

NCCAOM[®] Activity Report for the CCAOM Meeting

Spring Update 2018



Introduction

This report serves as an update to CCAOM members on activities of the NCCAOM®, as requested, to include governance, certification policy changes and other activities. Updates include NCCAOM support for state associations, the *NCCAOM® Academy of Diplomates*, the NCCAOM 2017 Job Analysis, and other activities affecting applicants, Diplomates and the AOM profession that have occurred during the months of November 2017 through April 2018. The 2018 administration schedule for all NCCAOM exams is also provided.



The NCCAOM has moved to Washington D.C.!

The new contact information is:

NCCAOM
2025 M Street NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
Phone: 202-381-1140, or
888-381-1140

All correspondence to include overnight mail (such as FedEx and UPS) must be sent to the above address. All NCCAOM's emails will remain the same. Please note:

- The NCCAOM general email is info@thenccaom.org;
- **Please note that all calls and emails are returned within two business days.**

With the launch of the [NCCAOM Academy of Diplomates](#) and to better serve and provide added benefits for our Diplomates, Washington D.C. was chosen to more easily support NCCAOM advocacy and government relations, as well as its central location for healthcare associations and organizations.

The NCCAOM leadership is committed to ensuring that this office transition is smooth and seamless as possible for all stakeholder groups. Taking this opportunity, we would like to express our sincere appreciation for your continued support as we further the [mission and vision](#) of the NCCAOM.

NCCAOM Governance Update

The NCCAOM Board of Commissioners (BOC) appointed its 2018 officers and a new

Commissioner at its October 2017 meeting. The NCCAOM is pleased to announce the 2018 officers, who began their term at the February 2018 BOC meeting:

- Afua Bromley, MSOM, Dipl. Ac. (NCCAOM)[®] - Chair
- Zonglan Xu, MD(China), Dipl. O.M. (NCCAOM)[®] - Vice Chair
- Steve Kazmierczak, Ph.D., DABCC - Treasurer
- Carl Jew, M.A., A.B. (NCCAOM)[®] - Secretary
- Kory Ward-Cook, Ph.D., CAE - CEO

Daniel Jiao, DAOM, L.Ac., Dipl. OM (NCCAOM)[®], began his first term at the February 2018 meeting as a new Commissioner *Professional* member. Dr. Jiao previously served on the NCCAOM BOC as Chair for three years and nine years as a Commissioner from 1998 – 2006. Dr. Jiao currently serves as a credentialed acupuncturist with the Sutter Home, Palo Alto Medical Center Foundation Medical Group in the Department of Integrative Medicine. He has served as the chief instructor for Oriental Medicine in the Medical Acupuncture Program at Stanford University. In addition, he taught in the Department of Health Sciences at California State University at Long Beach. Presently, Dr. Jiao is a part-time director in the Doctoral Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine at the American College of Acupuncture & Oriental Medicine. He previously served as a consultant for the California State Acupuncture Board and site-visit team member for the State Accreditation Committee. Jiao also continues serve part-time as a faculty at the American College of TCM's California Institute of Integral Studies.

Bios and photos of all current NCCAOM Board of Commissioners members on the NCCAOM website: [NCCAOM Governance: NCCAOM Board of Commissioners](#).

The NCCAOM bid farewell to Denise Hsu, outgoing Professional Member Commissioner, at its February Board meeting. Hsu served nine years on the NCCAOM Board and will be sorely missed for her many contributions to the NCCAOM Board.



The NCCAOM is planning to appoint a new *Professional Member* to the Board of Commissioners in 2019. The Governance Committee encourages nominations of current NCCAOM Diplomates, who are interested in applying to be a candidate for an open position on the NCCAOM BOC. **Please note**, previous experience serving on a government or nonprofit

board is required. The NCCAOM is continuously searching for and recruiting dedicated volunteers to serve on NCCAOM Committees and Taskforces. To request an application for nomination as a Commissioner or for further information on the nomination process, as well as qualifications to serve as a *Professional* member of the BOC, go to the [Volunteers section of the NCCAOM website](#) and click on 'Volunteering for NCCAOM' or contact Melissa Dow, Coordinator of Volunteer and Executive Services at the [NCCAOM Executive Office](#).

NCCAOM Job Analysis & New Examination Blueprints in 2019



The updated exam blueprints for Foundations of Oriental Medicine, Biomedicine, Acupuncture with Point Location, and Chinese Herbology are now accessible from the [Examination Preparation page on the NCCAOM website](#). All NCCAOM exams administered beginning January 1, 2019, will adhere to these new blueprints, based on the outcomes of the 2017 JA Analysis Survey. The 2018 Expanded Content Outlines are still available to candidates taking an exam this year. To help avoid confusion, the [2018](#) and [2019 exam blueprints](#) are not accessible on the same webpage and both documents are clearly marked with the effective dates.




