

NCCAOM Activities Report:
CCAOM Meeting
October Update 2018



*Public Protection Through
Quality Credentials*



by Dr. Kory Ward-Cook
CEO NCCAOM

Introduction

This report serves as an update to the CCAOM members on activities of the NCCAOM®, as requested, to include governance, certification policy changes, examination development and administration activities and as well as advocacy and public education campaign efforts. This update includes activities affecting applicants, candidates for certification and licensure, and NCCAOM Diplomates. The 2019 Exam Administration Schedule for all NCCAOM exams is also provided.

The [NCCAOM Mission Statement](#) is to assure the safety and well-being of the public and advance the professional practice of acupuncture and Oriental medicine by establishing and promoting national evidence-based standards of competence and credentialing.

NCCAOM Governance

The NCCAOM Board of Commissioners (BOC) appointed for 2018 and 2019 are:

- Afua Bromley, MSOM, Dipl. Ac. (NCCAOM)® - Chair
- Zonglan Xu, MD(China), Dipl. O.M. (NCCAOM)® - Vice Chair
- Steve Kazmierczak, Ph.D., DABCC – Treasurer – **Public Member**
- Carl Jew, M.A., A.B. (NCCAOM)® - Secretary – **Public Member**
- Daniel Jiao, DAOM, Dipl. OM (NCCAOM)® LAc.
- Eugene London, DAOM, Dipl. Ac. (NCCAOM)® LAc.
- Iman Majd, MD, MS, EAMP, Dip. ABFM, ABoIM, Dipl. Ac. (NCCAOM)®
- Matthew Stanley - **Public Member**
- Janet Zand, OMD, Dipl. Ac., CH, OM (NCCAOM)® LAc.
- Kory Ward-Cook, Ph.D., CAE - CEO

Bios and photos of all current NCCAOM Board of Commissioners members can be found on the NCCAOM website: [NCCAOM Governance: NCCAOM Board of Commissioners](#).

NCCAOM Job Analysis & New Examination Blueprints in 2020

The updated exam blueprints for Foundations of Oriental Medicine, Biomedicine, Acupuncture with Point Location, and Chinese Herbology are now accessible from the [Examination Preparation page](#)

[on the NCCAOM website](#). All NCCAOM exams administered beginning January 1, 2020, will adhere to the new blueprints, based on the outcomes of the [2017 JA Analysis Survey](#).

The 2018 Expanded Content Outlines, published in English, Chinese and Korean can be accessed via our website and will still be in effect for 2019. All English exams will be offered as year-round adaptive tests; the Chinese and Korean exams will be a fixed, length linear exams equated to the adaptive exams and will also be still available to candidates taking an exams into 2019. To help avoid confusion, the [2018 and 2019](#) exam blue prints are accessible from a different webpage than the [2020 exam blueprints](#).

Also available with the [2020 exam blueprints](#) is the [NCCAOM 2017 Job Analysis Executive Summary](#). A full JA Survey Report to the Profession of the results will be available on the NCCAOM website by March 2019.

Public Relations and Education Campaign

The NCCAOM has trademarked the term **NCCAOM National Board-Certified Acupuncturist™**. We encourage all NCCAOM certified acupuncturist Diplomates to use this term on their business cards, social media sites and business websites.

Below are the new NCCAOM Service Marks. Beginning mid-November, we encourage all NCCAOM Diplomates to use the following NCCAOM credentials and Service Marks:

Oriental Medicine Dipl. O.M. (NCCAOM)®



Acupuncture Dipl. Ac. (NCCAOM)®



Chinese Herbology Dipl. CH (NCCAOM)®



Asian Bodywork Therapy Dipl. ABT (NCCAOM)[®]



Diplomates should read the [NCCAOM Trade Marks and Certification Marks Policy](#) to ensure they understand the credential and service mark's proper use. If you need information on accessing and using these service marks, please contact Olga Cox, Director of Customer Relations and Marketing at ocox@thenccaom.org.

The NCCAOM has continued the organization's Public Education Campaign to promote NCCAOM National Board-Certified Acupuncturist™ through multiple press releases and articles that were covered by media outlets through the months of June through September. This *Public Education Campaign* page by [Clicking here](#). The campaign provides a monthly recap of media and social media activities featuring NCCAOM and Diplomates. NCCAOM is working with Echo Media Group on day-to-day public education and media activities.

In addition, the NCCAOM has developed [the Opioid Crisis page](#) devoted to providing information and news generated from our Diplomates and the profession regarding acupuncture services benefiting opioid addiction and pain management. This page highlights important NCCAOM ongoing projects benefiting the profession. If your school is sponsoring an event or have newsworthy items to promote, please contact PublicRelations@thenccaom.org.

