The National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM®) Regulatory Affairs Webinar

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September 22, 2011

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Presentation Topics

- Explain the functions and identify the staff in NCCAOM departments
- Review of NCCAOM historic milestones
- Examine organizational statistics
- Review state licensure requirement related to NCCAOM exams and certification
- Provide an overview of the 2012-2013 NCCAOM Job Task Analysis
- Summarize requirements for NCCAOM certification in Oriental Medicine, Acupuncture, Chinese Herbology and Asian Bodywork Therapy

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Mission and Core Values

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

Values

- *Testing Excellence*
- *Service*
- *Integrity*
- *Trust*
- *Leadership*
- *Community Support*

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How does NCCAOM meet its mission?

The NCCAOM carries out its mission in the following ways:

- Documents eligibility to sit for the competency exams passage of which is required for certification in 43 states plus District of Columbia
- Develops valid and reliable, entry-level exams administered in a highly secure test center
- Requires demonstration of competency maintenance through recertification process, required every four years
- Requires adherence to the NCCAOM Code of Ethics
- Works closely with state regulatory boards for the exchange of information on exam score reports and disciplinary cases.

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Executive Services

Kory Ward-Cook, PhD, MT(ASCP), CAE
Chief Executive Officer

Gail Remsen
Director of Executive Services and Volunteer Services

Melissa Dow
Administrative Assistant

Contact the Executive Services Department for:

- Governance
- Questions for the Board of Commissioners
- Questions regarding becoming a NCCAOM volunteer

e-mail: executiveoffice@thenccaom.org

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Public, Professional and Regulatory Affairs Department

Mina Larson

Director of Public, Professional and Regulatory Affairs

- Public relations
- News and events
- State regulatory/legislative matters

contact: publicrelations@thenccaom.org

Rebecca Cassidy

Manager of Professional Ethics & Disciplinary Review

- Sending of confirmation of exam scores and/or NCCAOM certification to state licensing agencies
- Professional ethics and disciplinary questions
- ADA accommodations

contact: stategov@thenccaom.org

Jennifer Nemeth

Manager of PDA and Quality Control

- Professional Development Activity (PDA) provider information

contact: pda@thenccaom.org

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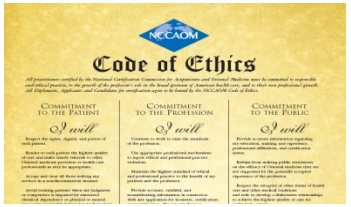
NCCAOM Historical Highlights

- **1982** - Founded as NCCA (National Commission for the Certification of Acupuncturists)
- **1984** - First JTA, Code of Ethics, CNT Course* and CDR for Acupuncture (Ac) certification
- **1985** – First CWE for Acupuncture Certification
- **1989** - Practical Examination of Point Location Skills (PEPLS) introduced
- **1991** - NCCA accredited by the National Organization for Competency Assurance (NOCA)'s National Commission on Certifying Agencies (NCCA)



*Note: CNT Course began being offered solely by the CCAOM in the 1990's

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Historical Highlights

- **1995** - CWE in Chinese Herbology
- **1996** - NCCA becomes the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM)
- **1996** - Asian Bodywork Therapy (ABT) certification introduced
- **1996** - Chinese Herbology Certification program is accredited by the NOCA/NCCA
- **1999** - Point Location Examination (PLE) was created as a separate paper and pencil examination

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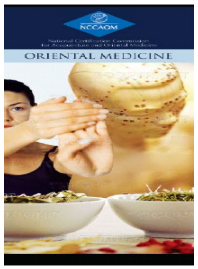
NCCAOM Historical Highlights

- **2003**
  - Oriental Medicine (OM) Certification introduced
  - 2002 Job Task Analysis results released
- **2004**
  - NCCAOM introduces modular exams
  - Biomedicine exam added to certification requirements



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Historical Highlights

- **2006** – Computer based testing introduced
- **2007**
  - Computer Adaptive Testing and Year Round Testing
  - Acupuncture, Chinese Herbology and Oriental Medicine programs recognized by the Veterans Administration
  - Acupuncture, Asian Bodywork Therapy, and Chinese Herbology programs re-accredited and Oriental Medicine program accredited by NCCA

NOTE: Each certification program is separately accredited

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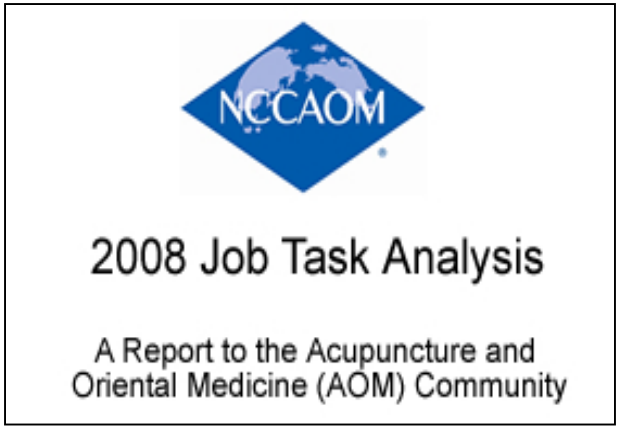
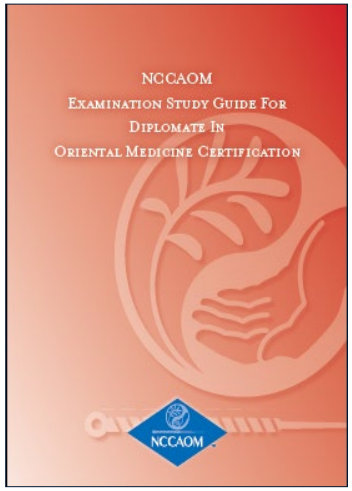
Historical Highlights

- **2008**
  - JTA Analysis conducted
- **2009**
  - NCCAOM publishes first study guides with knowledge, skills and abilities statements for all exam content outlines
  - Biomedicine exam content expanded to include safety, ethics, practice management, pharmaceuticals, and supplements
- **2010**
  - First 100-question Biomedicine exam administered
  - 2008 JTA report published





