
2018 HANDBOOK FOR CANDIDATES FOR SUBSPECIALTY CERTIFICATION IN HAND SURGERY



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
Introduction.....	4
Requirements for Subspecialty Certification Eligibility.....	5
Instructions for Subspecialty Certification Exam.....	6
Hand Surgery Log Format Guidelines.....	7
AOA Fellowship Training Approval.....	8
Retesting after Examination Failure.....	9
Sample Questions.....	10
Application for Subspecialty Certification.....	11
Application for Subspecialty Recertification Exam.....	12

INTRODUCTION

*American
Osteopathic Board of
Orthopedic Surgery*

The American Osteopathic Board of Orthopedic Surgery (AOBOS) recognizes the need for Subspecialty Certification in various orthopedic subspecialties. At this time the only Subspecialty Certifications available are in Hand Surgery and Sports Medicine. The AOBOS offers the same service to any other subspecialty that expresses sufficient interest and need for such an exam.

The examination is a one hundred question multiple-choice examination with questions taken from all areas of hand surgery. The source material for the examination questions is not limited to any particular text or journal.

The Subspecialty Certification in Hand Surgery examination will be given every year at the American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics' fall meeting, on an as needed basis.

REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBSPECIALTY CERTIFICATION IN HAND SURGERY

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To be eligible for the Subspecialty Certification in Hand Surgery from 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 years immediately prior to application for the Subspecialty Certification.
- E. The applicant must have been previously certified in orthopedic surgery either by the American Osteopathic Board of Surgery (prior to July 1, 1979) or the American Osteopathic Board of Orthopedic Surgery (after July 1, 1979); or, have been previously certified in general surgery or plastic surgery by the American Osteopathic Board of Surgery.
- F. The applicant must currently practice greater than 50% total caseload in operative hand surgery and must have been in the active practice of hand surgery for at least two years.
- G. The applicant must be actively engaged in the practice of hand surgery, as indicated by holding full operating privileges in a hospital or surgery center.
- H. The applicant must produce a log of surgical cases with a minimum of 125 major cases in a consecutive 12 month period in the last 3 years. (See page 7 for log format guidelines.)
- I. The applicant must have completed a Post Residency Hand Fellowship.
 1. Prior to 1/1/90, 6 months
 2. After 1/1/90, one year
- J. The applicant must have a letter from the AOA granting approval of Hand Fellowship program/training and stating that the program is complete. (See page 8 for AOA training approval application information.)
- K. The applicant must complete an application form and pay a fee of \$3,000.00.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBSPECIALTY CERTIFICATION IN HAND SURGERY

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The Subspecialty Certification examination of the American Osteopathic Board of Orthopedic Surgery is developed by the Hand Subspecialty Test Committee of the American Osteopathic Board of Orthopedic Surgery. The questions are developed from texts and the general literature of hand surgery.

The Subspecialty Certification examination will be given every year at the American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics fall meeting. The time and date of the examination will be announced prior to the examination. Please report to the examination room fifteen (15) minutes prior to the examination for registration.

The examination will consist of one hundred (100) A type (one best answer) multiple choice questions. The examination is given as one part, and two hours is the maximum time allowed for the examination. No breaks will be given during the examination.

Your score and a statement of pass or fail will be mailed to you within 3-4 weeks of the examination.

GUIDELINES FOR HAND SURGERY LOG PREPARATION

American Osteopathic Board of Orthopedic Surgery

All candidates applying for initial subspecialty certification in hand surgery are required to submit a surgical log with a minimum of 125 major hand surgery cases in a consecutive twelve (12) month period within three (3) years of the Hand Subspecialty Certification examination application date.

At a minimum the information collected for each case must contain:

Hand Surgeries				Candidate's Name				
list #	date	hospital	case #	P.I.	Age	Diagnosis	Operative Procedure	Complications & Outcome
1								
2								
3								
Etc.								

This information matches the data collected in Section F. Major Hand Surgeries of the Part III clinical examination surgical log template. Candidates are to use the Excel template format already created for the clinical examination surgical log, which is available on the www.aobos.org web site.

The AOBOS uses the criteria established in the RBRVS, *Resource Based Relative Value Scale* (the physician payment schedule for Medicare) for what constitutes major vs. minor cases. Use the RBRVS (*Resource Based Relative Value Scale*) to look up the code in question. If it has a 90 day follow-up, the case is considered major. If it has a 0-10 day follow-up, the case is considered minor.

An electronic copy of the surgical log must be submitted with the Subspecialty Certification in Hand Surgery application through the application portal at: <https://cf.osteopathic.org/cbms/applicants/index.cfm?board=118340>

AOA APPROVAL OF ACGME HAND TRAINING

*American Osteopathic
Board of
Orthopedic Surgery*

All candidates applying for initial subspecialty certification in hand surgery are required to provide the AOBOS with a letter from the American Osteopathic Association granting AOA approval of their Hand Fellowship program/training. The letter must state that the hand training program is complete.