Also available with the [2019 exam blueprints](#) is the [NCCAOM 2017 Job Analysis Executive Summary](#). A full report of the results will be available on the NCCAOM website by June 2018.

The Public Relations and Education Campaign

Credentials & Service Marks

The NCCAOM has trademarked the term **NCCAOM Board-Certified Acupuncturist™**. We encourage all NCCAOM certified Diplomates to use this term on their business cards, social media sites and business websites.

In addition, NCCAOM Diplomates have earned the right to use the following NCCAOM credential and Service Mark:

Oriental Medicine	Dipl. O.M. (NCCAOM) [®]	
Acupuncture	Dipl. Ac. (NCCAOM) [®]	
Chinese Herbology	Dipl. CH (NCCAOM) [®]	

New Diplomates should read the [NCCAOM Trade Marks and Certification Marks Policy](#) to ensure they understand the credential and service mark's proper use. If you need information on accessing and using these service marks, please contact Olga Cox, Director of Customer Relations and Marketing at ocox@thennccaom.org.

The NCCAOM has continued the organization's Public Education Campaign to promote NCCAOM National Board-Certified Acupuncturists™ through multiple press releases and articles that were covered by media outlets through the months of November through May.

The press releases included the following newsworthy items:

- [Acupuncturists Now Included in the Veterans Health Administration](#)
- [Acupuncture Gaining Acceptance in Ohio as a Covered Service Under Medicaid](#)

These press releases and other NCCAOM media activities and social media consumer awareness campaign can be viewed by going to our newly created *Public Education Campaign* page by [Clicking here](#). The campaign provides a monthly recap of media and social media activities featuring NCCAOM and Diplomates. NCCAOM is working with Echo Media Group on day-to-day public education and media activities.

Another great development is an NCCAOM's [AOM News and Research Center](#) which can be found in the Press Center at <http://www.nccaom.org/resource-center/press/>. News articles and research/ study articles in this section are sorted by health condition in chronological order and have previously been published in other media publications or

websites. We would love to hear your feedback and we would also encourage you to share any previously published articles that promote AOM to feature in this section. In addition, the NCCAOM has developed [the Opioid Crisis page](#) devoted to providing information and news generating from our Diplomates and the profession regarding acupuncture services benefiting opioid addiction and pain management. This page is featured on [the Academy Ongoing Projects](#) page highlighting important NCCAOM ongoing projects benefiting the profession. All NCCAOM Fact Sheets are periodically updated, please also see the recently updated NCCAOM Information for California [Licensed Acupuncturists Fact Sheet, updated February 2018](#). For questions or more information on the NCCAOM Academy, Fact Sheets, Press Releases or Informational website pages, please contact Olga Cox at ocox@thenccaom.org.

NCCAOM Social Media Sites: The NCCAOM continues to promote its Diplomates and the AOM profession via its [Facebook Page](#) and [LinkedIn Page](#) as well as its new [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#) pages. On these pages stakeholders can find events, news, research studies and activities related to AOM. The most viewed, liked (👍) and shared posts are links to articles on the use of AOM in treating illness and improving and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. School officials are encouraged to submit content of interest to be considered for social media posting to Olga Cox at ocox@thenccaom.org.

[If your school is sponsoring an event or have newsworthy](#) item to promote, please contact PublicRelations@thenccaom.org.

Chinese Herbal Compounding Safety Certificate



To enhance public safety and meet FDA statutory requirements, the Chinese Herbal Compounding and Dispensing Safety Taskforce has completed the needs assessment validating the need for a *Chinese Herbal Compounding Safety (CHCS) Certificate of Qualification (COQ)*. Based on the approval of the NCCAOM Board of Commissioners for the CHCS COQ, the Taskforce is now planning an informational, free, NCCAOM – sponsored webinar which will cover the need for the voluntary COQ, acquaint webinar participants with the objectives and the overall content of the COQ. **Please mark your**

calendars for this CHCS COQ Overview for Tuesday, June 19, 2018 at 8 pm ET.

More information will be forthcoming in our communications to stakeholders. The NCCAOM CHCDS Taskforce strongly encourages CCAOM members and academic program faculty to attend. The CHCS COQ educational program and assessment for the CHCS COQ Certificate which is slated for Autumn 2018 or Winter 2019. For more information on this upcoming webinar regarding our Chinese Herbal Compounding Safety COQ, please contact Jennifer Nemeth at jnemeth@thenccaom.org.