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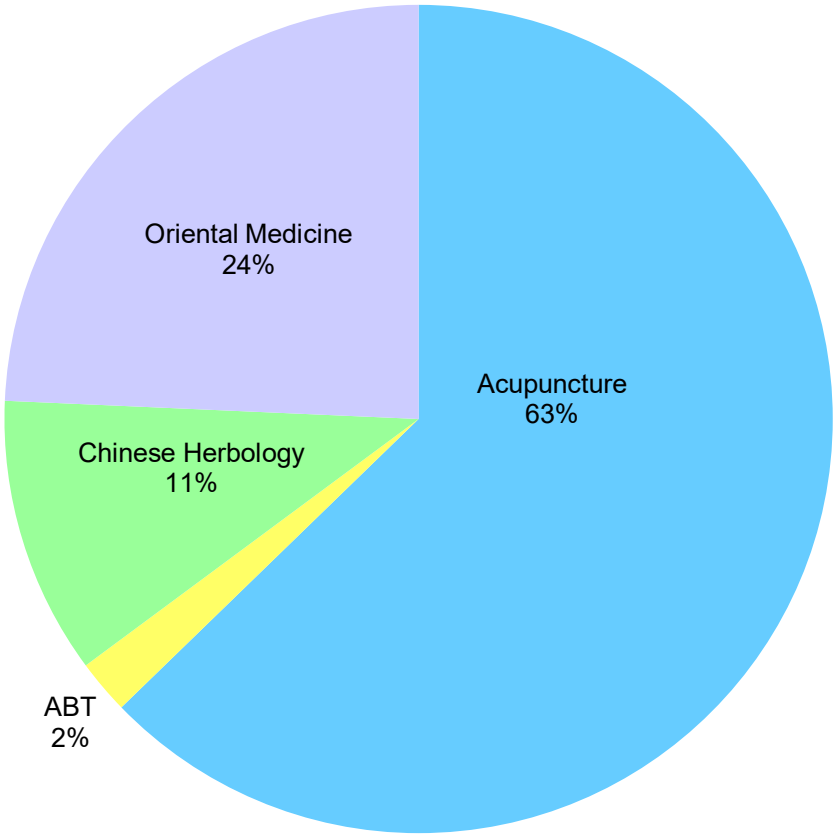
16,899 Diplomates Worldwide (holding 18,240 certificates)

Percentage of Active Certificates Held by U.S. Diplomates



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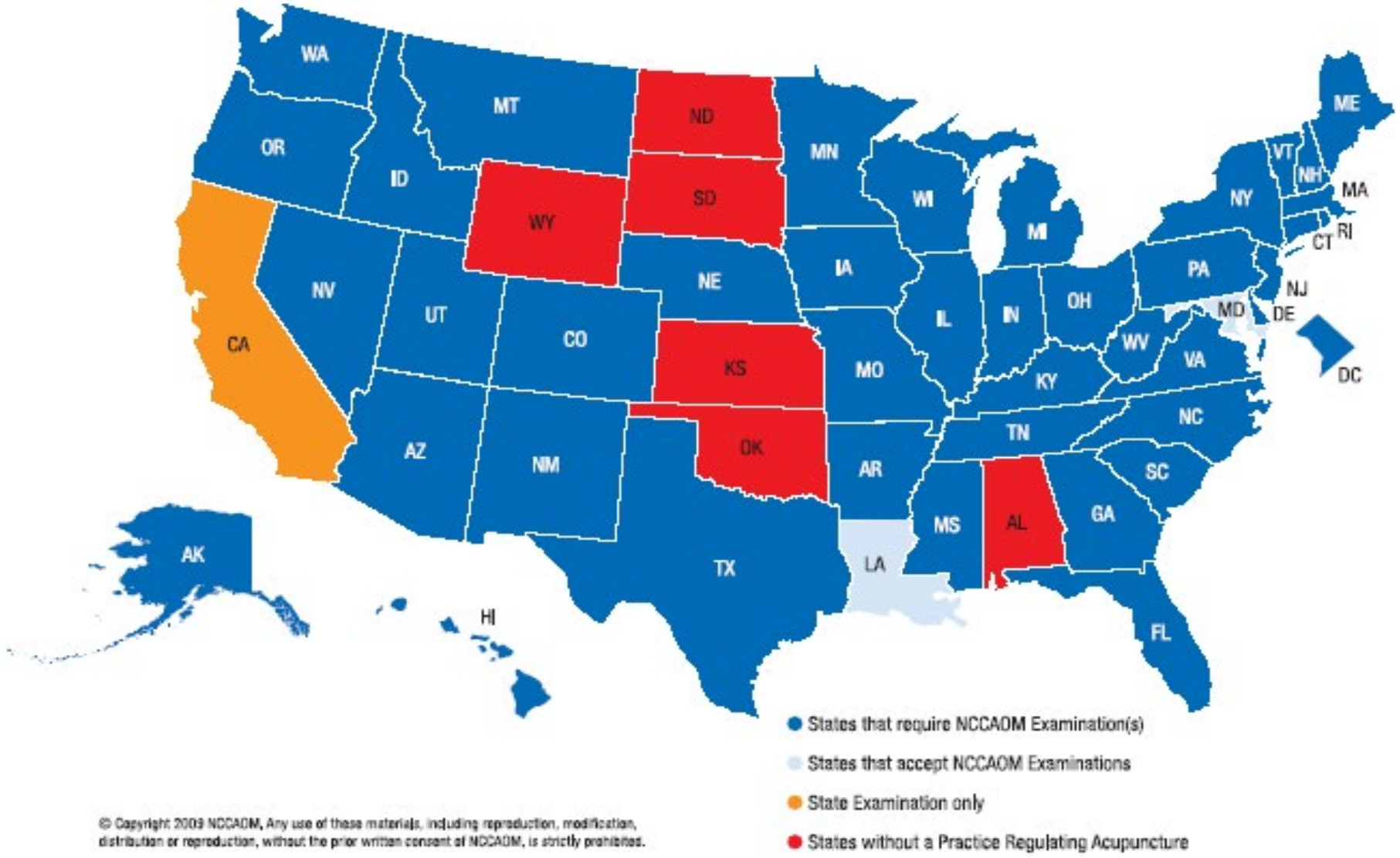
NCCAOM & State Licensure Requirements



