

Certification in Addiction Medicine Through the American Osteopathic Association

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Disclosure Information (Required)

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Learning Objectives

1. Upon completion, the participant will be more knowledgeable on the AOA Addiction Medicine Certification Exam application process.
2. Upon completion, participants will better evaluate the AOA Addiction Medicine Certification Exam clinical pathway and eligibility requirements.
3. Upon completion, participants will have a better understanding of tips and best practices in studying for the exam and test taking skills.

**Why is this clinical pathway
important right now?**

**What is the scope and scale of the
public health crisis in addiction that
we are striving to serve?**

What is a clinical pathway? How does it differ from traditional certification pathways? What **ADVANTAGE will a clinical pathway create for physicians in a variety of specialties treating Substance Use Disorders?**

**What is the competitive advantage?
What other options are out there?
How is the AOA clinical pathway
unique and better?**

How do Osteopathic principles fit with a commitment to treat substance use disorder?

How does our commitment to mind, body, and spirit fit and potentially create a clinical niche/advantage?

AOA Addiction Medicine Exam Process

The American Osteopathic Conjoint Examination Committee on Addiction Medicine administers subspecialty certification exams and osteopathic continuous certification (recertification) examinations. The following stages represent key milestones in the process to obtain initial subspecialty certification in Addiction Medicine.

- ◆ A physician can be eligible to sit for the AOA exam by:
 1. AOA or ACGME Fellowship completion
 2. Clinical Pathway Eligibility

AOA or ACGME Fellowship Completion Eligibility:

Board-eligible status begins upon completion of your AOA or ACGME Fellowship program in Addiction Medicine and ends Dec. 31 of the sixth year after you complete training.



To be eligible for Addiction Medicine Subspecialty Certification by fellowship, a candidate must:

- Hold an active primary certification in an AOA or ABMS specialty.
- Complete an AOA or ACGME accredited fellowship in addiction medicine.
- Hold an active license to practice in a state or territory
- Adhere to the AOA Code of Ethics

Board eligibility status will be automatically terminated in the following circumstances:

- After completion of the board eligibility timeframe. (31st of the sixth year after fellowship completion)
- Upon denial of an appeal to extend the board eligibility timeframe for an individual
- Upon award of certification
- AOCAM written verification of board eligibility requires your submission of all application documents and fees.

Clinical Pathway Eligibility

- ◆ To be eligible for Addiction Medicine Subspecialty Certification through the Clinical Practice Pathway, a candidate must
 - Hold an active primary certification in an AOA or ABMS specialty.
 - Apply for the next administration of the initial certification exam in addiction medicine.

Clinical Pathway Eligibility

- ◆ **As part of the application, candidates are required to upload one of the following documents:**
 - 1. An attestation form attesting that a minimum of 1,000 hours of practice time within a two-year period were engaged in the practice of Addiction Medicine.** It is not required that the minimum of two years of practice time be continuous; however, all practice time must have occurred in the five-year period prior to the application start date for that year. All hours must be obtained post-residency.

Clinical Pathway Eligibility

2. An active ABAM certificate.

Active certification from ABAM will waive the need for the 1000 hour attestation.

3. Certificate of completion of an ACAAM (formerly TAMF and ABAM) fellowship within the five years prior to the application start date for that year. ACAAM fellowship completion within the approved timeframe will waive the need for the 1000 hour attestation.

AOCAM written verification of board eligibility requires your submission of all application documents and fees.



Right to Appeal

- ◆ If a candidate feels that the actions of the American Osteopathic Conjoint Addiction Medicine Examination Committee (AOCAMEC) with regard to any part of the examination constitute unequal application of the regulations and requirements or standards, unwarranted discrimination, prejudice, unfairness or improper conduct of the examination, he or she has the right to appeal to the AOCAMEC conjoint committee.
- ◆ If an appeal is denied by the AOCAMEC, the candidate retains the right to appeal to the AOA Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists (BOS) and AOA Board of Trustees.

OCC Requirements:

- ◆ **Component 1 | Active Licensure**

AOA board-certified physicians must hold a valid, active license to practice medicine in one of the 50 states

- ◆ **Component 2 | Lifelong Learning/Continuing Medical Education|**

Component 2 of the Osteopathic Continuous Certification process requires recertifying physicians to pursue lifelong learning through continuing medical education.

OCC Requirements:

- ◆ **Component 3 | Cognitive Assessment**

To complete Component 3 requirements for Osteopathic Continuous Certification in the subspecialty of Addiction Medicine, a physician must pass a written examination once per 10-year OCC cycle.

- ◆ **Component 4 | Practice Performance Assessment & Improvement**

Component 4 requires physicians to engage in continuous quality improvement through comparison of personal practice performance measured against national standards for their medical specialty.



Exam Document Requirements

The following documents and fees must be collected and approved by the conjoint committee as part of the candidate's application before approval to sit for the initial certification exam is given.

