

NCCAOM[®] Update to the CCAOM

November 2014

**Provided by Kory Ward-Cook, Ph.D., CAE
NCCAOM CEO**





Introduction

This report serves as an update to the CCAOM on the numerous activities of the NCCAOM® to include governance, certification, testing, and PDA services; legislative activities; and NCCAOM policy updates during the months of April 2014 and October 2014.

NCCAOM Governance Update

The NCCAOM Board of Commissioners appointed its 2015 officers at its October Board of Commissioners meeting. The NCCAOM is pleased to announce the slate of officers remains unchanged;

Eugene London, DAOM, Dipl. Ac. (NCCAOM)®, L.Ac.- Chair

David Canzone, DOM, Dipl. Ac. (NCCAOM)®, Dipl. NBO - Vice-Chair

Susan Chapman, Ph.D., R.N.- Treasurer

Jan SteGermaine, Dipl. Ac., Dipl. C.H. and Dipl. ABT (NCCAOM)® - Secretary

Zonglan Xu, MD (China), Dipl. OM (NCCAOM)®, L.Ac.- Member-at-Large

Two new public member Commissioners were appointed and will begin their first term at the February 2015 meeting. Steven Kazmierczak, Ph.D., DABCC, Professor of Pathology: Director of Chemistry and Toxicology at Oregon Health & Science University and Carl Jew, M.A., A.B., Dean, Civic Center and John Adams Center at City College of San Francisco.

Strategic Planning

The NCCAOM is finalizing its strategic plan which will identify the organization's role in the AOM Community over the next three to five years. As a part of this fundamental ongoing governance process, the NCCAOM has updated its mission and vision statements as stated below:



NCCAOM Mission Statement:

To establish and promote national standards of competence by utilizing evidence based credentialing to assure the safety and well-being of the public and advance the professional practice of acupuncture and Oriental medicine.

NCCAOM Vision Statement:

Acupuncture and Oriental medicine provided by NCCAOM credentialed practitioners will be integral to healthcare and accessible to all members of the public.

Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Update

The NCCAOM has received confirmation from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) that the proposal (comment) to provide “Acupuncturists” with a unique Standard Occupational Classification Code that was submitted to the BLS in response to the May 22, 2014 Federal Register notice announcing the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) revision for 2018 has been assigned docket number 1-0144. NCCAOM has also been notified by the BLS staff that the SOC Policy Committee will review each comment and make recommendations to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) over the next few months. OMB intends to release a second Federal Register notice in 2015 with the proposed 2018 SOC structure. The NCCAOM will be posting further updates as we received them in this timeline. Please watch for ongoing updated information posted to our [NCCAOM BLS Information Page](#).

The NCCAOM would like to thank the CCAOM and other AOM organizational leaders for their letters of their support and for providing the NCCAOM Research Committee feedback regarding the proposal. The letters of support were included and submitted to the BLS in the comment packet.

NCCAOM Certification Policies Update

Ongoing Review of Eligibility Routes for Certification and Licensure: U.S. Formal Education Route for Graduates and Pre-graduates: The NCCAOM has clarified the specific language regarding the need for a final Master’s level graduation degree/diploma/certificate which is expected to be achieved by applicants when applying for initial NCCAOM certification, as stated below. This updated language will be posted in the 2015 *NCCAOM® Certification Handbook*.



Candidates applying under the Route, Formal Education: Graduate or Pre-graduate from an ACAOM Accredited/Candidate Program - United States Applicants must have graduated from an ACAOM accredited or candidate program with a Masters level degree, diploma or certificate, to be awarded initial certification with the NCCAOM, as follows:

- ***Certification in Acupuncture:*** *Master's degree program in Acupuncture or Oriental Medicine*
- ***Certification in Oriental Medicine:*** *Master's degree program in Oriental Medicine*
- ***Certification in Chinese Herbology:*** *Master's degree program in Acupuncture and completion of a post graduate Chinese Herbal certificate program.*

NCCAOM CNT Policy Update: All applicants for initial certification must complete an in-person, practical CNT course offered by the CCAOM. The NCCAOM Eligibility and Recertification Committee members have voiced the importance of remaining current in the area of blood borne pathogens in order to meet NCCAOM's mission to protect the public. Applicants for initial certification or reinstatement of certification who have already completed and documented the in-person practical CNT course offered by the CCAOM more than six years ago, and have held a continuous license to practice acupuncture within the last three years, must complete an NCCAOM approved blood borne pathogen review course, which meets [OSHA Standards](#) that was taken within four years of the application date.

