

National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine

Founded in 1982, the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM®) is widely accepted as one of the most influential leaders in the acupuncture and Oriental medicine community. NCCAOM is a non-profit 501(c)6 corporation responsible for the administration of the Acupuncture, Chinese Herbology, Oriental Medicine, and Asian Bodywork Therapy Certification Programs. NCCAOM's purpose is to assure the public that Diplomates meet entry-level competency, and continue to maintain competency. To date, there are 16,899 NCCAOM® Diplomates worldwide holding 18,240 certification certificates.

NCCAOM Mission

The mission of the NCCAOM is:

To establish, assess, and promote recognized standards of competence and safety in acupuncture and Oriental medicine for the protection and benefit of the public.

NCCAOM Core Values

Testing Excellence	Trust
Service	Leadership
Integrity	Community



Public Protection Through Quality Credentials

“Having now experienced the examination writing process end-to-end a number of times, I have a deepened respect for and confidence in the mission of the NCCAOM.”

- Iman Majd, MD, MSA, EAMP, Dipl. Ac. (NCCAOM®)

NCCAOM Subject Matter Expert

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NCCAOM®

Item Writing Academy



“As a result of the NCCAOM Item Writing Academy, I gained the experience of a very structured process to learn how to write potential test questions. I received personal guidance and support from current NCCAOM EDC members and staff, and I benefitted from ongoing peer review of my draft test questions. “

Iman Majd MD, MSA, EAMP, Dipl. Ac. (NCCAOM®)

University of Washington, Department of Family Medicine

Become a Member of the NCCAOM Item Writing Academy

Responsibilities

The NCCAOM® *Item Writing Academy* (IWA) was created for the purpose of training Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) to produce quality examination questions for the NCCAOM Examination Development Committees (EDCs). The purpose of the EDC's is to review, modify if necessary, and validate the item construct, content and references of all potential exam items (questions). NCCAOM provides the training, coaching, and the appropriate reference materials needed to research, write, and reference each item (question). Potential item writers must complete an item writing workshop which prepares SME's to write high-quality, psychometrically sound items that are later reviewed by EDC members for possible inclusion in the examination item bank.

After completing an Item Writing Workshop, SMEs are given item writing assignments based on examination specifications, related content outlines, and item bank needs. IWA SME's are expected to complete their assignments over a twelve-month period according to an item writing task schedule.

Selection Criteria

The following is a list of qualifications necessary to be considered for the academy:

- Minimum of three years in clinical practice,
- Active NCCAOM Diplomate status,
- Must have completed at least one NCCAOM Item Writing Workshop,
- Currently a practitioner, educator, or administrator,
- Good writing skills,
- Good command of the English language,
- Computer literacy and internet access,
- Willingness and ability to devote time to at least one face-to-face Item Writing Academy meeting per year,
- Ability to devote time to write at least six questions per month, or 18 questions per quarter and submit them electronically in proper format.

Expectations

Diplomates chosen to be in the NCCAOM® *IWA* will serve for a minimum of one year and no more than two years. The EDC chairs will evaluate the effectiveness of those who serve in the Item Writing Academy. Item writers are required to actively participate in the item writing process and are expected to:

- Submit at least six questions (per month), properly constructed and referenced.
- Dedicate the time and effort necessary to produce high-quality, items.
- Be receptive to coaching by an EDC chair, if needed, to improve item writing submissions.
- Sign and agree to all terms as outlined in the NCCAOM confidentiality agreement and conflict of interest forms.
- Apply the concepts presented in the item writing workshop to the development of each item.



Benefits

Earn a PDU Certificate

Upon successful completion of an item writing workshop, participating SME's are awarded a certificate of completion and Professional Development Units (PDUs) that can be used toward the requirements for certification renewal.*

Receive Free Training

IWA SMEs receive training that covers item writing theory, the development of items which test higher-order thinking skills, and specific item writing techniques.

Network with Colleagues

During the item writing workshops, SME's are given opportunities to interact with colleagues from diverse geographical locations and practice settings.

Join the NCCAOM Item Writing Academy

Graduates of the IWA support their profession by helping to ensure that the candidates taking the NCCAOM certification examinations receive sound, high quality questions that reflect a broad range of practice.

* see the NCCAOM® *Recertification Handbook* for more information.

How to Apply

If you are interested in becoming a member of the NCCAOM® *Item Writing Academy*, visit the "Volunteer Opportunities" section of the NCCAOM Web site (www.nccaom.org) to download a volunteer application.

Send the completed application and a current CV or resume to:

NCCAOM

Attn: Dr. Kory Ward-Cook
76 South Laura Street
Suite 1290
Jacksonville, Florida 32202

Need more information or have questions?

Contact Melissa Dow

Executive Office Administrative Assistant

mdow@thenccaom.org or 904-674-2473