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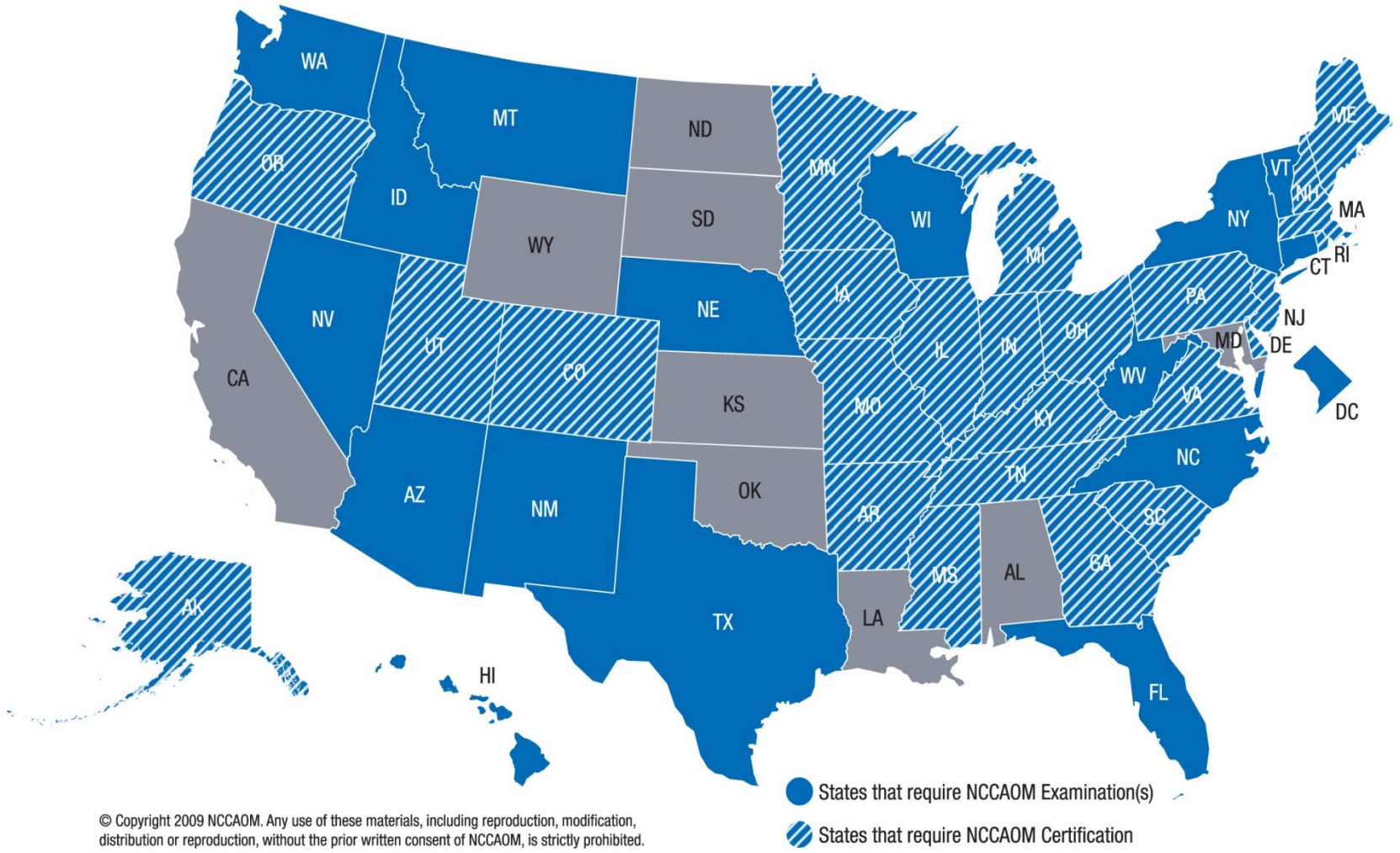
States Use of NCCAOM Certification or Exams for Acupuncture Licensure



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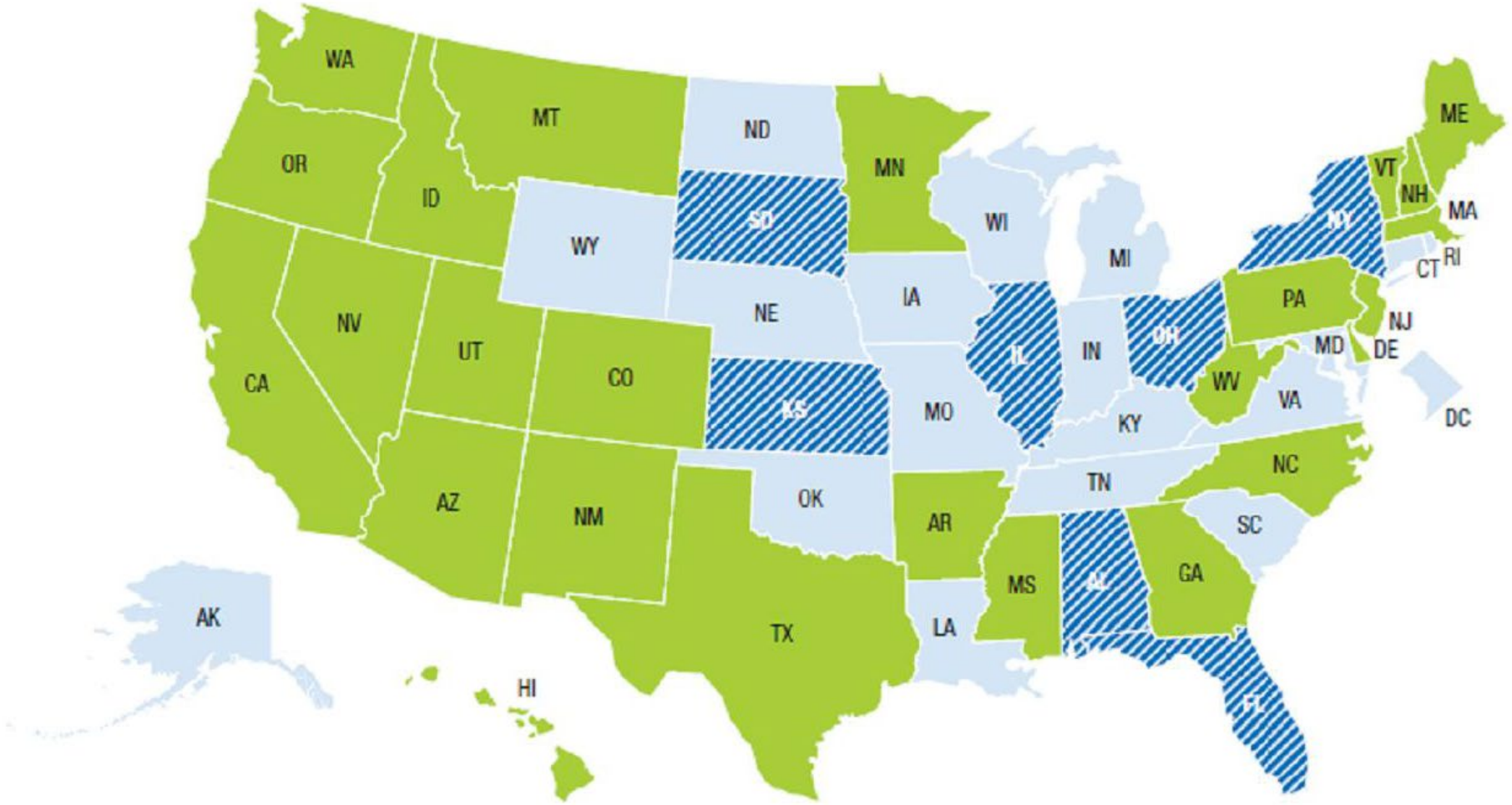
States That Include Chinese Herbs in the Scope of Practice for Acupuncturists



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- States that include Chinese Herbs in the Scope of Practice for Acupuncturists
- States that have Active Legislation in place to add Chinese Herbology

Upcoming 2013 Job Task Analysis (JTA)