The article *Safety First: Patient Protection and the Practice of Herbal Medicine*, written by A. Bromley, Chair, NCCAOM Board of Commissioners has been submitted for publication in *Acupuncture Today*. This article will provide more information on the need for this COQ.

Resources for School Officials

Our new NCCAOM website also includes a page specifically [for school officials](#), under the 'Visitors' tab, where you can find the 'Helpful Resources' box with hot links to 'Forms and Applications' as well as 'Important Documents'. We encourage you to look at the tiles under the "School Administrator's Tool Box" for *NCCAOM Policy Changes* and much more. We welcome your feedback on this new page for School Officials on our updated website.



The NCCAOM has been working on the conversion to a new Association Management System (AMS) to streamline its certification and recertification processes. One of the major benefits of the new system is a separate online portal for each ACAOM accredited school, CCAOM and our international education transcript authentication and assessment company, [International Consultants of Delaware \(ICD\)](#). NCCAOM's new online portal will allow ACCAOM accredited program school officials and ICD officials to upload and attach student transcripts; CCAOM staff can upload CNT certificates forms directly into student's profile, which will save trees, time and money and **shortens all NCCAOM approval processes.**

NCCAOM® Official Practice Tests™



The Official NCCAOM® Examination Prep Center has now launched!!

The NCCAOM is very pleased to announce the unveiling of the Official NCCAOM® Examination Prep Center featuring The Official NCCAOM Practice Tests™ for all NCCAOM exams, as well as a one-stop hub to help students and candidates prepare for the NCCAOM exams. The **Official NCCAOM Practice Tests™** include a scaled score and a diagnostic report to help students and examination candidates prepare for the NCCAOM National Board Exams. Most importantly, these practice tests are structured and administered similarly to the actual NCCAOM certification exams. Candidates and students can test their readiness for taking the NCCAOM exams by experiencing a simulated format and flow of the NCCAOM exams using the practice tests available from the NCCAOM, to include questions developed using the same methodology as the exam itself. The practice tests are also open to **NCCAOM Diplomates who can earn 5 PDA points for successfully passing one practice test per recertification cycle.** The NCCAOM recommended that ACAOM-Approved Schools Faculty members sign up for these practice tests to familiarize themselves with the process and content. To access the NCCAOM Official Practice Tests, please see following link: <http://www.nccaom.org/nccaom-exam-preparation-center/>. Please contact Olga Cox at ocox@thennccaom.org if you have any questions about this new product.

Government Relations Update

State Relations Update:



The NCCAOM has been very busy the first quarter of 2018 with assisting several states with either first practice acts or increasing standards. Specifically, NCCAOM has provided assistance to the Acupuncture Association of [Louisiana](#) by supporting HB 421 to remove supervision by MDs for licensed acupuncturists and to require full NCCAOM certification (which would also add the passage of the Biomedicine exam). NCCAOM provided testimony and support for this bill as well as attending the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare in Baton Rouge in April. This bill has now passed both Houses and is waiting for the Governor's signature as of this date. This activity reflects a rise in states who are increasing standards to include requesting information for certification maintenance as a prerequisite for state licensure. Please visit the [NCCAOM website for a map showing all states and their licensing standards with regard to NCCAOM exams and certification.](#)

NCCAOM was also delighted to announce the achievement of the Ohio Association of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine in working with the Ohio Department of Medicaid acupuncture as a covered service for low back pain and migraines into the state Medicaid program. Coverage for acupuncture services took effect January 1, 2018. Besides supporting this important initiative, NCCAOM sent out a [nationwide press release](#) and worked with its PR consultant, *EchoMedia* on promoting this major achievement.

The NCCAOM also provided testimony in [Utah](#) by request from the Utah Acupuncture Advisory Board to add the NCCAOM Chinese Herbology exam in February 2018. This addition was not approved due to concerns of some acupuncturists of making the Chinese Herbology exam a mandate for all incoming licensees. The NCCAOM is planning to work with Utah to look into the tiered system of requiring the Chinese Herbology examination, similar to Ohio.

In addition, the NCCAOM is continuing to support the [Kansas](#) Association of Oriental Medicine (KAOM) and the Kansas Board of Healing Arts to accept applications for licensure from existing and new practitioners as their rules and regulations process as there are all new staff in the Kansas Board of Healing Arts.

