



# AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC BOARD OF PHYSICAL MEDICINE AND REHABILITATION

## 2020 APPLICANT HANDBOOK

Established 1954

### Affiliated Organizations

American Osteopathic Association  
American Osteopathic College of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

Updated October 2019

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## **Classification**

The American Osteopathic Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (AOBPMR) is responsible for evaluation and recommendation for Board certification in the specialty areas of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.

### **A. Board Eligibility**

Upon completion of his/her training, an osteopathic physician is eligible and qualified to become certified. All AOBPMR candidates who have completed their residency are automatically considered to be board eligible in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. Each AOBPMR candidate is considered to be board eligible until December 31<sup>st</sup> of the sixth (6th) year after completion of their residency. The board eligible candidate may take the certification exam at any time during the six (6) year board eligible period. At the end of the sixth year, the candidate will no longer be considered board eligible. The non-board eligible candidate may apply to take the exam at any time during their career. The AOBPMR will follow the board eligibility process and procedure as outlined in Article VIII of the Policies and Procedures of the BOS. (4/10)

### **B. Certification Eligibility Requirements**

To be eligible to receive Board certification from the American Osteopathic Association through this Board, the applicant must meet the following minimum requirements:

1. The applicant must be a graduate of an AOA-accredited college of osteopathic medicine, holding the degree of Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine or Doctor of Osteopathy.
2. The applicant must have satisfactorily completed an internship of at least one (1) year in a hospital approved for intern training by the American Osteopathic Association, or by acceptable alternative pathways prescribed by the AOA.
3. A period of not less than three (3) years of specialty training in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation approved by the AOA shall be required, after the required one (1) year of AOA approved internship. This training shall include but is not limited to specific requirements of training outlined in the Basic Standards of Residency Training in Psychiatry
4. The applicant must hold an active license to practice medicine in one (1) of the fifty (50) states or Canada.
5. The applicant must be able to show evidence of conformity to the standards set forth in the Code of Ethics of the American Osteopathic Association.
6. Alternately, the applicant may be an ABMS-Certified DO seeking AOA certification under the appropriate alternative pathway who has received approval from the AOA.

### **C. Examination Process**

The examination process shall be designed to explore the applicant's familiarity with current advances, soundness of judgment and degree of skill/expertise in the field of physical medicine and rehabilitation. The examination process consists of multiple choice/matching examinations and oral examination. Applicants who do not successfully pass any segment(s) of the examination process are required to re-examine for that failed segment(s). Re-examination will be available at the next iteration of testing as scheduled by the AOBPMR.

A two-part (Part I Written and Part II Oral) examination shall be required a of each Board

Eligible applicant. The method(s) and content of the examination procedure shall be determined by the AOBPMR and shall be subject to approval of the AOA Board of Trustees.

The Part I examination is administered twice annually, once in the spring and in the fall. The Part II Oral examination is administered in the fall. Upcoming examination dates can be found on the AOBPMR's website ([www.aobpmr.org](http://www.aobpmr.org)) or by contacting the AOBPMR staff via the contact information provided at the end of this handbook.

To be eligible for the Part 1 (Written) exam for initial certification in physical medicine and rehabilitation, candidates must:

1. Be a graduate of a COCA-accredited college of osteopathic medicine
2. Satisfactorily complete a one-year internship in an AOA approved training program.
3. Have graduated from an AOA-approved or ACGME accredited residency in physical medicine and rehabilitation or is within 3 months of residency completion by the time the examination is administered. (**Residency status must be verified**).
4. DO's who completed an ACGME residency may pursue AOBPMR certification if their training has [received AOA approval](#).
5. Adhere to the AOA Code of Ethics.

To be eligible for the physical medicine and rehabilitation oral (Part II) exam, candidates must:

1. Have passed the Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation Written Exam.
2. One year of full-time practice as a physiatrist following residency or, a one-year fellowship, or an acceptable combination of the two.
3. Hold an active license to practice medicine in one (1) of the fifty (50) states or Canada
4. Adhere to the [AOA Code of Ethics](#).

\* ABMS-certified DOs who have been approved through [Resolution 56](#) may choose to take the written or oral exam to become certified with AOBPMR.

#### D. **Osteopathic Continuous Certification (OCC):**

Effective 2004, all Board Certifications are issued for a ten (10) year period. A Recertification process by examination is available for additional 10-year increments. Recertification is voluntary for Diplomates holding certificates issued prior to 1/1/2004 (non-time-limited). Failure to pass recertification examination for such non-time-limited Diplomates would not cause revocation of Diplomate status.

#### E. **Timeline for OCC Examination**

A diplomate may sit for the OCC examination up to three (3) years prior to the expiration of his/her existing certification. The new OCC certificate will become effective as of the date of the expiration of the previous certification.

#### OCC Application Requirements

1. Submit a completed online application.
2. Submit applicable application fees, as determined by the Board.
3. Submit a current CV
4. Submit a head-shot photo (passport sized)

5. Complete one (1) Practice Performance Assessment & Improvement (PPA) Module prior to taking the exam.
6. Demonstrate eligibility for examination in any other manner required by the Board.

#### **F. Maintenance for Board Certification**

In order to maintain Board Certification, adherence to the following requirements must be met:

1. Payment of annual certification registration fee, unless the diplomate is classified as inactive.
2. Accumulated the required Continuing Medical Education (CME), categories I or II, to maintain continued Diplomate status.
3. Adherence to all of the rules, requirements and Code of Ethics of the AOA.

The Board has the power to recommend to the Bureau and the AOA Board of Trustees the revocation of the certificate of any Diplomate whose certificate was obtained by fraud or misrepresentation, who exploits the certificate, violates the AOA Code of Ethics or is otherwise disqualified.

#### **G. Inactivation, Revocation, Reinstatement, and Reactivation**

The AOPMR will follow the procedures regarding certificate inactivation, revocation, reinstatement and reactivation in accordance with Article XI of the *Policies and Procedures of the BOS*.

Reinstatement of a certificate, which was revoked for any other reason than that stated above, shall require compliance with the requirements of paragraph A. above, as well as approval of the AOBPMR, the BOS and the AOA Board of Trustees.

#### **H. Contact Information**

##### **American Osteopathic Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation**

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Chicago, IL 60611

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