- Performed at least every five years by NCCAOM
- Primary Goal: Identify ***entry-level competencies*** and ***tasks*** performed by entry-level practitioners, based on perceived criticality of tasks to result in updated outline for each certification/licensing exam
- Secondary Goal: To collect demographic and workforce-related data on active Diplomates and NEW licensed acupuncturists
- Based on quantitative results a survey will be administered to practitioners who will determine ***criticality*** (***importance and frequency)*** of tasks for entry-level practice
- Currently seeking nominations from the AOM Community to serve on the Job Task Analysis Oversight Taskforce for each certification

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Upcoming 2013 Job Task Analysis (JTA)

NCCAOM Job Task Analysis (JTA) Panel

- Composition – SMES and Key Stakeholders
- Functions – Develop Task and Survey Demographics
- Determine – Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria
- Expected Timeline for JTA
  - January to August 2012 – The 2013 Steering Committee Meets to Discuss the Plan for the JTA
  - September to December 2012 – Appointments to the 2012 JTA Panel
  - February to March 2013 – JTA Conducted
  - July 1, 2013 – Publish New Exam Content Outlines

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NCCAOM Certification Requirements

The National Certification Commission
for
Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine

NCCAOM

Having Satisfied All Requirements of the Commission,
is Hereby Declared Nationally Certified and Designated a

OFFICIAL SEAL
NCCAOM
JACKSONVILLE, FL

Kory Ward-Cook

Kory Ward-Cook, Ph.D., MS (ASCP), CAE
Chief Executive Officer

David Cassens, DOM, Dipl. Ac. (NCCAOM), Dipl. NBAO
Chair, Board of Commissioners

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Requirements NCCAOM Certification for Oriental Medicine

Certification Requirements*

- Official Graduation Transcript of ACAOM accredited or candidate program or equivalent (2625 hours – 4000 hours)
- Passage of:
  - **Foundations of Oriental Medicine exam**
  - **Acupuncture with Point Location exam**
  - **Biomedicine exam**
  - **Chinese Herbology exam**
- Official CNT Certificate from CCAOM
- Adherence to the *NCCAOM® Code of Ethics*

*NCCAOM Certification requirement pursuant to 2011 NCCAOM Candidate Handbook

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Requirements for NCCAOM Certification for Acupuncture

Certification Requirements*

- Official Graduation Transcript of ACAOM accredited or candidate program or equivalent (1905 hours to 3000 hours)
- Passage of:
  - **Foundations of Oriental Medicine exan**
  - **Acupuncture with Point Location exam**
  - **Biomedicine exam**
- Official CNT Certificate from CCAOM
- Adherence to the *NCCAOM® Code of Ethics*

*NCCAOM Certification requirement pursuant to 2011 NCCAOM Candidate Handbook

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Requirements for NCCAOM Certification for Chinese Herbology

Certification Requirements*

- Official Graduation Transcript of ACAOM accredited or candidate program or equivalent
- Passage of:
  - **Foundations of Oriental Medicine exam**
  - **Chinese Herbology exam**
  - **Biomedicine exam**
- Official CNT Certificate from CCAOM
- Adherence to the *NCCAOM® Code of Ethics*

*NCCAOM Certification requirement pursuant to 2011 NCCAOM Candidate Handbook

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Requirements for NCCAOM Certification for Asian Bodywork Therapy

Certification Requirements*

- Official Graduation Transcript of ACAOM, AOBTA or COSP program or equivalent (minimum of 500 hours)
- Passage of:
  - **Asian Bodywork Therapy exam**

    2012 ABT exam dates:

    March 5 – 17, 2012

    June 4 – 6, 2012

    August 13 – 25, 2012

    October 29 – November 10, 2012
- Adherence to the *NCCAOM® Code of Ethics*

NOTE:
Effective as of 2013 NCCAOM will discontinue the ABT Certification program

*NCCAOM Certification requirement pursuant to NCCAOM ABT Certification Handbook 2011-2012 Edition

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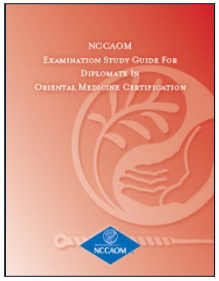
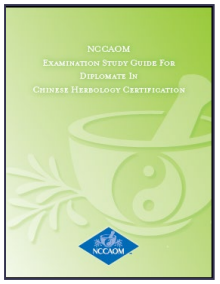
2011 *NCCAOM® Study Guides*
Content Outlines

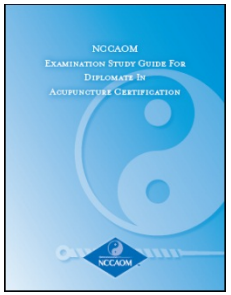
Diplomate in Acupuncture
- Acupuncture with Point Location Exam
- Biomedicine Exam
- Foundations of Oriental Medicine

Diplomate in Chinese Herbology
- Chinese Herbology Exam
- Biomedicine Exam
- Foundations of Oriental Medicine

Diplomate in Oriental Medicine
- Acupuncture with Point Location Exam
- Biomedicine Exam
- Foundations of Oriental Medicine
- Chinese Herbology Exam







Each Content Outline also featured separately on the NCCAOM website

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Stakeholder Input Requested

Possible Comprehensive Oriental Medicine Exam

- Applicants must pass all domains: Biomedicine, Acupuncture and Point Location, Foundations and Chinese Herbology

  Note: Failure of one sub-scored domain would require retesting in a particular module

- Exam can be required for licensees who wish to reinstate their license after being lapsed or inactive

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Coming Soon! NCCAOM Reinstatement Examinations

- Development of comprehensive exams that will provide opportunity for individuals whose certification has terminated to return to Active status.
- Announcement of this new policy will be in late Fall 2011

