

Board Eligibility Requirements

---

**I. AOA REQUISITES FOR DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY**

- A. **DEFINITION:** Board eligibility is defined as that status granted candidates who:
1. Have documented the satisfactory completion of an AOA approved residency or preceptorship program or, if applicable, the practice requirement (when seeking the equivalency pathway option). The AOA Council on Postgraduate Education (COPT) must approve a candidate's residency training in order to meet this requirement of eligibility. For more information on obtaining AOA COPT approval, please refer to the AOA Directory.
  2. Have documented the satisfactory completion of an AOA approved internship.
  3. Have been and remain members in good standing of the AOA or the Canadian Osteopathic Association.
  4. Have met all the requirements as established by the appropriate specialty board (for AOBPM requirement, please see section III).
  5. Have applied for and have been accepted as a registrant by the appropriate specialty board.
- B. **REGISTRATION:** Board eligibility is not granted automatically. A candidate shall not be designated as BE if he/she applies later than 6 years following completion of residency training or completion of practice requirement, if applicable.
1. A candidate who wishes to apply for board eligible status should complete an Eligibility Application Form (available in the applications section of this Website or can be requested from the AOBPM Secretary), and return, along with all necessary documentation to the Secretary of the AOBPM. Additional required documentation includes:
    - a) A letter(s) of recommendation from the residency program director,
    - b) A notarized copy of the institutional certificate indicating satisfactory completion of an AOA-approved internship,
    - c) And adequate documentation, as determined by the board (in this case, the AOBPM), of having met the practice requirements.
  2. A notarized copy of the institutional certificate indicating the satisfactory completion of residency (along with the AOA COPT approval letter for those in non-AOA approved residency programs),
    - a) A letter(s) of recommendation from the residency program director,
    - b) A notarized copy of the institutional certificate indicating satisfactory completion of an AOA-approved internship,
    - c) And adequate documentation, as determined by the board (in this case, the AOBPM), of having met the practice requirements.
  3. After review and acceptance of the board eligible application, the Board (AOBPM) shall establish the date of registration as the date of completion of residency training or the date of completion of the practice requirement, if applicable.

C. TERMINATION OF BOARD ELIGIBLE STATUS

1. BE status shall terminate as of December 31 of the sixth year following the year eligibility was established.
2. If a candidate does not initiate examination within the period of board eligibility, the BE status will be automatically terminated and so recorded by the AOA and the AOBPM.
3. Once an applicant is deemed BE, he/she has six (6) years to become certified by the AOBPM for Diplomate (i.e., having passed the AOBPM's certifying examination with final approval by the AOA Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists (BOS)).
4. BE candidates may be allowed to sit for the AOBPM's examination at the first AOBPM designated time following BE designation. Candidates are required to pass all portions of the examination process. Failure to successfully pass any portion of the exam (either oral, written/essay, or multiple choice/matching examinations) will require successful retesting of that failed portion of the examination process in subsequent testing period to receive AOBPM approval recommendation to the BOS.

**II. AOBPM REQUIREMENTS FOR BOARD ELIGIBILITY**

To be eligible to receive Board certification from the American Osteopathic Association through this Board, 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 be licensed 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 forth in the AOA Code of Ethics.
- D. The applicant must have been a member in good standing of the American Osteopathic Association or the Canadian Osteopathic Association for the two (2) years immediately prior to the date of certification.
- E. The applicant must have satisfactorily completed an AOA-approved internship.
- F. The applicant will have completed the residency requirement within their specialty area:
  - ✓ Aerospace Medicine - must have obtained a Master of Public Health or its academic equivalent and must have satisfactorily completed one (1) year of AOA-approved training in Aerospace Medicine.
  - ✓ Occupational/Environmental Medicine - must have obtained a Master of Public Health or its academic equivalent and must have satisfactorily completed one (1) year of AOA-approved training in Occupational/Environmental Medicine.
  - ✓ Public Health/Community Medicine - must have obtained a Master of Public Health or its academic equivalent and must have satisfactorily completed one (1) year of AOA-approved training in Public Health and Preventive Medicine.

