

NCCAOM[®] Activity Report for the CCAOM Meeting

Fall Update 2019

NCCAOM

PUBLIC PROTECTION THROUGH QUALITY CREDENTIALS



**NCCAOM Board of Commissioners
October 2019**

Introduction

This report serves as an update to CCAOM members on activities of the NCCAOM®, to include governance, certification policy changes, exam administration activities, as well as advocacy and public education campaign efforts and other current activities affecting applicants, Diplomates and the AOM profession. The first half of the 2020 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 Update

The NCCAOM Board of Commissioners (BOC) appointed its 2020 officers at the October 2019 meeting. The NCCAOM is pleased to announce the officers, who will begin their term at the March 2020 BOC meeting:



- Iman Majd, MD, MS, EAMP, Dip. ABFM, ABolM, Dipl. Ac. (NCCAOM)® - Chair
- Daniel Jiao, DAOM, Dipl. OM (NCCAOM)® LAc. – Vice Chair
- Matthew Stanley, CAE - Secretary - **Public Member**
- Steve Kazmierczak, Ph.D., DABCC – Treasurer – **Public Member**
- Afua Bromley, MSOM, Dipl. Ac. (NCCAOM)® - Member At Large
- Mina M. Larson, M.S., MBA, CAE - CEO

Two new Commissioner Professional members were appointed and will begin their first term at the March 2020 meeting.

- Dr. Jayne Tsuchiyama, DAOM, Dipl. O.M. (NCCAOM)®, D. Ac. Dr. Tsuchiyama was in marketing prior to entering the field of Eastern medicine. She realized there was a need for patient knowledge and empowerment, along with self-healing strategies, like Asian medicine. Dr. Tsuchiyama is currently a participating researcher in an acupuncture clinical trial with the MD Anderson Cancer Center, Wake Forest University School of Medicine and the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine.

Dr. Tsuchiyama is a pioneer of integrated medicine in Hawaii. She founded and runs the acupuncture programs in the cancer and women's centers at the largest hospital in the Pacific Basin; she has been appointed by two governors to the state Board of Acupuncture, where she was Chairman for 8 years.

- Nicholas (Nick) Dougherty, DAOM, Dipl. Ac. (NCCAOM)[®], L.Ac. has been a licensed acupuncturist and NCCAOM Diplomate since 2013. Dr. Dougherty served as a Board Director of the Minnesota Acupuncture Association in 2015 and currently serves as President. He has worked in private practice settings as well as one of the leading integrative medicine clinics in the United States, the Penny George Institute for Health and Healing. Through his work, he has garnered a unique view on the integrative approach to healthcare. Dr. Dougherty graduated from the first doctorate program for TCM in Minnesota with a focus on integrative psychology and reproductive health.

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

The NCCAOM is continuously searching for and recruiting dedicated volunteers. To request an application go to the [Volunteers section of the NCCAOM website](#). Questions, contact Melissa Dow, Coordinator of Volunteer and Executive Services at the [NCCAOM Executive Office](#).

NEW NCCAOM CEO

The NCCAOM Board of Commissioners is pleased to announce Mina M. Larson, M.S., MBA, CAE, NCCAOM's former Deputy Executive Director, as its new CEO, effective July 22, 2019. Please visit the [NCCAOM website](#) for Larson's bio and additional information.

NCCAOM Launches a New Time-Limited Reinstatement Route to Active Certification

The NCCAOM announces the implementation of a new Time-limited Reinstatement Route on December 10, 2019. The Route will be available for eighteen (18) months. Anyone who was once certified by the

NCCAOM and allowed their certification to terminate is eligible to apply. A Reinstatement Taskforce worked together with input from the National Commission of Certifying Agencies (NCCA) to create this Route in order for NCCAOM former Diplomates to be able to return to active status demonstrating competency maintenance by submitting PDAs/CEUs coursework in the Core Competency categories.