Modification to the Eligibility Route: Conversion from Acupuncture and/or Chinese Herbology to Oriental Medicine Certification: Current Diplomates of Acupuncture and/or Chinese Herbology will now have a much simpler and less expensive process when applying for a new certification in Oriental Medicine (OM) in 2015. The application fee will be reduced to \$100.00; the CNT review course is no longer required for conversion; and PDA points will only need to be submitted if the Diplomat is applying for the new OM certification at the end of their recertification cycle. Diplomates acquiring the new OM certification will maintain their same recertification cycle and expiration date as the AC certification currently held by the Diplomat. Also, new in 2015, a Diplomat of Acupuncture and Chinese Herbology must now complete 60 hours (currently 45 hours) of biomedicine continuing education or coursework, or pass the Biomedicine exam. This change will eliminate the discrepancy between the 450 biomedicine coursework hours required for a Master's degree in Acupuncture as compared to the 510 biomedicine coursework hours required



for a Master's degree in Oriental Medicine. All of the changes to this Route will be detailed in the 2015 *NCCAOM® Certification Handbook*.



Eligibility to Test: The NCCAOM will be contacting each institution with an acupuncture or Oriental medicine program accredited or in candidacy with ACAOM to request a review and feedback on a proposal to modify the pre-graduation exam authorization policy. We thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Simplification of the NCCAOM Recertification Program: The NCCAOM Recertification application may now be completed online through the [NCCAOM Online Portal](#). NCCAOM has made a concerted effort to listen to the comments provided from the ongoing *Diplomate Satisfaction Survey* and the 2013 *Job Analysis Survey* and has simplified the recertification program. More information will be provided in the *NCCAOM® Recertification Handbook*, which will explain how to complete the process. Additionally, the NCCAOM understands that many practitioners turn to reference books or journals to research a particular problem so that they can make evidence-based treatment decisions; therefore, the NCCAOM Recertification Committee wants to reinforce its commitment to assist and encourage Diplomates to keep up with best practices within the discipline of AOM and to encourage research literacy in an economical manner. The Board of Commissioners has therefore approved a new **Professional Enhancement category of Self-Directed Learning**. We will be eager to receive your feedback once you have had a chance to review the 2015 *NCCAOM® Recertification Handbook* which will be posted by year-end.

2014 Exam Administration and Development

NCCAOM® Foreign Language Exams (FLEs): The September 15 – 27, 2014 NCCAOM® Foreign Language Examination administration was canceled due to a lack of registrants. The next administration is scheduled for:

- December 8-20, 2014

The NCCAOM reduced the FLE examination registration fee to \$400 and yet, at this point in time it is doubtful that the minimum number of Korean language exam registrants will be met prior to the



registration deadline. All candidates registered to test in a foreign language in 2014 will be notified no later than November 15, 2014 of the examination delivery status. A full refund will be issued, by Pearson VUE to the credit card on file, for any FLE registration fee if the NCCAOM cancels the exam administration.

The NCCAOM encourages all schools that have Korean or Chinese speaking students and are interested in taking the NCCAOM exams in Korean or Chinese in December to contact the NCCAOM certification services staff as soon as possible. In addition, the NCCAOM will be administering the FLEs in 2015, if there is a demand for these exams.

NCCAOM® Reinstatement Exams: Candidates for [Reinstatement of NCCAOM Certification](#) have two years to pass the appropriate reinstatement exam and meet all certification requirements to achieve active certification status. The final 2014 NCCAOM® Reinstatement Examination administration period is scheduled for:

- December 8-20, 2014

NCCAOM Certification and Examination Metrics

The most current mid-year (January 1 – June 30, 2014) [NCCAOM® Comprehensive Examination Statistics Report](#) is, for the first time, broken down by certification route. The data shows all testers educated in a formal education program in the United States, testers educated in a formal education program outside the United States and testers educated through apprenticeship training. In the future, as the metrics are collected in this format, the NCCAOM® Comprehensive Examination Statistics Report will again document multi-year data. For previous full-year reports click on the [NCCAOM® Comprehensive Examination Statistics Report fly-out](#).