American Osteopathic Conjoint of Addiction Medicine

<i>Documents and Verifications</i>	<i>Pathways</i>			
	Practice/Clinical	ACAAM Fellowship	Current ABAM Diplomate	ACGME-Accredited Fellowship
Application fee	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Completed online application	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Active, non-restricted licensure	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Active Primary Certification in AOA or ABMS specialty	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Attestation Form	Yes	Yes (if not ACGME accredited)	Yes	N/A
Additional Documentation	N/A	Yes (if not ACGME accredited)	Yes* current certificate in good standing	N/A

Exam Content Outline

Subspecialty Certification

CONTENT	PERCENT RANGE ON EXAM
1. Pharmacology	24%
2. Epidemiology and Genetics	18%
3. Treatments	15%
4. Legal Aspects	14%
5. Diagnosis	12%
6. Special Populations	11%
7. Prevention	6%

Exam Fees

- ◆ An exam fee of \$2000 must be submitted with your completed application. No application will be considered complete until all fees have been paid.
- ◆ An additional non-refundable late fee of \$650 must be submitted with application based on published submission deadlines. Late fees are typically applied 45 days before the testing window.
- ◆ Cancellations must be submitted in writing and a cancellation processing fee will be assessed.

Exam Content Outline

Subspecialty Certification

- ◆ A full breakdown of the content domains and their subdomains are available on the AOA Website.
- ◆ The AOCAM exam is offered via a remote platform.
- ◆ There are between 200 and 220 single answer multiple-choice questions on the exam. The exam is four and a half hours with one 15-minute break built in.

Exam Scoring

◆ Scoring Criteria

AOA reports candidates' certification results using standardized scaled scores. Scaled scores are more valid and reliable compared to raw scores and make scores comparable across different forms of the exam. The AOA reports scores on a 200 to 800-point scale with a scaled score of **500 or higher required to pass**.

- A scaled score of 500 represents the minimum level of knowledge and skill necessary to pass the exam as established by AOA Certifying Boards.
- The highest possible scaled score is 800.
- The lowest possible scaled score is 200.
- Overall scores are based on the total number of items answered correctly, regardless of content area.

Results by Content Area

- When possible, a breakdown of exam scores by content area is provided to help you identify your areas of strength and areas that may need more development.
- The number of items for each content area indicates the relative amount of test questions on the exam for that content area.
- Content area scores are *not* weighted to calculate your overall score; each content area is scored separately after the overall analysis is complete.

Exam Failure

Candidates who do not pass the initial certification examination may apply for reexamination at the next available administration for as long as the candidate's eligibility remains active.

Important Information

- ◆ The AOA Addiction Medicine Exam is administered once annually:

NOTE: Registration for the Nov. 8-10, 2023 exams will open on June 1, 2023.

- ◆ Upon successful completion of all initial certification exam components, the American Osteopathic Conjoint Examination committee on Addiction Medicine will recommend osteopathic board certification in subspecialty of addiction medicine.
- ◆ You will receive a letter from the AOA via email once certification has been approved.
- ◆ You are now board certified in addiction medicine. You will receive your certification in the mail within 10-12 weeks upon notification of approval.
- ◆ Your subspecialty certification in addiction medicine will remain active for 10 years following date of issue provided you successfully complete Osteopathic Continuous Certification requirements.



AOAAM Review Course

- ◆ **Available On-demand**

 - Live Q&A sessions before each exam

 - Fall 2022 Live Q&A Sessions TBA

- ◆ **The AOAAM Review Course is designed to assist physicians who have qualified to take the American Osteopathic Association board sub-specialty certification exam in addiction medicine. The course is based on topics of the AOA exam and features expert speakers in the field of addiction medicine.**

AOAAM Review Course

- ◆ The on-demand course includes a vast and in-depth knowledge of top experts who cover content related to Addiction Medicine from neurobiology and genetics to opioids, substance use disorders, medical marijuana, benzodiazepines, medical co-morbidities, psychosocial treatments, prevention and more. This course offers 27 hours of AOA Category 1-A CME credits or AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™.
- ◆ MDs now welcome to apply.

Exam Stats

- ◆ 94% pass rate on the exam
- ◆ 79 passed the initial certification exam in December 2020
- ◆ 22 passed the initial certification exam in April 2021
- ◆ 14 passed the recertification exam (December 2020 and April 2021 combine)
- ◆ 53 took the initial certification exam in November 2021
- ◆ 5 took the recertification exam in November 2021
- ◆
- ◆ 115 have passed and we are waiting to hear on 58.

AOAAM Review Course

- ◆ Approved for 27 AOA Category 1-A CME credits, and
- ◆ AOA designates this for a maximum of 27 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits.

Summary

- ◆ Qualifications to Apply
- ◆ Deadlines
- ◆ Review Course

References (Required)

1. The American Osteopathic Association, (AOA), Osteopathic.org
2. The American Osteopathic Academy of Addiction Medicine,(AOAAM),aoaam.org

