



LONGITUDINAL ASSESSMENT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

The American Osteopathic Board of Family Physicians (AOBFP) will no longer administer the traditional high-stakes exam taken by its diplomates at least once every 7 to 9 years to fulfill the Component 3 requirement of Osteopathic Continuous Certification (OCC). Diplomates will now be required to participate in the AOBFP Longitudinal Assessment (LA) to fulfill the Component 3 requirement of OCC.

This FAQ is intended to answer questions related to the LA including the platform, assessment administration, and assessment exam content. These FAQs will be updated on a periodic basis as additional information becomes available.

General Information

Q. What is the Longitudinal Assessment?

A. In terms of medical certification, longitudinal assessments generally combine formative and summative assessment features, including feedback and other opportunities for learning. The Longitudinal Assessments (LA) is a shorter, more frequent assessment opportunity that occurs during an assessment cycle. The AOBFP LA cycle is three years and includes a set number of questions that must be answered by diplomates during each year of the cycle.

Q. Why choose the Longitudinal Assessment format for OCC Component 3?

A. The goal of ongoing physician certification through LA is to support diplomates as lifelong learners while elevating the osteopathic medical community and profession. LA incorporates aspects of formative assessment, such as feedback and opportunities for remediation, and is a crucial component that promotes learning during the assessment. In this sense, assessment *as* learning becomes as important as assessment *of* learning.

Q. When can I begin participating in the Longitudinal Assessment?

A. Your certification issue/expiration date will determine when you should begin participating in LA. This information along with all the OCC requirements is available on the [AOBFP website](#).

Q. How do I know when my certification was issued or expires?

A. Visit the [AOA physician portal](#) to view your certification information and to check the status of your OCC.

Q. I have a non-time limited certification; do I need to take the Longitudinal Assessment?

A. Diplomates who hold a non-time limited certification are not required to participate in the LA. The Osteopathic Continuous Certification (OCC) process for the diplomates that hold a non-time-limited certification (non-expiring, non-dated) is voluntary.

Q. I received reciprocal certification through ABMS reciprocity campaign. Do I need to participate in the Longitudinal Assessment?

A. Yes. To maintain an active AOA family medicine certification, diplomates must fulfill the requirements for OCC. Your OCC requirements are based on the certification issue/expiration date. These requirements can be accessed and viewed from the [AOBFP website](#).

Exam Platform

Q. How is the Longitudinal Assessment administered?

A. The AOBFP Longitudinal Assessment is administered through the CATALYST platform. CATALYST is a learning platform managed by the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners (NBOME). In addition to the learning opportunities that the CATALYST platform offers, assessments delivered on CATALYST provide both performance feedback and educational resources for the concept being assessed.

Q. How can I take the Longitudinal Assessment? exam on a tablet/mobile device?

A. The LA on the CATALYST platform are accessible 24/7 (within AOBFP's designated testing window) and can be taken via computer, tablet, smartphone, or the CATALYST App.

Q. Where can I learn more about the CATALYST platform?

A. Additional detailed information regarding CATALYST platform can be found on the [NBOME website](#).

Exam Registration

Q. How do I register for the Longitudinal Assessment?

A. Registration for the LA is available on the AOBFP website.

Registration consists of a pre-populated application and a \$225 annual fee payable by credit/debit card only. The AOBFP will send routine email reminders regarding upcoming applications as registration for the LA is required every year.

Q. What is the deadline to register for the AOBFP Longitudinal Assessment?

A. The LA application open and close dates are available on the [Important Dates page](#) on the AOBFP website.

Q. What is the fee for the Longitudinal Assessment?

A. The annual LA fee is \$225 and must be paid at the time of registration on the [AOBFP website](#). The fee is payable by credit or debit card only.

Exam Content

Q. Who developed the content on the exam?

A. Subject matter experts practicing in the field of osteopathic family medicine developed the content for the LA. The AOBFP selected content that is appropriate for ongoing osteopathic certification.

Q. I have a limited scope of practice, will this exam cover all of Family Medicine?

A. The AOBFP Longitudinal Assessment covers a single area of practice from the osteopathic continuous certification blueprint. You will be presented with a list of subjects to choose from in order to fulfill your requirement.

Q. How can I get involved with writing exam questions?

A. If you are interested in becoming an item writer, send an email to AOBFPVolunteer@osteopathic.org and include CV.

Exam Administration

Q. Are the assessments timed?

A. Questions are administered on the CATALYST platform each period and can be answered during a specified date range. The LA questions in each period are not timed and can be completed at your own pace.

Q. Can I begin questions and then resume my exam?

A. Yes. Once you have completed a question and advanced to the next question, you may exit the CATALYST platform. Upon returning to CATALYST the exam will resume at the last unanswered question.

Q. Can I take the assessments with a colleague?

A. No, the LA is not a collaborative effort. The LA is to be completed independently using educational resources.

Q. What is the passing point?

A. The pass point is a cumulative score of 80%.

Q. What happens if I am unsuccessful after the remediation period?

A. The LA consists of three segments and one segment of remediation. Diplomates will receive 10 questions during each of the three segments. Diplomates who receive a cumulative score of 80% after the first three periods do not have to participate in remediation. Diplomates that are unsuccessful after the remediation segment must take and pass a secure OCC exam. Visit the [Important Dates page](#) to review upcoming examination dates. Upon successful completion of the OCC exam, the diplomate will enter into the Longitudinal Assessment process the following year. Registration for LA is open in October each year for the upcoming year.

Q. Can I take all my questions in the remediation period?

- A. No. The remediation period is designed to give diplomates a second attempt at questions that were answered incorrectly on the first attempt. The remediation period only displays questions that were not answered correctly in previous periods. Diplomates that elect to attempt all the questions during the remediation period will not have another attempt at these questions.

Other Questions

Q. What if I am unable to participate in a year of the Longitudinal Assessment due to personal/health issues?

- A. Active participation in each component of OCC is required in order to maintain continuous certification. If you are unable to complete the LA or any other component of OCC you should contact the AOBFP directly as early as possible at AOFBP@osteopathic.org.

Q. Will I receive CME credits for successfully completing the Longitudinal Assessment?

- A. Yes. Five (5) category 1-B credits will be awarded at the end of each calendar year upon successful completion of the LA.

Q. How do I continue to maintain my subspecialty or CAQ certification?

- A. A longitudinal assessment plan will be developed subspecialty certification in the future. Currently Diplomates who hold a subspecialty certification in Geriatrics will continue to take the OCC recertification exam to maintain their certification. For all other certifications, please contact the conjoint or certifying board directly.

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