PERIO	PROS
<b>Founding Date</b>	1994	1950	1956	1948	1946	1955	1994	1929	1940	1940	1946
<b>Year of ADA Approval of Certifying Board</b>	2020	1951	1964	1950	1948	2021	2022	1950	1948	1948	1948
<b>Number First Time Certified <i>Without</i> Examination From Founding Date</b>											
<b>Cumulative Number of Individuals First Time Certified By Examination Through 12/31/26</b>											
<b>Total First Time Certified from 1/1/26 Through 12/31/2026</b>											
<b>Number Placed on Inactive Roll Through 12/31/26 Deceased, Dropped, Retired, Life/Emeritus)</b>											
<b>Number of Active Diplomates as of 12/31/26</b>											
<b>Total Number Diplomates Recertified/Certification Maintenance since Inception of Board</b>											

**Requirement 7**

**An applicant and a recognized certifying board must bear sole authority and responsibility for conducting the certification programs, the evaluation of the qualifications and competence of those certified as diplomates, and the issuance of certificates.**

Requested documentation to show compliance with the requirement:

- Identify section and page number of the Bylaws or other documentation showing the certifying board is an independent entity and has independent authority to act as the certification body
- Certificate that clearly indicates proof as certifying body and not sponsoring organization

## **Certification Requirements**

### **Requirement 1**

An applicant and a recognized certifying board must require, for eligibility for certification as a diplomate, the successful completion of an advanced education program that is two (2) or more academic years in length accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation.

Although full-time, continual attendance in a Commission on Dental Accreditation accredited advanced education program is desirable, the period of advanced education need not be continuous, nor completed within successive calendar years. An advanced educational program equivalent to two (2) or more academic years in length, successfully completed on a part-time basis over an extended period of time as a graduated sequence of educational experience not exceeding four (4) calendar years, may be considered acceptable in satisfying this requirement. Short continuation, refresher courses (educational experience only obtained through continuing education) and teaching experience in a specialty department in a dental education facility will not be accepted in meeting any portion of this requirement.

A certifying board may establish an exception (alternative pathway) to the qualification requirement of completion of an advanced education program that is two (2) or more academic years in length accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation for the unique candidate who can demonstrate comparable educational and/or training requirements to the satisfaction of the certifying board. A certifying board must submit a separate petition to the National Commission for permission to establish and/or revise policy on alternative pathways.

Requested documentation to show compliance with the requirement:

- Eligibility Requirements for certification showing completion of a CODA accredited advanced education program that is two (2) or more years in length
- If the specialty allows part-time attendance in advanced education programs, evidence was submitted related to the length of the part-time program
- If the certifying board has alternative pathways to certification, written evidence was provided related to the pathway
- Completion of the section related to Certification Pathways and Applications Data

## **2026 CERTIFICATION PATHWAYS AND APPLICATIONS DATA**

Please ensure that all sections below are answered. If a section does not pertain to your certifying board, please place N/A in those sections. If the information is not known, please place uncertain in the section.

Number Certified through Traditional (CODA graduate) Pathway in 2026	
Number Certified through Alternative Pathway in 2026	
Number of Applications Received in 2026	
Number of Unacceptable Applications Received in 2026	
Number Recertified/Certification Maintenance in 2026	

## **2026 Certification Pathways for Graduates of Non-CODA Accredited Advanced Dental Education Programs**

### **DENTAL ANESTHESIOLOGY**

The ADBA permits individuals who have completed non-CODA accredited residency programs in anesthesiology for dentists to apply to become a candidate. The Board of Directors individually assesses each of these unique applicants to determine if the completed course of training is essentially equivalent in nature to the course of study currently required. Those that are deemed equivalent by the Board are granted approval to begin the board examination process, pending satisfactory fulfillment of all additional established requirements.

## **2026 RE-EXAMINATION POLICIES**

### **DENTAL ANESTHESIOLOGY**

If the Candidate fails to pass the initial Written Examination, the ADBA Repeat Written Examination Application must be postmarked within sixty (60) days prior to the date in which the examination will take place. The Written Examination may be retaken up to two additional times. It is recommended that a comprehensive anesthesia review course be completed for those Candidates who fail the Written Examination. If the Written Examination is not successfully passed within three attempts, the Candidate's application is void, and they are not eligible for the Oral Examination.

If the Candidate fails to pass their initial Oral Examination attempt, the ADBA Repeat Oral Examination Application must be postmarked within one hundred and twenty (120) days prior to the date in which the examination will take place. The Oral Examination may be retaken up to two additional times, or within the total six (6) year time limit, whichever comes first.

### **DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH**

Candidates who fail the examination will be accepted for one re-examination. Candidates who fail the re-examination will be required to submit evidence of further formal training or supervised field experience before being accepted for an additional re-examination.

Candidates who apply for the written exam only may retake the written examination for a total of three times.