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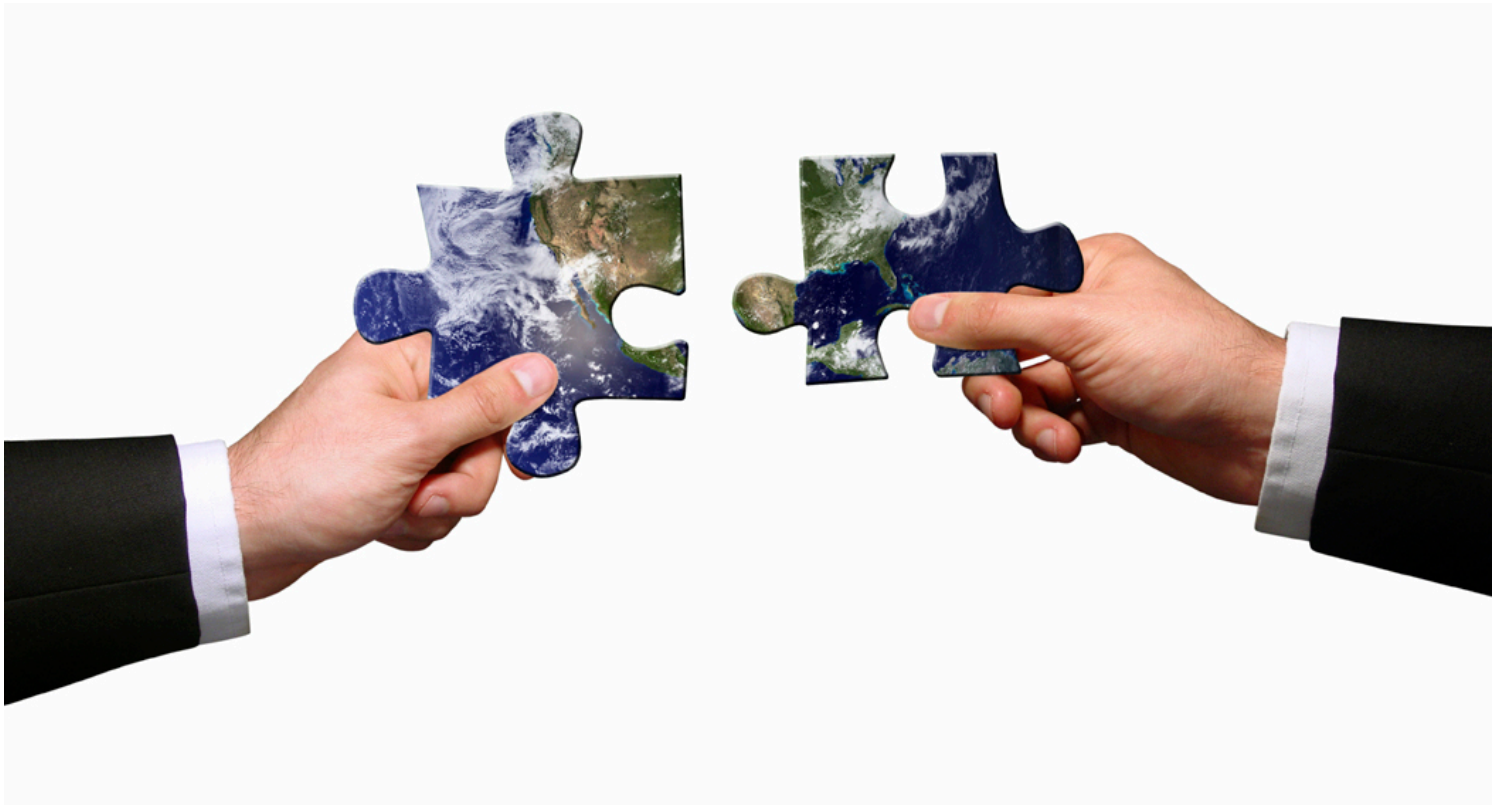
NCCAOM Partnership with States



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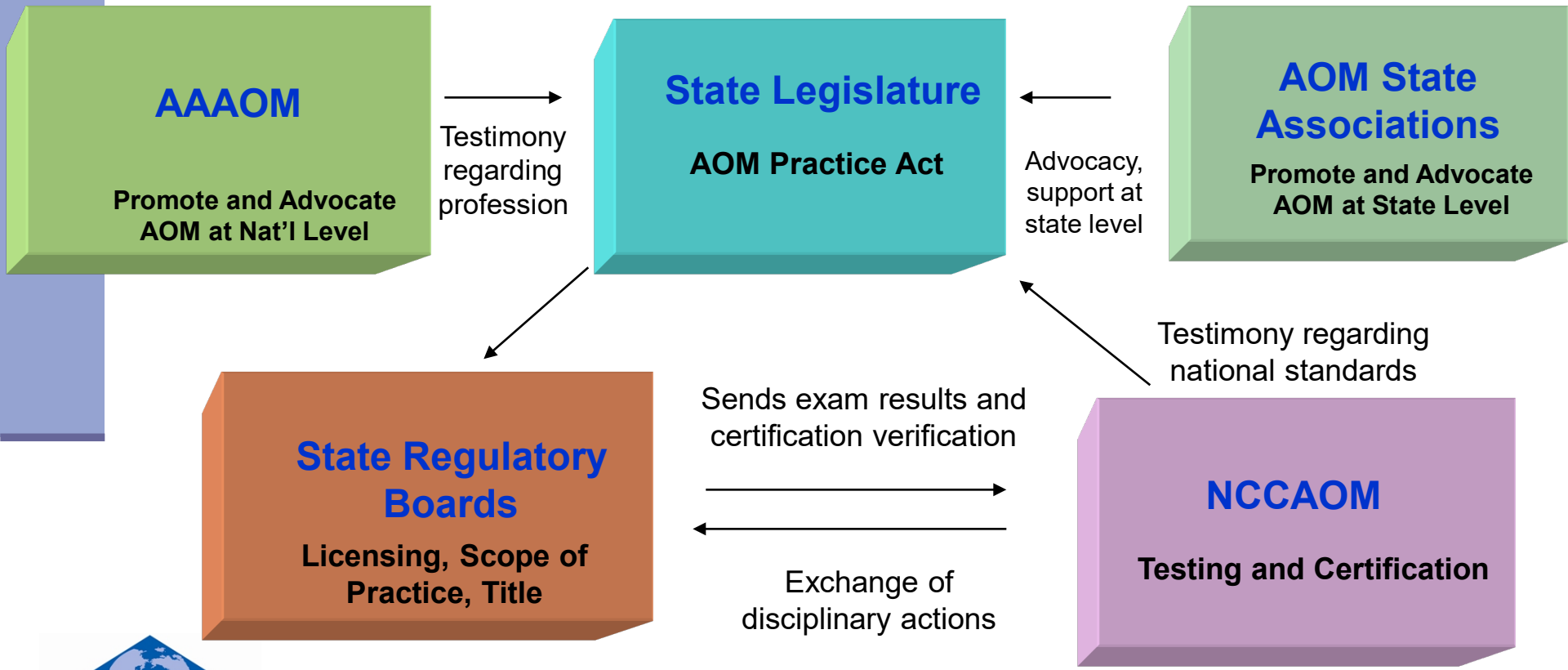
NCCAOM: Partnership with State Regulators and the AOM Profession

Protecting the Public and Advocating for the AOM Profession



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Electronic Exam Results Reports

States that have already taken advantage of this time-saving service:

- Alaska
- Arizona
- Colorado
- Florida
- Georgia
- Hawaii
- Indiana
- Kentucky
- Maine
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- Minnesota

- Missouri
- Montana
- Nebraska
- Nevada
- New Jersey
- New Mexico
- Pennsylvania
- South Carolina
- Virginia
- Washington
- Wisconsin

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Exam Results/Status Report

- Effective as of January 1, 2012 the NCCAOM will be revising the format of the Exam Results/Status Reports that are sent out to the states.
- The new form will:
  - Be on letter size paper with NCCAOM's mast head
  - List only the exams that have been taken by an individual

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Utilizing NCCAOM as a Resource:
State Relations