Chinese Herbal Compounding Safety Certificate



The NCCAOM Chinese Herbal Compounding and Dispensing Safety Taskforce (CHCS COQ) Taskforce delivered an informational, free, NCCAOM – sponsored webinar which covered the need for the voluntary COQ, and acquainted webinar participants with the objectives and the overall content of the COQ. **To view the webinar held on June 19, 2018 [click here](#).** The NCCAOM is currently in the process of reviewing applications from SMEs who will assist in developing the CHCS COQ content. For more information please contact Jennifer Nemeth at jnemeth@thenccaom.org.

The article *Safety First: Patient Protection and the Practice of Herbal Medicine*, written by A. Bromley, Chair, NCCAOM Board of Commissioners published in the June 2018 [Acupuncture Today](#), provides more information on the need for this COQ.

The NCCAOM is in the process of reviewing the applications to serve as Subject Matter Experts for the content development and assessment components of this new Chinese Herbal Compounding Safety Certificate of Qualification (CH CS COQ).

New AMS System



On November 12, 2018 the NCCAOM will launch a new Association Management System (AMS) to streamline its certification and recertification processes. **Please note:** the NCCAOM certification database migration will occur between November 1 – 9, 2018. The Applications and exam approvals will not be processed during the migration period. The phones will be closed beginning the evening of Friday, November 2 through Sunday, November 11 and will reopen during normal business hours on Monday, November 12, 2018. **All** current applications will be accessible online as the NCCAOM moves to a fully paperless environment on November 12th.

One of the major benefits of the new system is a separate online portal for each ACAOM accredited school officials, CCAOM, and our international education transcript authentication and assessment company, [International Consultants of Delaware \(ICD\)](#). Each of these primary stakeholders to the certification process will be able to upload and attach student transcripts and CNT certificate forms directly into a student's profile, which will save trees, time and money and considerably shortens all NCCAOM candidate approval processes – down from a turnaround of 4 – 6 weeks to 1 – 2 business days.

NCCAOM staff are in the process of creating a short instructional video for all users.

Please remember to answer the NCCAOM survey sent out several weeks ago on who should be assigned the online portal login-in privileges!

NCCAOM® Official Practice Tests™

The Official NCCAOM® Examination Prep Center launched, May 2018!!

The NCCAOM is very pleased that many individuals are finding and using the Official NCCAOM® Examination Prep Center, a one-stop hub to help students and candidates prepare for the NCCAOM exams, to include The Official NCCAOM Practice Tests™ for all NCCAOM exams. The **Official NCCAOM Practice Tests™** include a score and a diagnostic report to help students and examination candidates prepare for the NCCAOM National Board Exams. Most importantly, these practice tests are structured and administered similarly to the actual NCCAOM certification exams. Candidates and students can test their readiness for taking the NCCAOM exams by experiencing a simulated format and flow of the NCCAOM exams using the practice tests available from the NCCAOM, to include questions developed using the same methodology as the exam itself.

These practice tests are also open to NCCAOM Diplomates who can earn 5 PDA points for successfully passing one practice test per recertification cycle. To access the NCCAOM Official Practice Tests, please follow the link: <http://www.nccaom.org/nccaom-exam-preparation-center/>. Do not hesitate to contact Olga Cox at ocox@thennccaom.org if you have any questions about this new product.

Soon we will be reaching out to the college officials to learn about your interest in having a group rate package set up for your students. Stay tuned!!

NCCAOM® Exam Administration



English Language Certification Exams Administration for 2019 and 2020:

The NCCAOM Customer Relations Team and senior staff have fielded questions regarding the administrations change and has compiled this set of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs): [NCCAOM Response to all Stakeholders Regarding 2019 and 2020 Exam Administrations](#), which is posted on the NCCAOM website.

The FAQ provides:

1. More in-depth information to candidates and stakeholders about the 2019 exam administrations and what is planned for 2020 related to the updated content outlines;
2. Rationale why the NCCAOM must switch the examinations to linear format and why NCCAOM must temporarily suspend adaptive testing at the commencement of these administrations.

Below is a table showing the exam administration dates for 2019 and 2020.

Please note: The exam registration fee for all English language and foreign language exams will increase from \$300 to \$310 per exam for any 2019 exam date selected during the registration process with Pearson VUE. In other words, anyone testing on or after January 1, 2019. This is first exam module increase since NCCAOM began administering computer-based examinations in 2006.

