



## Reinstatement to Active Status from Terminated Status

### **Question1: Who should apply for active NCCAOM certification using the new Route: NCCAOM<sup>®</sup> Reinstatement to Active Diplomate Certification Status?**

**Answer:** Any individual who did not return to active status within three years of their certification expiration date is considered terminated and is not certified as an NCCAOM Diplomate. The NCCAOM now offers a new Route: NCCAOM<sup>®</sup> Reinstatement to Active Diplomate Certification Status for former Diplomates who are now terminated, so that they can return to active status and become NCCAOM certified once again. This new route allows former Diplomates to become active Diplomates without having to begin again; meeting all eligibility requirements for initial certification.

### **Q2: What does it mean to be in terminated status?**

**A:** NCCAOM certification is deemed terminated if the certification has expired and been in lapsed status for more than three (3) years. An individual in lapsed or terminated status is no longer certified by the NCCAOM and cannot use the benefits of NCCAOM certification, such as claiming NCCAOM certification to move to a state that requires active certification.

### **Q3: What is the difference between Reinstatement to Active Diplomate Certification Status and Recertification?**

**A:** Recertification is the period in which a certification can be renewed through submission of Professional Development Activity points. NCCAOM certification is valid for four years. Former Diplomates who fail to go through the recertification process at the time their certification expires are placed into lapsed status. A former Diplomate in lapsed status then has three additional years in which to file for active certification through the recertification process.

Once the three year lapsed period has been extinguished, the certification is in terminated status and thus, must be returned to active status through the new Reinstatement Route.

### **Q4: What is the benefit of becoming an active NCCAOM Diplomate again?**

**A:** There are numerous benefits of active NCCAOM certification. To learn more please go to <http://academyofdiplomates.org/academy-benefits/> .

### **Q5: Is an examination required as part of the new reinstatement route?**

**A:** Yes, among other certification requirements, **one** of the four following reinstatement examinations must be passed with a score of 70 or above:



- a. A former Diplomate of Acupuncture, who is terminated, must pass the *NCCAOM<sup>®</sup> Acupuncture Reinstatement Examination*.
- b. A former Diplomate of Chinese Herbology, who is terminated, must pass the *NCCAOM<sup>®</sup> Chinese Herbology Reinstatement Examination*.
- c. A former Diplomate of Oriental Medicine, who is terminated, must pass the *NCCAOM<sup>®</sup> Oriental Medicine Reinstatement Examination*.
- d. A former Diplomate of Acupuncture and Chinese Herbology, who is terminated and wishes to reinstate both certifications simultaneously, must pass the *NCCAOM<sup>®</sup> Acupuncture and Chinese Herbology Reinstatement Examination (this is one exam)*.

**Q6: How much is the application fee for Reinstatement to Active Diplomate Certification Status?**

**A:** The application fee is only \$100.00.

**Q7: How long do I have to complete the reinstatement certification process?**

**A:** The *NCCAOM<sup>®</sup> Application for Reinstatement to Active Status* is valid for two years. All the requirements for reinstatement to “active” Diplomate status must be completed within two years of the application date or the candidate must reapply.

**Q8: How much does it cost to register and take the NCCAOM<sup>®</sup> Reinstatement Exams?**

**A:** *NCCAOM<sup>®</sup> Acupuncture Reinstatement Examination* \$450  
*NCCAOM<sup>®</sup> Chinese Herbology Reinstatement Examination* \$450  
*NCCAOM<sup>®</sup> Oriental Medicine Reinstatement Examination* \$550  
*NCCAOM<sup>®</sup> Acupuncture and Chinese Herbology Reinstatement Examination (AC & CH certification reinstated simultaneously, this is one exam)* \$550

**Q9: Where do I need to go to take the NCCAOM<sup>®</sup> Reinstatement Examinations and when are they being offered?**

**A:** The *NCCAOM<sup>®</sup> Reinstatement Examinations* are administered for two, two-week administration periods during each full calendar year, at more than 200 [Pearson VUE Professional Test sites](#) across North America and abroad.

Candidates for the *NCCAOM<sup>®</sup> Reinstatement Examinations* are required to follow all the same exam testing and administration requirements as a candidate testing for certification with the NCCAOM for the first time (i.e. all Pearson VUE test center requirements, 45 day wait period when an exam is failed, Three Time Rule, Five



Time Rule). These requirements can be found in the 2013 [NCCAOM® Reinstatement To Active Diplomate Status Handbook](#) located on the NCCAOM website [www.nccaom.org](http://www.nccaom.org) in the Diplomates Recourses section.

**Q10: How can I study for the NCCAOM® Reinstatement Examination?**

**A:** The NCCAOM Reinstatement Examination content outlines can be found on the NCCAOM website at [www.nccaom.org](http://www.nccaom.org) by going to the Diplomate Resources section page and click on “Diplomate Forms”.

**Q11: When will the pass/fail results of the NCCAOM® Reinstatement Exams be available?**

**A:** The official NCCAOM® Reinstatement Examination score results (pass/fail) are released and mailed via United States Postal Service first-class mail approximately 45 business days after completion of the examination(s) administration window. Once the scores have been released, applicants can also access their exam results online when logging into their account from the homepage of the NCCAOM website at [www.nccaom.org](http://www.nccaom.org). After logging into your online account click on “My Account”, “Update My Profile” and then click on the “Exams” tab.

**Q12: What will I need to do if I fail the examination?**

**A:** Any candidate who receives a failed score notification will have to retake the examination. The official fail notification mailed via United States Postal Service first-class mail will include a diagnostic summary of your performance on the examination, which you can use as a guide for your future study efforts.