As an initial step in the training approval process, each candidate must complete an application with the Allopathic Residency Coordinator of the American Osteopathic Association. A link to the application is listed below.

ACGME/Federal Military Residency Approval Applications click here

<http://www.osteopathic.org/inside-aoa/Education/postdoctoral-training/Pages/trainee-services-application.aspx>

Subspecialty Certification in Hand Surgery cannot be processed without prior AOA training approval.

RETESTING AFTER HAND SUBSPECIALTY CERTIFICATION EXAMINATION FAILURE

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Any candidate failing the Subspecialty Certification in Hand Surgery examination must wait one test cycle before applying to retake the examination.

For example, if a candidate fails the examination in the 2016 examination administration, that candidate would first be eligible to retake the examination in the 2018 examination administration.

SAMPLE QUESTIONS FOR SUBSPECIALTY CERTIFICATION IN HAND SURGERY EXAMINATION

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1. A 24-year old woman has a white, fluid-filled vesicle with surrounding erythema on the palmar side of the dominant index finger. Four days ago, several small vesicles were present in the same location. Which of the following is the most appropriate next step in management?
 - (A) Observation
 - (B) Administration of antibiotics
 - (C) Splinting
 - (D) Incision and drainage
 - (E) Excision and grafting

2. A 12-year old girl has a 30-degree flexion deformity of the proximal interphalangeal (PIP) joint of the right little finger. There is no history of trauma, infection, or associated pain or swelling. On examination, the right little finger is slightly smaller than the left little finger, and the metacarpophalangeal (MP) joint hyper extends with the PIP joint extension. Radiographs of the right hand show hypoplasia of the proximal phalanx condyles of the little finger, a volar indentation deformity along the phalangeal neck, and flattening of the base of the adjacent middle phalanx. The PIP joint space is well preserved, and the joint is reduced.

Which of the following is the most likely diagnosis?

- (A) Campylodactyly
- (B) Clinodactyly
- (C) Congenital extensor tendon absence
- (D) Kirner's deformity
- (E) Marfan's syndrome

APPLICATION FOR SUBSPECIALTY CERTIFICATION IN HAND SURGERY EXAMINATION

*American
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The Subspecialty Certification in Hand Surgery examination is given in the fall of the year at the time of the fall meeting of the American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics. The exact time and date of the examination will be on our website, www.aobos.org, in the Calendar of Events.

Submit:

1. Electronic Application: <https://cf.osteopathic.org/cbms/applicants/index.cfm?board=118340>

Log In



American Osteopathic Board of Orthopedic Surgery (AOBOS)

To apply for an exam:

- Click on the desired exam or fee below.
- If not already logged in, Click the "Log In" button to login in using your AOA username and password. First time logging in or forgot password? [Click Here](#) for information on how to retrieve your log-in or password.
- Click the "Download Application" (if applicable).
- Once you have completed the application, locate the exam in the schedule below and click the "Upload/View Documents" button. You will be directed to a page to submit your application and any required supporting documents
- Click "Make Payment" to pay for any applicable fees.

Please contact the board: AOBOS@osteopathic.org with any questions or concerns.

 AOBOS Exam Schedules

2. Examination fee of \$3,000.00.
3. Application and fee must be submitted online via Credit Card or a Check to AOBOS needs to be received prior to August 15th of the year the examination is given.
4. Surgical log.
5. A copy of your Fellowship certificate
6. A copy of your unrestricted state license
7. A copy of the letter from the AOA granting approval of Hand Fellowship program/training and stating that the program is complete.

APPLICATION FOR OCC SUBSPECIALTY CERTIFICATION EXAMINATION IN HAND SURGERY

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Orthopedic Surgery*

The OCC Subspecialty Certification in Hand Surgery (formerly recertification) examination is given in the fall of the year at the time of the annual meeting of the American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics at the Annual Clinical Assembly. The exact time and date of the examination will be on our website, www.aobos.org, in the Calendar of Events.

Submit:

1. Electronic Application: <https://cf.osteopathic.org/cbms/applicants/index.cfm?board=118340>

[Log In](#)



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To apply for an exam:

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- Click the "Download Application" (if applicable).
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- Click "Make Payment" to pay for any applicable fees.

Please contact the board: AOBOS@osteopathic.org with any questions or concerns.

 [AOBOS Exam Schedules](#)

2. Examination fee of \$3,000.00
3. Application and fee must be submitted online via Credit Card or a Check to AOBOS needs to be received prior to August 15th of the year the examination is given.
4. A copy of your unrestricted state license.