



NCCAOM® Certification In Asian Bodywork Therapy



Achieving Certification

In order to achieve certification in Asian Bodywork Therapy, applicants must meet all eligibility requirements as outlined in either Route 1 or Route 2 (below) and successfully pass the certification exam.

Route 1: Formal Education: Candidates must have completed 500 hours of an Asian bodywork therapy program. The type of educational programs, or a combination thereof, is listed below. Correspondence and distance learning programs do not qualify.

- A. Formal: academic post-secondary accredited program which include
 - ACAOM, AOBTA & COSP programs
- B. Combination: formal program and short courses (no more than 100 hours)

- 1) Of the required 500 hours, a minimum of 350 hours must be didactic of which 160 hours must specifically relate to Asian bodywork techniques. Didactic hours must also include allopathic anatomy and physiology; Oriental medical theory; first aid; CPR; and ethics.
- 2) The 500 hours must include a minimum of seventy (70) clinical hours of education. The clinical hours must be directly related to Asian bodywork technique and may include observation as well as internship or treatment hours.
- 3) The remaining hours may be earned as either didactic or clinical.
- 4) Candidates may combine hours from more than one (1) educational institution, provided that a minimum 160 didactic hours that specifically relate to Asian bodywork therapy are completed at one (1) institution and the subject of the clinical hours is related to the didactic hours of the Asian bodywork therapy.
- 5) Acceptable transcripts must be sent from the school directly to NCCAOM.



- 6) Candidates who did not attend an approved school must submit a school catalog to allow NCCAOM to perform a review of school transcripts. The school catalog must be written in English and include the following:
 - A. an outline of the curriculum offered
 - B. course title and description
 - C. number of hours included in the program
 - D. information about the faculty and facility

- 8) Applications of candidates who did not attend an approved school will be reviewed by the NCCAOM Eligibility Committee.

Route #2: Apprenticeship for United States and International Applicants

Apprenticeship is defined as training completed under a preceptor who assumes responsibility for the theoretical and practical education of the apprentice. NCCAOM does not pre-approve apprenticeship programs or preceptors. It is the applicant's responsibility to provide required documents when the application is submitted. Candidates must meet all the following requirements.

1. A maximum of two apprentices may study under a single preceptor at any one time.
 2. An apprentice may only study under one preceptor during the apprenticeship.
 3. Patient/client visits in which Asian bodywork therapy, acupuncture, and/or Chinese herbology are combined may be counted as professional practice under each applicable certification program.
 4. Applicants who apply through the apprenticeship route must meet all of the following requirements:
 - A. Completion of an apprenticeship program with a minimum of 500 contact hours. Contact hours are defined as clock hours that the apprentice spends under the direct supervision of the preceptor. Off-site supervision is not included.
- AND**
- B. The apprenticeship program must include increasing responsibilities in patient contact, up to and including the final stage of complete diagnosis and treatment under the preceptor's supervision.

AND



C. The apprenticeship program must be under the direction of a **qualified preceptor**. A preceptor is considered qualified if he/she meets at least one of the following criteria:

- Certified instructor by the American Organization for Bodywork Therapies of Asia (AOBTA),

OR

- Certified by the NCCAOM in Asian Bodywork Therapy,

OR

- Practice at a minimum level of 500 Asian bodywork therapy patient/client visits by no fewer than 75 different patients/clients for five consecutive years immediately prior to becoming the applicant's preceptor.

AND

- The preceptor's practice was at a minimum level of 500 Asian bodywork therapy patient/client visits by no fewer than 75 different patients/clients during each year of the apprenticeship program. Patient visits were in general health care practice.

Treatment on patients/clients that take place during a preceptor's apprenticeship or while the preceptor is obtaining education may not be counted as professional practice.

Documentation Required for Apprenticeship-

Applicants under this route of eligibility must submit all of the following documents:

1. A notarized letter from the preceptor that includes the following information:
 - A. A detailed description of the apprenticeship, including:
 - start and finish dates, break dates,
 - total number of contact hours each year,
 - the amount of time spent in theoretical instruction,
 - the level of involvement with patient/client treatment.
 - B. A description of preceptor's practice, including:
 - number of patients/clients,
 - the number of patient/client visits per year,



- the type of practice (i.e., 80% general practice and 20% specialization in sports injuries).
 - dates and location of practice.
- C. A statement of the number of apprentices being supervised by the preceptor during the specified time.
2. Regarding your preceptor, you must submit either;
- A. A notarized copy of approval for apprenticeship from the state regulatory agency,
- OR**
- B. A notarized copy of Instructor Certification issued by the AOBTA, or NCCAOM
- OR**
- C. Documentation of preceptor's practice showing five consecutive years of Asian bodywork therapy practice immediately prior to the initiation of the preceptorship. Acceptable methods of documenting a preceptor's Asian bodywork therapy practice are outlined below. Documentation must be from at least two (2) of the following four (4) categories:
- A notarized affidavit from employer specifying:
 - i. Dates
 - ii. Location
 - iii. Number of hours worked
 - iv. Nature of practice
 - v. Number of patient/client visits
 - Notarized affidavits from a minimum of twenty (20) patients/clients specifying the time period of treatment and the use of Asian bodywork therapy. Acceptable affidavits must include current phone numbers and addresses.
 - Notarized affidavits from a minimum of two (2) health care professionals, other than employers, with convincing testimony based on personal knowledge regarding the dates, volume, scope, and type of practice.
 - Notarized affidavits from a minimum of two (2) respected members within the professional community with convincing testimony based on personal knowledge regarding the dates,



volume, scope, and type of practice. “Respected members of the professional community” may include, but are not limited to members of state or local Asian bodywork therapy or Oriental Medicine associations and Asian bodywork therapy school directors.

Appointment books, business permits, and leases are not acceptable means of documentation because they do not specify types of treatment.

Submit as documentation, a representative sample of the applicant’s notes with 10-15 pages covering theoretical instruction (please type). The notes must be submitted in English.

For additional details please contact NCCAOM by [accessing](#) “Contact Us” on the NCCAOM website www.nccaom.org or call (904) 598-1005 to speak to a Customer Service Representative.