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# REQUIREMENTS FOR BOARD CERTIFICATION

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*American  
Osteopathic Board of  
Orthopedic Surgery*

To be eligible for certification in Orthopedic Surgery by the American Osteopathic Association (upon recommendation by the American Osteopathic Board of Orthopedic Surgery), the applicant must meet the following minimum requirements:

- A. The applicant must be a graduate of an AOA accredited college of osteopathic medicine.
- B. The applicant must hold an unrestricted license to practice in the state or territory where his/her practice is conducted.
- C. The applicant must be able to show evidence of conformity to the standards set in the Code of Ethics of the American Osteopathic Association.
- D. The applicant must have been a member in good standing of the American Osteopathic Association for a period of at least two (2) years immediately prior to the date of certification.
- E. The applicant must have satisfactorily completed an AOA-approved internship.
- F. All formal training programs beginning before July 1, 1979, and which would have been acceptable to the American Osteopathic Board of Surgery, as outlined in the American Osteopathic Board of Surgery Booklet of Information (1975) shall be acceptable for examination by this Board.
- G. For training programs commencing after July 1, 1979, a period of four (4) years of AOA approved training in orthopedic surgery shall be required. The formal training must conform to the Program Requirements of the Basic Standards of Residency Training in Orthopedic Surgery of the AOA.
- H. The applicant must provide documentary evidence that he/she has performed a minimum of 200 major orthopedic procedures upon his/her own responsibility over a period of at least 12 consecutive months.
- I. The applicant must practice within the specialty of orthopedics for a period of at least 12 consecutive months subsequent to the required four years of approved training. Practice within orthopedics shall be defined as:

*The practice of osteopathic medicine and surgery in orthopedics, as defined in the Bylaws of the Board, seventy-five percent (75%) of the time and submit an affidavit attesting to the nature of his/her practice.*

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*continued*

- J. Following satisfactory compliance with the prescribed requirements for the examination, the applicant shall be required to pass the Written, Oral and Clinical Exams to evaluate familiarity with the current advances in orthopedics, possession of sound judgment, and a high degree of skill in the diagnostic and therapeutic procedures involved in the practice of orthopedic surgery.
  
- K. Examination shall be conducted and required (for all three exams) in the case of each applicant as follows:
  - 1. Written examination may be taken upon completion of all requirements of the American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics or the AOA for an approved training program in orthopedic surgery. This may be in the fourth year of training if all papers, logs, and trainers' reports are received by January 15<sup>th</sup> of the fourth year of training.
  - 2. Oral examination may be taken upon successful completion of the approved training program, after passing the written examination and attaining Board Eligible status.
  - 3. Clinical examination may be taken upon successful completion of the oral examination and after 12 consecutive months of orthopedic practice and submission of a log of all surgical procedures with a minimum of two hundred (200) major procedures.
  
- L. The official date of certification shall be when the American Osteopathic Board of Orthopedic Surgery notifies the candidate that he/she has successfully passed all examinations and is being recommended to the American Osteopathic Association for certification. Formal action by the Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists of the American Osteopathic Association is required to complete the process and the candidate may not claim certification until notified of this action in an official letter from the AOA.
  
- M. Certification is valid for a ten-year period of time beginning with certificates issued on or after January 1, 1994. You will be required to complete a recertification examination every ten (10) years. This examination will be developed and administered by the AOBOS.