### **ENDODONTICS**

Eligibility Periods Eligibility Expires Written Examination Oral Examination Case History Exam 3 years after Preliminary Application is approved 3 years after passing Written exam or Oral Exam (depending on Track selection) 6 years after passing Oral Exam or Written Exam (depending on Track selection) Procedures for Certification: Re-establishing Board Eligibility Re-establishment of Board Eligibility In the event of a Candidate's Board Eligibility expiration, eligibility must be re-established. To reestablish Board Eligibility, an Educationally Qualified Endodontist must restart the process by submitting another Preliminary Application. All application and maintenance fees will be required as stated in the section on fees. Credit for Written, Case History, and Oral Examinations A Candidate who has re-established Board eligibility may receive credit for successfully completing an ABE Examination (Written, Case History and/or Oral Examinations) during a previous eligibility period.

Prospective Board Candidates who have received a passing grade on the written exam must submit a copy of their endodontic certificate with a conferral date on or before December 31 of the year the Written Examination was successfully completed to certify their exam results officially. The conferral year of a Prospective Board Candidates endodontic certificate must match the same year their Written Exam was passed, or their results become null and void. General Timeline Completing all three examinations within a prescribed eligibility period can take as little as one year or as long as twelve years. Please note: A Prospective Board Candidate or Candidate must receive a passing examination notification on their most recent examination before they are eligible to register for the subsequent examination in her/his selected track. Eligibility Periods Eligibility expires if Maintenance Dues are not kept current or the Candidate fails to successfully complete an examination within two attempts.

Limitations Candidates may not take a Written or Oral Examination or submit a Case History Portfolio more than twice during the eligibility period. Failure twice in succession within the eligibility period to pass the Written, Case History Portfolio, or Oral Examination will cause the Candidate to lose his/her Board Eligibility and to forfeit all fees paid. There are no limitations on how many times a candidate may re-establish eligibility.

### **ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL PATHOLOGY**

Candidates who fail the examination may retake it each year within the five-(5) year period dating from the time of initial application.

### **ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY**

Qualifying Examination: A candidate who fails the Qualifying Examination may retake the examination within a two-year period, then the application is void. Once an application is void, the applicant will no longer be considered a "Candidate." Individuals who re-apply will regain "Candidate" status upon successful completion of the qualifying examination.

Oral Certifying Examination: Once a Candidate successfully completed their Qualifying Examination they are eligible to begin their application for the Oral Certifying Examination. A Candidate has three consecutive years following successful completion of the Qualifying Examination in which to take and pass the Oral Certifying Examination. The ABOMS administrative office must receive the completed Oral Certification Examination application by a specified deadline. A Candidate who does not take and pass the Oral Certifying Examination within the three-year period must re-apply for Board certification. Individuals who are required to re-apply will regain "Candidate" status upon successfully completing the Qualifying Examination.

The Board shall determine the requirements and qualifications for re-examination of any candidate and its decision shall be final.

### **ORAL MEDICINE**

#### **Qualifying Examination Failure**

A score of less than 70.0% represents failure of the Qualifying Examination.

#### **Oral Clinical Cases Examination Failure**

If a candidate fails to pass one case (and only one case) they will be given a single opportunity to re-challenge that case either in person the following year during the spring meeting or via a 30-minute Zoom examination between 4 and 9 months after the Spring meeting as determined by the Board. A re-challenge fee applies for re-challenging a failed case.

If the candidate fails to pass this single re-challenge opportunity, or fails more than 2 cases at initial attempt, they must reapply for and challenge the full-length Oral Clinical Cases Examination at the ensuing Spring AAOM meeting at the full fee.

### **Retake/Retest**

A candidate may re-test either exam (Qualifying Examination or Oral Clinical Cases Examination) twice. This means a candidate has a total of three (3) attempts to complete either the Qualifying Examination or Oral Clinical Cases Examination. The Qualifying Examination will be offered in January and June, and the Oral Clinical Cases Examination will be offered in-person at the Spring Annual meeting or remotely as a Retake Exam (via Zoom) in between 4 and 9 months after the Spring meeting as determined by the Board (e.g., September).

A candidate may be admitted for re-examination within the five (5) year period following their initial Qualifying Examination. If the candidate cannot pass the examination after three attempts, the candidate must retake the entire exam: that is **BOTH** the Qualifying Examination and Oral Clinical Cases Examination.

*A retake candidate must initiate a new application process including new fees. Retake candidates shall be informed that, "While ABOM does not mandate specific remedial actions after examination failures, it is advisable for candidates to assess their preparation strategies and consider additional study or review courses to enhance their chances of success in subsequent attempts. Engaging in test-like scenarios and focused study plans, receiving mentorship, or participating in formal review programs can be beneficial. The retake candidate may be required to show proof of additional training set forth by the Board to qualify for additional examinations."*

There is a non-refundable re-examination fee for the Qualifying Examination and the Oral Clinical Cases Examination.

ABOM provides notification only on if a candidate passed or failed the exam - a numeric grade will not be given, and candidates will not be able to review their results beyond the pass/fail determination.

### **OROFACIAL PAIN**

Candidates may submit applications to retake the Oral Examination within five years of passing the Written Examination. Diplomate status is not conferred upon any individual who does not successfully pass BOTH the Written and Oral Examinations. However, candidates who do not pass the Oral Examination within five years of passing the written examination require Board approval to retake the Oral Examination.