English Language Exams Administration Periods: 2019 and 2020

2019 Testing Window	English Language Adaptive Exams Offered	Registration Open	Registration Ends
January 1, 2019 Through October 31, 2019	Foundations of Oriental Medicine (FOM) Acupuncture with Point Location (ACPL)	NOW	October 30, 2019
	Biomedicine (BIO)		
	Chinese Herbology (CH)		

2020 Testing Window	English Language Linear Exams Offered	Registration Begins	Registration Ends
January 13 – February 1, 2020 New Content Outlines g	FOM	November 1, 2019	January 31, 2020
	ACPL		
	BIO		
	CH		
April 27 – May 16, 2020	FOM	February 3, 2020	May 15, 2010
	ACPL		
	BIO		
	CH		

The NCCAOM English language adaptive certification exams will resume during the second half of 2020. This actual date will be posted by early 2019.

Foreign Language Exams (FLEs): Currently there are two planned testing windows for the FLEs in 2019. Please note that the Korean language exam administrations have earlier registration deadlines than the Chinese language exams, and the associated administration will be canceled if too few candidates register for a Korean language exam by the registration deadline.

2019 Testing Window	Languages Offered	Registration Begins	Registration Ends
March 14-16, 2019	Chinese	November 1, 2018	March 15, 2019
August 5-17, 2019	Chinese	November 1, 2018	August 16, 2019
	Korean		May 31, 2019
November 4-16, 2019	Chinese	November 1, 2018	November 15, 2019
	Chinese		September 15, 2019

Reinstatement Exams: The NCCAOM offers Reinstatement exams to former Diplomates who have let their certification in Acupuncture, Chinese Herbology, or Oriental Medicine terminate. For information on applying for certification through the Reinstatement Route, see the NCCAOM website for information on the [Reinstatement Process for Terminated Constituents](#). See below for the 2019 Reinstatement Exam testing windows and exam registration dates.

2019 Testing Window	Exams Offered	Registration Begins	Registration Ends
March 14-16, 2019	All Reinstatement Exams	November 1, 2018	March 15, 2019
August 5-17, 2019	All Reinstatement Exams	November 1, 2018	August 16, 2019
November 4-16, 2019	All Reinstatement Exams	November 1, 2018	November 15, 2019

NCCAOM Certification and Examination Metrics

Annual and semi-annual NCCAOM® *Comprehensive Examination Statistics Comparison Reports*, broken down by certification exam, are maintained on the NCCAOM website in an area specifically designed for [School Officials](#). The 2018 NCCAOM® Program Performance Reports are available on the NCCAOM website School Officials page in the 'Helpful Resources' box on the right of this page. You may use the 2018 NCCAOM PPR order form to order prior year annual data for your school if needed (please indicate which prior year is being ordered). The [2018 January 1 – June 30](#) comparison data is now posted; also the most recent annual report is for [2017](#).

NCCAOM Certification and Recertification Policies Update

New Policy, Process and Fees! The NCCAOM Recertification application fee increased on



November 1, 2018 to \$290 per certification and the lapsed fee will be \$50.00 per year going forward. Here is the pricing for Exam and Certification Verification to States:

Certified Diplomate - \$45

Applicant with open non-expired application on file - \$45

Diplomate in Inactive Status - \$75

Lapsed Diplomate (Lapsed Year1, Lapsed Year2, Lapsed Year3) -\$100

Terminated Diplomate - \$150

Applicant with expired application - \$150

Effective **November 1**, 2018, the NCCAOM is only authorizing new applicants to test, whose school submits a **graduation** transcript and the CCAOM submits a completed CNT certificate via the new certification database online portals. As mentioned in our FAQ cited, earlier in this report, this new process will reduce time and paperwork for both the school officials and the NCCAOM certification processing team and it will save money for the students. More importantly, all routes of certification eligibility will be comparable. By requiring all certification documents prior to testing candidates will be able to become certified rapidly once they have passed their required certification exams; however, please note that **students may apply up to 60 days in advance of completing their academic program** so that their online application can be set up and their application fee can be applied; after the application is submitted and paid the school officials will be electronically notified to upload the student transcript as soon as it is available.

The NCCAOM School Webinar was held on July 18, 2018 and the NCCAOM Student Webinar was held on July 24, 2018. You may view all NCCAOM informational webinars on the [NCCAOM website webinars page](#). Details about this process and the new portal are explained in this webinar. For more information, please see the updated NCCAOM Frequently Asked Questions: [Elimination of the NCCAOM Pre-Graduation Route](#).