Program Performance Reports:

The NCCAOM and ACAOM have met to discuss how the Program Performance Reports can be modified to deliver the information which will better meet the needs of both ACAOM and the individual schools. Program Performance Reports beginning with 2014 end of the year data will include the name of the student, the exam date, exam type, exam score, and if available, the



enrollment date and graduation date. The annual Program Performance Reports will continue to be emailed to the schools and in addition as of 2014 a copy will be sent directly to ACAOM. The NCCAOM will continue to offer the individual student report, whereby you can receive a full history of exam data for a specific student. If you have any questions regarding these service changes please contact Irene Basore, Director of Operations at ilbasore@thenccaom.org.

Products and Services from the NCCAOM



NCCAOM Association Management System: The NCCAOM staff is excited to announce that on November 5, 2014 the NCCAOM launched a new association management software platform, offering a more streamlined and user-friendly online profile portal and application process for all NCCAOM applicants, candidates and Diplomates. Users will be able to apply for certification easily using a new online tool as well as renew their existing NCCAOM certifications online. Individuals will have the ability to enter and track PDA and continuing education courses that they take throughout their certification cycle. The NCCAOM will offer information about the new AMS system in upcoming webinars.



NCCAOM Diplomate Webinar: The NCCAOM will sponsor the Diplomate Webinar on **November 20, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. ET**. NCCAOM Diplomates who attend the webinar will obtain 2 PDA points towards their recertification. Please note that all of NCCAOM's completed webinars are posted on [the NCCAOM website](#).

AOM Day 2014: This year, many strategies were employed to emphasize and encourage AOM practitioners to showcase their skills and compassion through AOM Day activities. The [AOM Day website](#) was updated and refreshed to reflect this initiative. Some of the new features for 2014 were:

- Updated [free marketing tools](#) were offered for the benefit of practitioners through a collaboration with the Council of State Associations;



- A Patient Testimonials page was added to the website to add place emphasis on the efficacy of the AOM through the eye of the patients.
- Directory of AOM Day events was enhanced to include a search by city or zip code feature; a special section was devoted to AOM schools and state associations to promote their AOM Day events;
- The [AOM Day Facebook page](#) was also launched this year to keep everyone updated on AOM Day activities and news.
- A video contest “Because It Works” and a strong press campaign were launched.

A brand new initiative - the video contest “*Because it Works!*” was launched to further enhance AOM Day celebrations and highlight the many benefits of acupuncture and Oriental medicine. Out of the five semi-finalists chosen online by popular vote, the [top three contestants](#) were chosen by a panel of judges and announced on October 24th (AOM Day). Our sincere thanks go to all of those practitioners who submitted entries and cast votes in this year’s contest. We hope to see even more activity at next year’s “Because It Works” video contest campaign!

NCCAOM AOM Resource Center: In an effort to continue to educate and promote the public and other healthcare practitioners about the efficacy and benefits of AOM, the NCCAOM has created a unique resource center on the [NCCAOM website](#) with news articles and research/study articles categorized by health conditions/ailments in chronological order. All of these publications have previously been published in other media publications or websites. The NCCAOM staff 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. For more information, please contact [Olga Cox](#)

NCCAOM[®] Diplomat E-News You Can Use: To keep up-to-date with NCCAOM’s activities you can find the most recent issue and prior issues of the [NCCAOM[®] Diplomat E-News You Can Use](#) on our website News and Events page.

NCCAOM Conference Exhibits:

Below is a list of the events in 2014 where the NCCAOM staff has hosted an exhibit booth since the last CCAOM Update Report:

- Oregon Association of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine; June 1, 2014 in Portland, OR



- Michigan Association of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine Association in June 6-8, 2014
- FSOMA Annual Conference; August 15-17, 2014 in Tampa, FL
- World Federation for Acupuncture Societies , October 31 - November, 1-2, 2014 in Houston, TX
- Pacific Symposium; November 6-9, 2014 in Mission Beach (San Diego), CA



The NCCAOM staff may be available to provide a presentation on the certification process to your students at your school when in your area. The NCCAOM also offers the prospect of an interactive (online) meeting between NCCAOM staff and your students where they can ask questions directly for an immediate response. Please contact your school liaison Sheila Lusia at schools@thenccaom.org if you have an interest in either of these opportunities.

Professional Development Activity (PDA) Department



Please contact Jennifer Nemeth at jnemeth@thenccaom.org if your school's continuing education department wishes to provide PDA approved courses for Diplomates.