### **ORTHODONTICS AND DENTOFACIAL ORTHOPEDICS**

Examinees who do not successfully complete the written examination in five years from date of application must re-apply. Examinees may repeat the examination as many times as the examination is available in the five-year established time frame. After successful completion of the written examination, there is no time-limit or expiration date for completing the clinical examination.

Examinees who took the final offerings of the traditional case-based clinical exam held in 2019 and did not successfully complete all required case criteria were given a time limit and two attempts to resubmit cases for incomplete criteria. If unsuccessful, examinees will be required to register for the scenario-based clinical exam.

Scenario-based clinical exam results are presented in a pass/fail format which is based on minimum performance criteria. If an examinee is unsuccessful on the examination, he or she will be provided with feedback outlining their level of success on the four main domains of the examination. Examinees must re-take the entire examination in order to pass and will not have the ability to be re-tested on individual sections. Reliability, validity and objectivity are assessed by an independent psychometric examination consulting company.

If an examinee has 3 failed attempts at the Scenario-based Clinical Examination, he/she must wait 2 years before retaking the examination. If an examinee no-shows for an exam, it counts as a failed attempt at an examination. Examinees must present a petition to the Clinical Committee before registering for the examination for the 4th attempt. The petition must address the following items:

1. How the examinee plans to prepare going forward?
2. What domain(s) require the most attention when preparing based on past results?
3. What is the examinee's understanding of the weak performing areas in the past examinations?
4. What adjustments will be made in the preparation process going forward?

If the candidate fails the examination after the 4th attempt, they must wait an additional 2 years and petition before registration for 5th exam. After 5 failed attempts at the Scenario-based Clinical Examination, an examinee is no longer eligible to be Board Certified.

### **PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY**

Qualifying Exam (QE): The Candidate who is unsuccessful with the QE can retake the examination annually in years 1 through 7 of their eligibility period. The Candidate must be successful with the QE prior to sitting for the OCE. Oral Clinical Exam (OCE): The Candidate who is unsuccessful with the OCE can retake the examination annually within their eligibility period. If unsuccessful with the OCE during their eligibility period, the Candidate will need to start the process over.

**PERIODONTOLOGY**

Qualifying Examination: Candidates who fail the Qualifying Examination may apply and take the examination again.

Oral Examination: Candidates who fail the oral examination in the last year of eligibility. (2 years without extension: 3 years if extension is granted), will be required to restart the Certification Examination process by retaking and successfully completing the ABP Qualifying Examination.

**PROSTHODONTICS**

If a candidate is unsuccessful on any element of the examination, reexamination is possible. Policies governing reexamination include the following:

All re-examinations require online re-registration for the specific examination of interest and online payment of appropriate fees.

- If a candidate presents an acceptable Section B patient, but is unsuccessful in the oral phase of the examination, the candidate may be required to complete a 40-minute oral-only reexamination at a subsequent examination session. This reexamination will focus primarily on the scope of the Section B examination that was unsuccessful but is open to questioning on all prosthodontics concepts and related sciences.
- If a candidate is unsuccessful on the patient presentation of any Section B examination, the candidate cannot pass that part of the Section B examination. In order to be re-examined on that part of Section B, the candidate is required to: (1) document, present and defend retreatment of the patient originally presented, or (2) document, present and defend a new patient treatment.
- If a candidate is unsuccessful on either the Qualifying Examination or the Oral Certifying Examination, reexamination is possible. All examination retakes require online registration for the specific examination of interest and online payment of appropriate fees.

**Requirement 2**

**An applicant and a recognized certifying board must establish minimum requirements for years of practice in the area for which certificates are granted. The years of advanced education in the discipline specific specialty may be accepted toward fulfillment of this requirement.**

Requested documentation to show compliance with the requirement:

- Evidence of establishment of minimum requirements for certification
- Completion of the section related to Eligibility Requirements

**2026 ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

**Please ensure that all sections below are answered. If a section does not pertain to your certifying board, please place N/A in those sections. If the information is not known, please place uncertain in the section.**

<b>Education</b>	
<b>Years of Advanced Education* in Addition to DDS or DMD Degree</b>	
<b>Experience</b>	
<b>Total Years of Specialty Experience Including Advanced Education*</b>	
<b>Other</b>	
<b>Citizenship</b>	
<b>State Licensure</b>	

\*Advanced Education refers to postdoctoral education programs accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation

**Requirement 3**

**An applicant and a recognized certifying board, in cooperation with their recognized specialty sponsoring organization, must prepare and publicize joint recommendations on the Commission on Dental Accreditation educational standards for the advanced education programs for that specialty.**

**The certifying board must show evidence of at a minimum an annual joint meeting to ensure the organizations are maintaining a close working relationship. When the educational standards for the CODA accredited advanced education programs are being reviewed, the certifying board must prepare and show evidence of joint recommendations from the sponsoring organization and certifying board to the National Commission.**

Requested documentation to show compliance with the requirement:

- Joint comments made to the Commission on Dental Accreditation on the advanced education Accreditation Standards in the discipline.
- Evidence that certifying board and sponsoring organization meet on a regular basis to review educational program standards and experiential requirements.