**Q13: Why is a background check required as part of the certification reinstatement process?**

**A:** Due to the increasing number of ethical breaches and violations, many professions are adopting best practices to ensure proper background screening of individuals, especially those entering the healthcare field. Also, states are increasingly relying on background checks to ensure that healthcare practitioners are free from ethical and criminal violations that have the potential to cause harm on its citizens. NCCAOM is always striving to strengthen its ties and cooperation with state and regulatory agencies by providing uniform services that fulfill NCCAOM’s mission of rigorous enforcement of ethical standards. All applicants must also sign a NCCAOM® Reinstatement Attestation as part of the application process.

**Q14: How much is the background check going to cost?**

**A:** Applicants will pay \$24.70 directly to the vendor [First Point](#), who will process the background check. To access the site go to [www.nccaomscreener.com](http://www.nccaomscreener.com).



**Q15: What type of background check will be conducted?**

**A:** The background check will only consist of an applicant's criminal history and healthcare licensure status. The search will include information obtained from State regulatory officials and public records. Consumer credit reports and other financial information will **not** be obtained.

**Q16: What if there is a positive finding on my background check, will I be able to apply to reinstate my certification?**

**A:** A positive finding on the background report will not cause an application to be automatically denied. It is also important to note that applicants will have sufficient time to respond to any positive findings in the background report and supply documentation of resolution. NCCAOM's staff, who monitor and work with the Professional Ethics and Disciplinary Committee, will contact all applicants whose background check result is a positive finding.

**Q17: What is the purpose of the NCCAOM<sup>®</sup> Reinstatement Attestation and how is it different from the Statement of Acknowledgement on the application form?**

**A:** The NCCAOM<sup>®</sup> Reinstatement Attestation is a legally binding document the applicant signs to testify that they are free and clear of all criminal and ethical violations that would affect their ability to practice as an acupuncture or Oriental medicine healthcare professional.

The Statement of Acknowledgement, which is also a legal statement on all NCCAOM application forms, has the applicant certify that the information provided on the application and in any supporting documents is accurate, true and correct, it confirms the applicant is aware that they must abide by the [NCCAOM<sup>®</sup> Code of Ethics and Grounds for Professional Discipline](#) and maintain confidentiality concerning all NCCAOM examination content.

**Q18: Both my Acupuncture and Chinese Herbology certifications with the NCCAOM have terminated. May I take the NCCAOM<sup>®</sup> Reinstatement Examination for Oriental Medicine Certification and convert my Acupuncture (AC) and Chinese Herbology (CH) to Oriental Medicine certification?**

**A:** No, individuals terminated in AC and CH may not convert to Oriental Medicine certification through the Reinstatement Route. The Acupuncture and Chinese Herbology certifications must be in active status to apply for Conversion to Oriental Medicine certification.

**Q19: One of the reinstatement certification requirements is demonstration of clean needle technique. Can I use the CNT certificate already on file with the NCCAOM from when I originally certified?**



**A:** The NCCAOM approved CNT course on file with the NCCAOM, completed at the time of initial certification, is valid and can be used to demonstrate CNT competency as long as it was completed within six years of the reinstatement application date. If the NCCAOM approved CNT course for initial certification has not been successfully completed within the six-year period, the applicant has a choice to take the full-day, in-person CCAOM CNT course, which will fulfill both the CNT and safety/ethics reinstatement certification requirements; or, if the applicant has held a continuous license to practice within the last three years, then the applicant may complete the CCAOM CNT CEU review course, which is an NCCAOM approved PDA course. The CCAOM CNT CEU review course will not fulfill the safety or ethics reinstatement certification requirement.

**Q20: Do I need to hold an active license to practice or be actively practicing to apply for reinstatement of my NCCAOM certification?**

**A:** No, an applicant does not have to be practicing or hold an active license to apply for NCCAOM® Reinstatement to Active Diplomate Certification Status.

**Q21: What if I live in a state that does not require CEUs for re-licensure; can I still apply for reinstatement of my NCCAOM certification?**

**A:** Yes, because all applicants for NCCAOM® Reinstatement to Active Diplomate Certification Status must take and pass an NCCAOM® Reinstatement Exam to demonstrate core competency has been maintained.

**Q22: What happens to my original NCCAOM certification date?**

**A:** Termination of NCCAOM certification is a break in the former Diplomate's history with the NCCAOM. Reinstatement of NCCAOM certification begins a new relationship with the NCCAOM; therefore, the reinstated Diplomate's original certification date will be reset to the current date on which he/she completes all reinstatement certification requirements and certification is awarded.

**Q23: After I reinstate my NCCAOM certification, if I complete the NCCAOM® Exam Results and Certification Verification form, what information is sent to the state?**

**A:** The state will be notified of your current certification status, your original certification date and your reinstatement certification date along with the exam results achieved at the time of initial certification with the NCCAOM. The reinstatement examination pass/fail score is only for NCCAOM internal use in determining core competency maintenance for reinstatement of certification.

**Q24: If I move to a state that requires an NCCAOM certification examination that was not required at the time I achieved initial certification, can I use the results from the NCCAOM® Reinstatement Examination to get licensed in the state?**



**A:** The reinstatement examination pass/fail score is only for NCCAOM internal use in determining core competency maintenance for reinstatement of certification. Each state in the U.S. has its own regulation requirements for a license to practice. Successfully passing an *NCCAOM® Reinstatement Examination* or reinstatement of NCCAOM active certification does not guarantee state licensure requirements have been met nor does it guarantee a license to practice in any state in the United States. A state may require passing the NCCAOM Acupuncture with Point Location, Biomedicine, Foundations of Oriental Medicine or Chinese Herbology modular examination as a requirement to achieve a state license to practice. It is recommended to contact the state directly regarding requirements for licensure.