A. State Licensure:

Document maintenance of a continuous active state license(s) that is free and clear of any and all disciplinary actions. This includes all state(s) where a license was or is currently held. Applicants with disciplinary actions may be considered and will follow the NCCAOM's current [NCCAOM® Code of Ethics, NCCAOM® Grounds for Professional Discipline, and NCCAOM® Procedures for Upholding Professional Conduct](#).

B. CPR:

Completion of a CPR certificate within the four (4) years prior to the application date.

C. Safety:

Completion of a 2-hour, [NCCAOM PDA approved safety \(SA\) course](#) (2 PDA/CEU points) within the four (4) years prior to the application date.

D. Ethics:

Completion of a 2-hour, [NCCAOM PDA approved ethics \(ET\) course](#) (2 PDA/CEU points) within the four (4) years prior to the application date.

E. Clean Needle Technique (CNT):

Documentation of the face-to-face Council of Colleges of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (CCAOM) Clean Needle Technique (CNT) certificate of completion on file with the NCCAOM, and completion of the [CCAOM online CNT Review Course: Acupuncture Safety](#) (4 PDA/CEU points) within the four (4) years prior to the application date (not required for Chinese Herbology Certification Reinstatement).

F. Background Screening:

Complete a background screening through NCCAOM's background screening vendor, [Private Eyes](#). The minimal fee \$30 is paid directly to the vendor.

G. Core Competency Maintenance:

Documentation of [PDAs/CEUs in the Core Competency categories](#) are required based on each individual's [certification expiration date](#). All PDA/CEUs may be earned as coursework completed in a classroom or e-learning environment and may be earned at any point of time during the individual's terminated period.

An individual whose certification has been terminated more than twelve (12) years will have to report a [specific number of PDA/CEUs required in each core domain area](#).

H. Reinstatement Application:

Submission of the NCCAOM® Reinstatement to Active Certification Status Application. The application will be available online as of December 10, 2019 and is valid for six (6) months from the application submission date. If requirements for certification are not met within 6-months of application submission, the applicant must reapply.

The NCCAOM staff have created a [Reinstatement requirement calculator](#), available on the NCCAOM website, to help calculate the number of points and fees for each applicant. It is recommended that applicants gather the PDA/CEU certificates and upload them prior to submission of the application to meet the 6-month application timeline. For more information a [NCCAOM® Time-limited Reinstatement Route to Active Certification Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#) has been developed to assist in this process.

NEW! Reinstatement Exams Will Be Retired as of December 31, 2019: Individuals currently with an open NCCAOM Reinstatement Application, who choose to take the NCCAOM Reinstatement exams to return to active certification status now have two opportunities to test prior to December 31, 2019. The NCCAOM has added a Reinstatement Exam Administration period:

2019 Testing Window	Exams Offered	Registration Begins	Registration Ends
November 4-16, 2019	All Reinstatement Exams	NOW	November 15, 2019
ADDED NEW: December 9 - 12, 2019	All Reinstatement Exams	NOW	December 20, 2019

All former Diplomates with current open valid NCCAOM Reinstatement Applications, where the individual has not met all reinstatement requirements prior to the implementation of the new Time-limited Reinstatement Route on December 10, 2019 will be contacted by the NCCAOM. Many of the eligibility and documentation requirements are the same and will transfer to the new Reinstatement Application. If the Reinstatement Exam has not been passed to demonstrate competency maintenance, as of December 31, 2019 submission of all required PDA/CEU points under the new Route must be submitted. Current Reinstatement applicants who choose to take the exam in November or December 2019 and pass the

exam will be certified after meeting all requirements under the original reinstatement route.