- Testimony before state boards and legislative bodies regarding NCCAOM certification standards
- Letters of support for legislation
- Provide current information on national and international use of NCCAOM examinations and certifications
- Provide demographic and practice setting information on AOM practitioners

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Utilizing NCCAOM as a Resource:
Services for State Regulatory Boards

- Exam Results and Certification Status reports for licensure purposes
- Full-time staff liaison on call for State Regulatory Boards
- Update your state's Acupuncture and Oriental medicine Practice Act to reflect current standards
- Ensure that disciplinary standards for practitioners are maintained by exchanging information on sanctioned practitioners
- State licensure contracts for examination services

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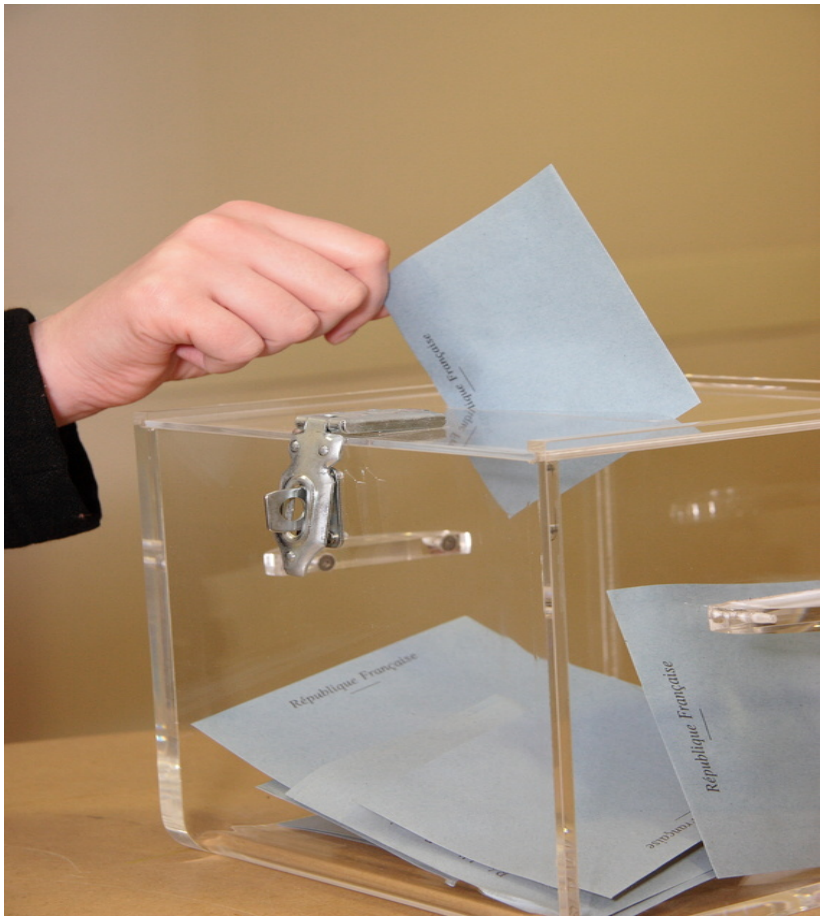
Coming Soon: NCCAOM State Regulatory Survey



- Survey to be sent out October 3, 2011
- Survey will collect much needed demographic information about the AOM profession
- All State Regulatory staff encouraged to participate
- Results will be shared with states who participate

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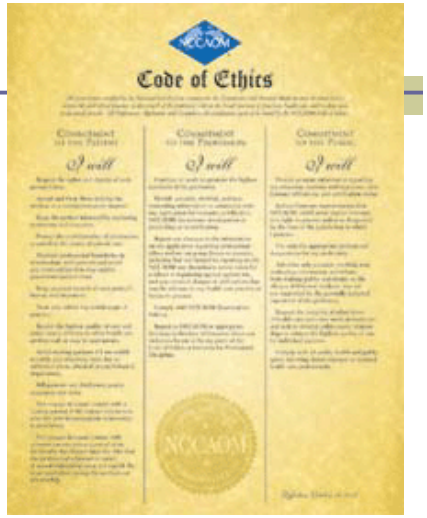
NCCAOM Ethical Guidelines



All Diplomates must abide by the:

- *NCCAOM® Code of Ethics*
- *Grounds for Professional Discipline*
- *Procedures for Upholding Professional Conduct*
  - The NCCAOM Professional Ethics and Disciplinary Committee (PEDC) has the authority to investigate disciplinary actions taken against NCCAOM applicants and Diplomates and to impose sanctions on NCCAOM applicants and Diplomates according to the NCCAOM Procedures for Upholding Professional Conduct.

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Professional Ethics & Discipline

- The Professional Ethics and Discipline Committee (PEDC) meets monthly to review disciplinary cases.
- Diplomates must abide by the *NCCAOM® Code of Ethics* and *Grounds for Professional Discipline*.
- Disciplinary sanctions include: letter of reprimand, letter of censure, probation, suspension and revocation of certification.
- NCCAOM exchanges disciplinary actions with state boards.
- Disciplinary actions are published on NCCAOM's website, *The Diplomate* newsletter and in *Diplomate News You Can Use.*
- PDA Courses available in professional ethics and liability.