The NCCAOM also worked with the [Oklahoma](#) Acupuncture Association (OAA) in supporting SB 1501, which would have enacted a first practice act in Oklahoma, an unregulated state for AOM. The NCCAOM provided testimony and letters; however, the bill was not successful due to the introduction of another competing bill sponsored by another acupuncturist, from another national organization, which resulted in the termination of both bills. The NCCAOM will continue its work with the OAA in the 2018/2019 legislative session.

The NCCAOM has continued its support of state associations and acupuncture regulatory agencies to prevent the practice of dry needling by physical therapists. NCCAOM provided testimony in Orlando at the FL Board of Physical Therapy meeting with FSOMA, FAA and other [Florida](#) acupuncturists in November. The NCCAOM has also written letters for [Massachusetts](#), [Idaho](#), [Iowa](#) and [Florida](#). The *NCCAOM Dry Needling Position Statement and Fact Sheet* ([available on the NCCAOM website](#)) has been distributed and a helpful document in this initiative.

Federal Update:



The NCCAOM Board of Commissioners and staff are pleased to announce that we have recruited John Richardson and his advocacy staff, from SmithBucklin Government Relations Team, as a strategic lobbyist to guide NCCAOM towards achieving greater federal and state recognition of NCCAOM National Board-Certified Acupuncturists and acupuncture services. In his capacity as Director, Government Relations: Healthcare Policy, Mr. Richardson provides strategic advocacy guidance to healthcare trade organizations and professional societies managed by SmithBucklin. He has over twenty years of healthcare public policy experience.

Since this inception of this partnership, NCCAOM has achieved several goals towards the above initiative, which was to respond to the Senate Finance Committee to address the Opioid crisis and to respond to the Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee's Subcommittee on Health for development of future legislation for including acupuncture services for opioid abuse and pain management. Please see [NCCAOM Opioid Timeline](#). In addition, NCCAOM Board of Commissioner Matthew Stanley, Executive Deputy Director Mina Larson and Richardson attended the Integrative Health Policy Consortium (IHPC) Integrative Health and Wellness Caucus: Amidst the Opioid Crisis on March 15 at the Capitol which was kicked off by Representative Jared Polis (D-Colo), and Mike Coffman, (R-Colo). Please see the [NCCAOM Spring Diplomat E-News You Can Use](#) for a report on this event. In addition, the NCCAOM was very pleased to achieve two monumental milestones in March: The inclusion of licensed and NCCAOM National-Board Certified Acupuncturists in Veterans' Affairs Health Administration System including Acupuncturists who are hired in the VA now having a government standard of (GS) range of GS 9 -12; and the finalization of the *2018 Standard Occupational Classification Manual* published by the Office of Management and Budget, which now features "Acupuncturists" with its own classification as a federally-recognized labor category based on measurable data that confirms growth in the industry. Please see [press release on both announcements](#).

NCCAOM® Exam Administration



English Language Certification Exams: Please note that in 2019, when the new exam blueprints take effect, the NCCAOM will temporarily suspend computer adaptive testing (CAT) and will administer all exams in computer-based, linear format. Candidates will notice several changes associated with the switch to linear testing:

- Preliminary pass/fail results will not be available at the test center after candidates complete the exam. Official Score Results letters will be mailed to candidates approximately 8 weeks after conclusion of the exam administration period.
- Candidates will answer 130 test questions within 3.25 hours.
- Continuous testing will also be suspended, and candidates must take the exam during one of the 2019 testing windows:

2019 Testing Window	Registration Begins	Registration Ends
March 4-16, 2019	November 1, 2018	March 15, 2019
May 13-25, 2019	March 15, 2019	May 24, 2019
August 19-31, 2019	May 24, 2019	August 30, 2019
November 11-23, 2019	August 30, 2019	November 22, 2019

The temporary suspension of adaptive testing is necessary because, according to best practice, exam passing standards (which determine which candidates pass and fail) must be evaluated with the implementation of new exam blueprints. As part of this process, candidate results are reviewed after conclusion of the exam period to ensure that the new exams and questions perform to psychometric standards and the scoring process is fair to all candidates.

Foreign Language Exams (FLEs): The FLEs will also be based on the new exam blueprints beginning January 1, 2019. Currently there are two planned testing windows for the FLEs in 2019. Please note that the Korean language exam administrations have earlier registration deadlines than the Chinese language exams, and the associated administration will be canceled if too few candidates register for a Korean language exam by the registration deadline.

2019 Testing Window	Languages Offered	Registration Begins	Registration Ends
August 5-17, 2019	Chinese	January 1, 2019	August 16, 2019

	Korean		May 31, 2019
November 4-16, 2019	Chinese	January 1, 2019	November 15, 2019
	Chinese		September 15, 2019

The 2019 NCCAOM exam content outlines are not yet available in Chinese or Korean but will be posted to the website later this year.