- G. In Lieu of the requirements in Section 1.F. above, an equivalency pathway (formerly called the "grandfather option") is available only for osteopathic physicians earning their degree prior to 1990. The following requisites pertain:
1. Masters in Public Health degree (MPH) or its academic equivalent (e.g.: MSPH, MOH, MS in Preventive, Community, Aerospace Medicine, Occupational/Environmental Health, Toxicology, etc.)
  2. A minimum of four (4) years full time practice experience (immediately preceding application) in the appropriate subdivision of Preventive Medicine: Public Health/Community Medicine, Aerospace Medicine, or Occupational/Environmental Medicine.
  3. Must have accumulated 200 hours CME (in addition to the Masters degree) in the subspecialty area of Preventive Medicine where applying.
  4. Section III., below, provides suggested areas of documentation to support the 4 year equivalency pathway option.
- H. Following satisfactory compliance with the prescribed requirements for BE, the applicant is required to pass appropriate examinations planned to evaluate an understanding of the scientific bases of the problems involved in the specialty of Preventive Medicine and the subspecialties of Aerospace Medicine, Occupational/Environmental Medicine and Public Health/Community Medicine.
- I. Applicants for examination for certification are required to file a BE application which shall set forth their qualifications as stated in paragraphs A through G in Section 1 of this article. A copy of the BE application form is available in the applications section on our Website or can be requested from the AOBPM Secretary.
- J. Once an applicant has become BE, they must apply to sit for examination. This application must be received by the AOBPM no later than 60 days prior to the examination date established by the AOBPM. An application form for Board examination is available on the AOBPM website.

III. SUGGESTED AREAS OF DOCUMENTATION TO SUPPORT THE FOUR-YEAR  
EQUIVALENCY PATHWAY OPTION

A. FOR OCCUPATIONAL/ENVIRONMENTAL MEDICINE:

1. Detailed list and description of activities may include, but are not limited to:
  - pre-placement physicals
  - employee health contacts (for specific industrial organizations, itemizing the various type of problems usually seen)
  - risk assessment of environmental hazards
  - surveillance or other walk-through inspections and or monitoring
  - ergonomic evaluations and assistance
  - work injury involvement (clinical management and/or prevention)
  - health promotion programs
  - non-traditional types of care
  - chronobiological issues
  - disability evaluations
  - other
2. Ensure that documentation from employees and/or industrial clients provide the specific types of services rendered (similar to above items) and approximate hours per week or month utilized for that particular company's healthcare needs. Enough documentation should be provided to cover at least 4 years of practical experience.

B. FOR PUBLIC HEALTH/COMMUNITY MEDICINE:

1. Detailed list and description of activities may include, but not limited to:
  - disease surveillance (active or passive)
  - disease outbreak investigations and intervention
  - epidemiology and/or communicable disease studies
  - disease alert reports
  - sanitation and air/water quality inspections
  - policy development and management
  - biostatistical applications and interpretations
  - environmental health or hazardous waste issues
  - health promotion programs
  - education and training
  - immunization and/or international travel issues
  - maternal and child health issues, including school health
  - family planning
  - vital statistics and demography
  - non-traditional types of care
  - other

2. Ensure that documentation from private or government organizations or other employers provides the specific types of services rendered (similar to above items) and approximate hours per week or month utilized for that particular organization's healthcare or preventive medicine needs. Enough documentation should be provided to cover at least 4 years of practical experience.

C. FOR AEROSPACE MEDICINE:

1. Detailed list and description of activities may include, but not limited to:
  - Physiology of Flight issues, e.g., hypoxia, hyperventilation, hypobarics, biodynamics (acceleration/gravitational problems), spatial orientation, bioacoustics
  - Human Factors Engineering, e.g., aircrew tasking, displays, controls anthropometry, workload
  - Clinical issues, e.g., health maintenance, physical exams, wellness or other health promotion, circadian desynchrony. etc.
  - Crash and Crash Survival issues, e.g., actual mishap investigations, assistance with crash worthiness areas, airport disaster management, forensic considerations
  - Other areas
2. Ensure that documentation from private or government organizations or other employers provides the specific types of services rendered (similar to above items) and approximate hours per week or month utilized for that particular organization's healthcare or aerospace medicine needs. Enough documentation should be provided to cover at least 4 years of practical experience.