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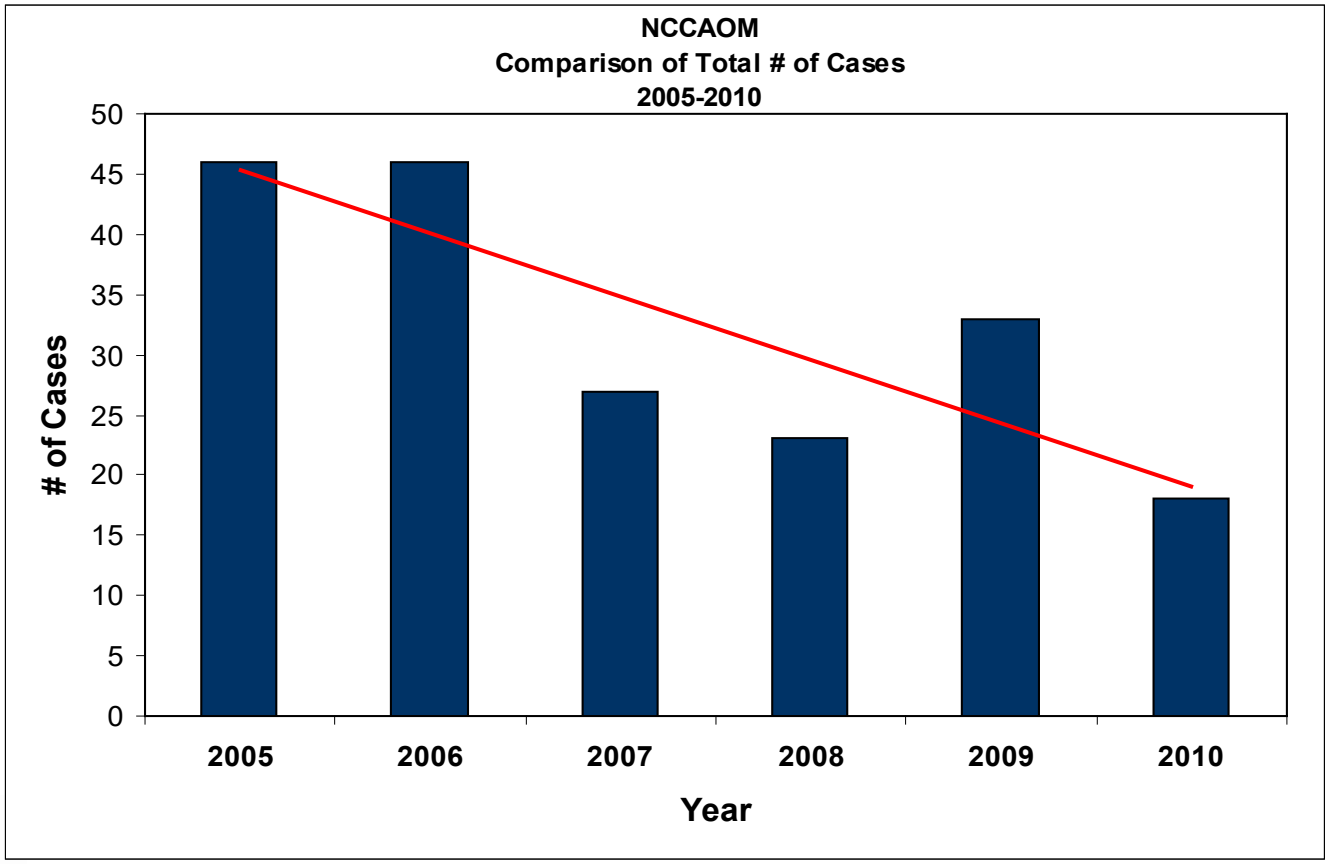
Disciplinary Action Information

The downward trend line from 2005 clearly shows an overall decline in NCCAOM's disciplinary cases since 2005.



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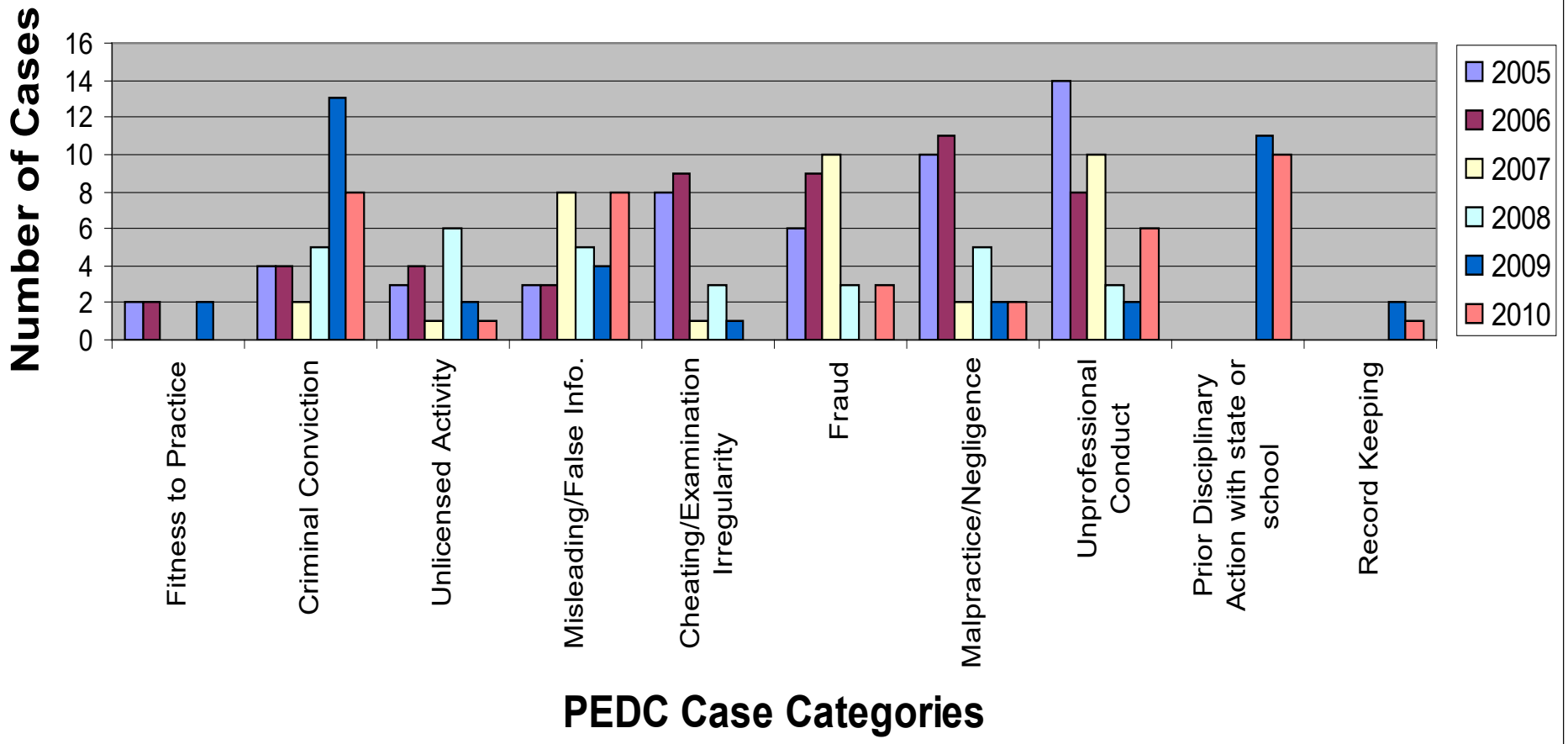
Disciplinary Action Information

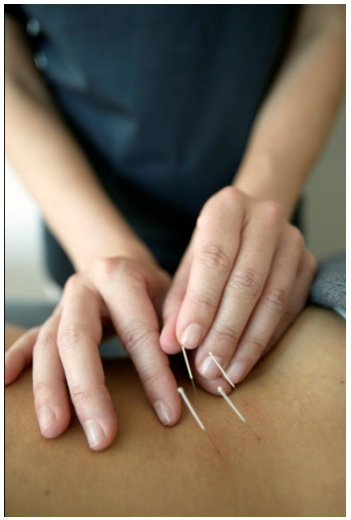


Benefits of Obtaining and Maintaining NCCAOM Certification

NCCAOM Certification demonstrates entry-level competency of AOM practitioners

NCCAOM Recertification documents maintenance of core competencies and professional growth and development by Diplomates

- **Provides more portability for state licensing**



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NCCAOM Benefits of Diplomate Status