Reinstatement Exams: The NCCAOM offers Reinstatement exams to former Diplomates who have let their certification in Acupuncture, Chinese Herbology, or Oriental Medicine terminate. For information on applying for certification through the Reinstatement Route, see the NCCAOM website for information on the [Reinstatement Process for Terminated Constituents](#). See below for the 2019 Reinstatement Exam testing windows and exam registration dates.

2019 Testing Window	Exams Offered	Registration Begins	Registration Ends
August 5-17, 2019	All Reinstatement Exams	January 1, 2019	August 16, 2019
November 4-16, 2019	All Reinstatement Exams	January 1, 2019	November 15, 2019

NCCAOM Certification and Examination Metrics

Annual and semi-annual *NCCAOM® Comprehensive Examination Statistics Comparison Reports*, broken down by certification exam, are maintained on the NCCAOM website in an area specifically designed for [School Officials](#). Scroll to the bottom of the page and click on the tile, Exam Statistics Comparison Report. The 2018 NCCAOM® Program Performance Reports (PPR) [order form and ordering instructions](#) are also available from the School Officials page in the ‘Helpful Resources’ box on the right of the page. You may use the 2018 NCCAOM PPR order form to order 2017 annual data for your school if needed. The [most current posted is the 2017](#)

[annual report.](#)

NCCAOM Certification and Recertification Policies Update



NEW Policy and Process! Students will no longer be able to test as a pre-grad. As of September 1, 2018, the NCCAOM will only authorize new applicants to test who submit a graduation transcript and a completed CNT certificate via the online portals (see information above). This will reduce time and paperwork for both the school officials and the NCCAOM certification processing team and it will save money for the students. By requiring all certification documents prior to testing candidates will be able to become certified rapidly once they have passed their required certification exams.

To facilitate this new policy and process the NCCAOM is creating a portal for each school official where they will be able to upload student graduation transcripts directly to the NCCAOM certification site. The NCCAOM will notify the schools as soon as the school webinar date is set. During the webinar the NCCAOM will provide instructions for the use of the school portal.



We've gone
paperless

Going Paperless: The NCCAOM has moved forward with paperless application submission in an effort to increase processing efficiencies, reduce risk to our applicants and Diplomates, and help the environment. It is anticipated by mid-year 2018 only electronic applications and transactions through the NCCAOM website portal will be accepted. The NCCAOM is partnering with technology experts to ensure that this process is a smooth and seamless one and there will continue to be notifications and updates regarding this initiative. We encourage you to alert school officials and students to go the NCCAOM website to access the [Certification](#) and [Recertification](#) online applications. Paper submission of the *NCCAOM[®] Application for Certification* and *NCCAOM[®] Application for Recertification* must include a \$100.00 processing fee.

All Diplomates recertifying should scan and email their PDA certificates and recertification supporting documentation to recertdocs@thnccaom.org. The subject line of the email should

contain the Diplomates first and last name, NCCAOM ID number, certification program, and expiration date.

NEW! The NCCAOM Recertification Application fee is currently changed from \$260 per certification program to \$290 per certification effective September 1, 2018. Please note to take advantage of the current recertification you can submit your application as early as one year in advance of your expiration of active Diplomate status.

The NCCAOM Certification Program Reaccreditation: The NCCA reaccredited all three NCCAOM certification programs: Acupuncture Certification, Chinese Herbology Certification and Oriental Medicine Certification. The next reaccreditation is due April 2022.

PDA Program Update

The PDA Providers will be joining the NCCAOM Diplomates and candidates in transitioning to their own platform on the NCCAOM website. Construction of the online PDA process is due to be completed this fall. Educational webinars are planned for July to assist PDA Providers in moving to the website-managed course application process.

School Liaison Contact Information

The NCCAOM encourages students, faculty, and school liaisons to visit the NCCAOM website and stay current with NCCAOM policy and procedure changes. Jennifer Nemeth, Continuing Education Director is the contact person for school officials. Jennifer has visited schools, working to provide seminars for students concerning the NCCAOM certification process. The NCCAOM encourages all school officials to contact Jennifer if they have had a change in contact information for administrators or school liaison staff to ensure accurate and timely communication. Jennifer can be reached by email at jnemeth@thenccaom.org or schoolliaison@thenccaom.org.

If you have specific questions about this Update, please contact Dr. Ward-Cook via email at executiveoffices@thenccaom.org.