



American Osteopathic Board of Orthopedic Surgery Examination Appeal Policy

The American Osteopathic Board of Orthopedic Surgery (AOBOS) is committed to assuring that aggrieved candidates for certification/recertification have access to an appeal process concerning the administration of any AOBOS examination.

I. Opportunities to File an Appeal

- A. Candidates must initially file an appeal with the AOBOS in accordance with the policy outlined below.
- B. In accordance with the policies of the American Osteopathic Association (AOA), candidates may appeal decisions of the AOBOS to the AOA's Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists (BOS) at the conclusion of the AOBOS appeal process.
- C. Candidates may further appeal the decision of the BOS to the AOA Board of Trustees.
- D. There is no further opportunity to file an appeal beyond the AOA Board of Trustees.

II. Scope of Appeal

A. Appealable Issues:

Candidates may appeal to the AOBOS to raise concerns relative to the examination's administration (i.e., alleged bias/prejudice of a member of an examination team or failure to follow established examination procedures).

B. Non-Appealable Issues:

The AOBOS will not consider appeals based on examination content, sufficiency or accuracy of answers given to examination questions, scoring of the examination, scoring of answers to individual questions, and/or the determination of the minimum passing score.

III. Procedure to File an Appeal

- A. The appellant must set forth the basis for the appeal in writing to the AOBOS via the email to aobos@osteopathic.org
- B. The appellant must submit the completed Appeal Request Form to the AOBOS by the following deadlines:
 - 1. Written examinations – appeals must be submitted within 3 business days of completion of the examination.
 - 2. Clinical examinations – appeals must be submitted on or before the published due date for examiner score submission for the appellant's exam cycle.
- C. Late Appeals:

Appeal requests submitted after the deadlines noted above will be denied.
- D. Evaluation of Appeal:

Appeals submitted following the procedure outlined above will be evaluated by the AOBOS Board.
- E. Notification of Candidates:

Candidates will be advised of the decision of the Board by the AOBOS office.

IV. Effect of Decision

A. Decision to Accept Appeal

1. No scoring or recording of exam: If the Board accepts an Appeal, the candidate's examination will not be scored or recorded.
2. Right to retake examination:
 - a. A candidate whose Appeal is accepted will have the right to a new examination at the next scheduled examination date at no additional application or examination fee. (All other fees incurred are the responsibility of the candidate.)
 - b. If the granted appeal is from a clinical examination, different examiners will be assigned to the candidate and the candidate's original log may be used for the new clinical examination administration.
3. Failure to Retake Examination: If for any reason the candidate elects **NOT** to retake the examination at the next scheduled date, his/her appeal will be considered null and void and the candidate will be required to reapply for the examination; his/her application will be considered in accordance with the criteria in effect at the time he/she submits the new application. Exceptions to this stipulation, for good cause only, will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the AOBOS.
4. Further Appeals
 - a. The candidate whose appeal is granted will NOT have the right to further appeal of the current examination results, either within the AOBOS or to the AOA.
 - b. Subsequent Examination: The candidate whose Appeal is accepted will not have the right to appeal the next scheduled examination to the AOBOS under this Policy. However, the candidate will have the right to appeal to the AOA.

B. Decision to Deny Appeal:

If an appeal is denied by the AOBOS, the candidate will have the right to request an appeal to the AOA Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists (BOS) by contacting the BOS Secretary at certification@osteopathic.org.