- Listing in the *NCCAOM Find a Practitioner* directory
- Use of the NCCAOM Service Marks and designations
- Access to a free personal website
- Timely information regarding AOM News and Legislation
- Direct verification of certification status to insurance companies and third-party payers
- Consideration to serve on NCCAOM committees and task forces

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Requirements NCCAOM Recertification

- Recertification Program
  - Core competency maintenance
  - Professional development
- 60 PDA points required per recertification cycle
  - Must include **4 PDA** points in Ethics and/or Safety
  - Must include **CPR certificate**
- *Upcoming Changes in 2012*
  - Increase in recertification application fees ($220 to $240)

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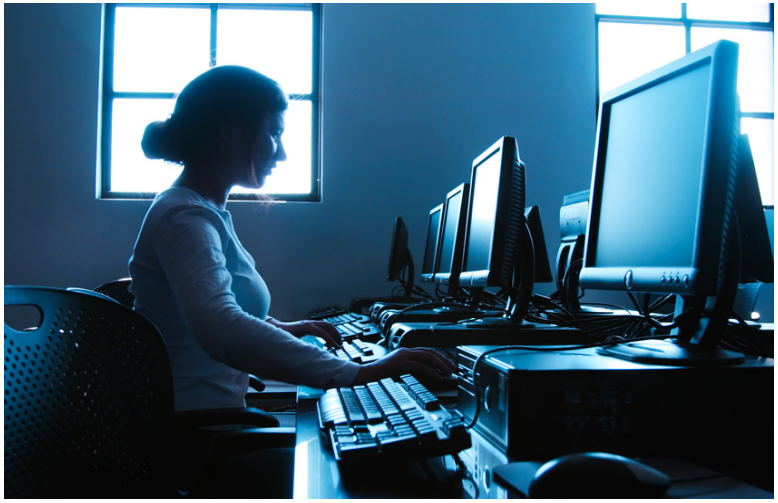
New Professional Development Activities

Diplomates can now earn PDA credits for:

- Practice Enhancements (maximum of 6 PDA's)
- Donating AOM Services (maximum of 10 PDA's)
- Item Writing (maximum of 10 PDA's)



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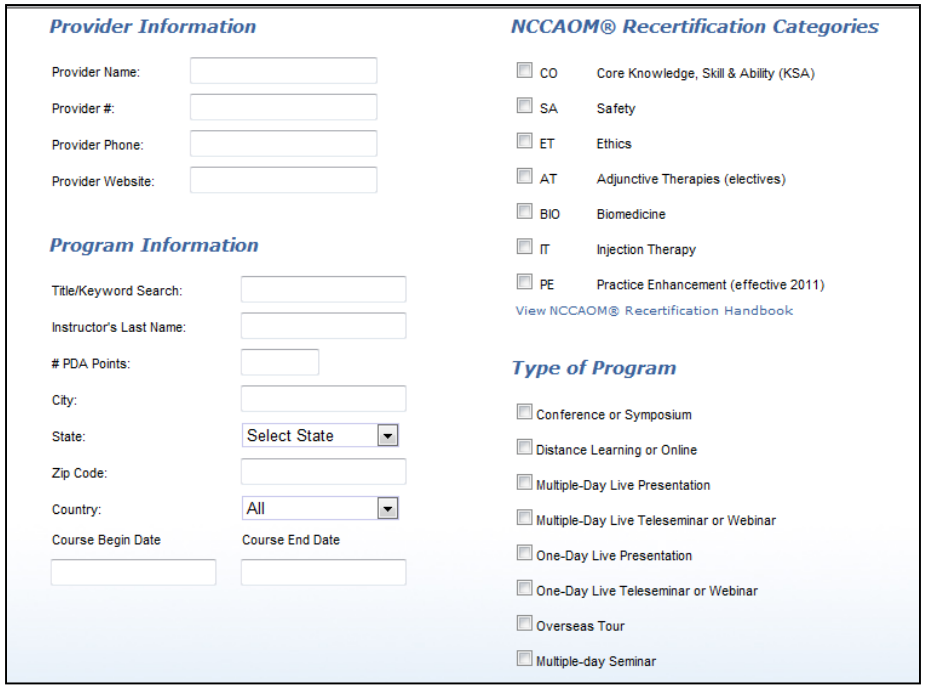
Utilizing NCCAOM as a Resource:
NCCAOM's PDA (CEU) Programs

- Over 3,000 approved PDA programs, and currently 900 PDA Providers
- New PDA Search Engine Features
  - Search by topic:
    - Subject
    - Key word
    - Title
    - Provider
  - Search by program type:
    - Online courses
    - Conferences
    - Individual Seminars

    or series of linked seminars



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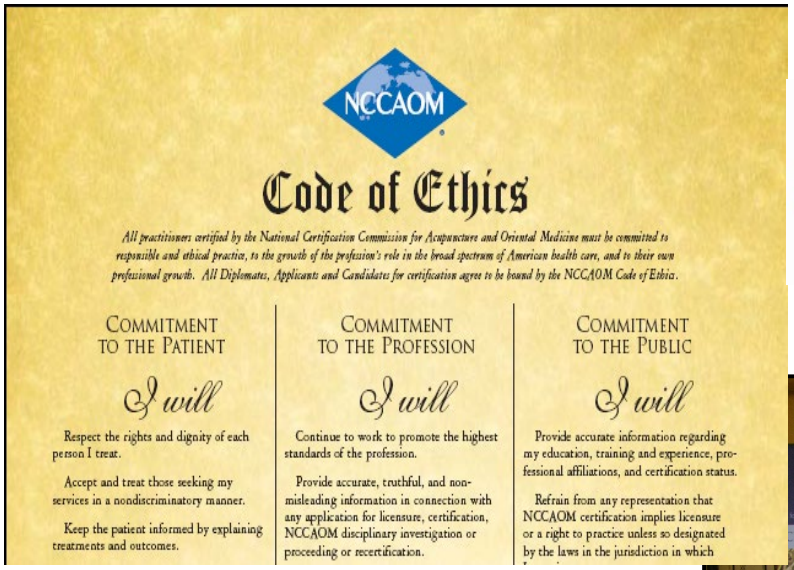
NCCAOM Resources:
Promoting the Profession



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Conclusion and Next Steps to Strengthen NCCAOM's Ties State Regulatory Boards

- NCCAOM has many resources available to Diplomates - How can NCCAOM assist State Regulatory Board staff?
- Every year NCCAOM conducts a survey of the state licensing boards – it is imperative that this survey is completed so that we can better serve the profession.
- NCCAOM would like to work with State Regulatory staff to ensure that the state's requirements for licensure is up-to-date with current NCCAOM requirements.
- NCCAOM is also interested in receiving contact information on licensees to potentially participate in the next NCCAOM JTA.

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Questions and Answers

Thank you!

We welcome your questions and your feedback

You can comment or ask a question by clicking the ***"RAISE HAND"*** button

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