The NCCAOM application submission and certification processing will be 100% paperless as of November 12, 2018 when the new Association Management System (AMS) is launched on November 12 of 2018. The NCCAOM has embraced a paperless environment in an effort to increase processing efficiencies, reduce risk to our applicants and Diplomates, and help the environment. Paper applications will no longer be accepted or processed after October 31, 2018. With the launch of our new AMS All Diplomates recertifying will be able to upload, at any time during their recertification cycle, their PDA certificates and recertification supporting documentation in the new AMS system directly into their online portal.



NEW Route 8: Reciprocal Certification for California Licensed Acupuncturists!

Beginning February 1, 2019, the NCCAOM will open [Route 8: Reciprocal Certification for California Licensed Acupuncturists](#). This route was created for two purposes:

1. In anticipation of the CAB using the NCCAOM exams in the future, this route will allow those active CA licensed acupuncturists, who were licensed before January 1, 2017 to become NCCAOM certified in Oriental Medicine. This will create greater portability among the 24 states that require NCCAOM certification for licensure; and
2. This route creates more opportunities for those licensed acupuncturists in CA who do not currently have NCCAOM National Board Certification to become eligible for employment and referrals from the VA system, as well as potentially the Department of Defense (DOD), most hospital in-patient and out-patient centers, as well as other private practice settings such as *Modern Acupuncture*, certain cruise lines.

This will be a time-limited route that will **close on December 31, 2020**. Applicants who meet all requirements of Route 8 will be granted NCCAOM Oriental Medicine certification without taking the NCCAOM examinations. Eligibility requirements to apply to become NCCAOM certified in Oriental Medicine through Route 8 are as follows.

The applicant must:

- Hold an active California Acupuncture license that is in good standing and was obtained on or before December 31, 2016 ([Note: NCCAOM is checking in with our accreditation organization, NCCA, to approve the extension of this cut-off date to accommodate more recently CA licensed applicants, especially since NCCAOM will not be implementing new content outlines until 2020](#)).
- Submit an NCCAOM Route 8 application and pay the application fee;
- Submit verification of a completed Council of Colleges of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (CCAOM) *Clean Needle Technique (CNT) Course*. Applicants who completed the CNT course more than six years ago must also complete the CCAOM *CNT and Blood Borne Pathogen Review Course* and submit verification to the NCCAOM.

This route was created primarily for more CA licensed acupuncturists to be eligible for many more job opportunities – VA hospitals, Department of Defense, private and not-for-profit hospitals, and other practice setting that NCCAOM receives verification for active Diplomate status by employers.

[Frequently asked questions and answers](#) about the new, time-limited Route 8 are available on the NCCAOM website. Any questions or comments should be directed to Dr. Kory Ward-Cook, Chief Executive Officer of the NCCAOM, at executiveoffices@thenccaom.org.

PDA Program Update

The PDA Providers will be joining the NCCAOM Diplomates and candidates in transitioning to their own platform on the NCCAOM website on November 12, 2018. An educational webinar is planned to assist PDA Providers in moving to the website-managed course application process.

School Liaison Contact Information

The NCCAOM encourages students, faculty, and school liaisons to visit the NCCAOM website and stay current with NCCAOM policy and procedure changes. Jennifer Nemeth, Continuing Education Director is the contact person for school officials. Dr. Kory Ward-Cook, CEO, and Jennifer have visited schools, working to provide seminars for students concerning the NCCAOM certification process. The NCCAOM encourages all school officials to contact Jennifer if they have had a change in contact information for administrators or school liaison staff to ensure

accurate and timely communication. Jennifer can be reached by email at jnemeth@thenccaom.org or school liaison@thenccaom.org.

NCCAOM's New Brand Coming Soon



As announced in the [September 2018 NCCAOM Diplomate E-News You Can Use](#) the NCCAOM will launch an organizational rebranding that includes a fresh look for the NCCAOM logo, certification service marks, and website.

As mentioned earlier in this report, the new NCCAOM service marks were updated with our new brand.

NCCAOM Fact Sheets

All [NCCAOM Fact Sheets](#) are periodically updated, and can be found in the Resource Center Home Page subsection – [Press Center](#) - Internal News page. In September of 2018 the [NCCAOM Information for California Licensed Acupuncturists Fact Sheet](#) was updated. For questions or more information on the NCCAOM Fact Sheets, Press Releases or Informational website pages, please contact Olga Cox at ocox@thenccaom.org.



Remnder that all hyperlinks in this document will not be valid once the new NCCAOM website is launched in the latter part of November 2018. Please continue to check our website for future updates.

If you have specific questions about this Update, please contact Dr. Ward-Cook via email at executiveoffices@thenccaom.org.