Advocacy Highlights



NCCAOM Board of Commissioners and staff have partnered with a professional government relations and advocacy team at [SmithBucklin](#) to advance the recognition and career advancement of NCCAOM National Board-Certified Acupuncturists™ nationally. The NCCAOM Government Relations (GR) staff develop, manage, and implement the NCCAOM's advocacy strategies, including legislative and regulatory monitoring, congressional and agency lobbying when appropriate, strategic planning, industry relationship management, strategic alliances, membership communication, and grassroots advocacy. The GR team leads the NCCAOM Advocacy Committee's efforts, serves as liaison for all advocacy-related matters to the NCCAOM Board of Directors, and is the primary contact for NCCAOM Diplomates' advocacy-related questions. For details on NCCAOM advocacy activities [click here](#).

For more information on NCCAOM advocacy activities, visit the NCCAOM [Advocacy page](#) on our newly branded website where you can find [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. The [NCCAOM Advocacy Toolkit](#) is also available to download as the toolkit is the go-to resource for stakeholders who want to serve as advocates in their areas for the profession and NCCAOM certification, and will continue to grow and evolve as NCCAOM highlights new areas of focus for advocacy. The documents in this toolkit provide curated, targeted information about acupuncture, the NCCAOM and our priorities and goals for expanding access and awareness and serving our Diplomates. If you have any questions about the NCCAOM Advocacy campaign, please contact advocacy@thenccaom.org.


The Public Relations and Education Campaign

[The NCCAOM Press Center](#) is devoted to providing information to reporters and other

interested parties for access to all information about the NCCAOM in one place. Information about our public education campaign and recent NCCAOM in the news can be found [here](#).

The NCCAOM continues to update the [AOM News and Research Center](#) which can be found in the Press Center at <http://www.nccaom.org/resource-center/press/>. News articles and research/ study articles in this section are sorted by health condition in chronological order and have previously been published in other media publications or websites. We 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.

Click [here](#) to view the 2018 NCCAOM Annual Report. Also available is the [NCCAOM Diplomate E-News You can use: Summer 2019](#). For questions or more information on the NCCAOM Fact Sheets, Press Releases or Informational website pages, please contact Olga Cox, Chief Operations Officer, at ocox@thnccaom.org. [Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine \(AOM\) Day](#) is observed annually on October 24 since its initial commemoration on October 24, 2002. It is part of an effort designed to increase public awareness of the progress, promise, and benefits of acupuncture and Oriental medicine. For the first time in 2019 the NCCAOM held an Instagram Photo Contest. The winner with the highest engagement score won a free NCCAOM recertification voucher.

NCCAOM Social Media Sites: The NCCAOM continues to promote its Diplomates and the AOM profession via its [Facebook Page](#) and [LinkedIn Page](#) as well as on [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#), and our new [Instagram site](#). On these pages stakeholders can find events, news, research studies and activities related to AOM. The most viewed, liked  and shared posts are links to articles on the use of AOM in treating illness and improving and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. School officials are encouraged to submit content of interest to be considered for social media posting to Olga Cox at ocox@thnccaom.org.

If your school is sponsoring an event or have newsworthy item(s) to promote, please contact PublicRelations@thnccaom.org.

Professional Development (PDA) Program



New Phase Two of the NCCAOM® PDA Provider Management System began in September 2019 where an online distribution system for the NCCAOM® PDA Certificate of Completion was implemented. PDA Providers create a PDA Certificate template and email the certificate to course attendees directly from their online account. The PDA and IT Departments are working with Providers during the current pilot period that will continue until early 2020.

We are excited to announce Phase Three of the automated PDA project that is slated for implementation in early 2020. In this final phase, PDA/CEU points for completing an NCCAOM PDA approved course will be automatically recorded on the Diplomate's recertification transcript. Diplomates will no longer have to enter the PDA course information and upload a copy of the PDA certificate! Moving to a recertification educational transcript will save time and improve customer service for all constituents.

Coming Soon

coming soon

- NCCAOM Chinese Herbal Compounding and Dispensing Safety Certificate of Qualification (CHCS COQ) (1st quarter 2020) – This certificate of qualification is a voluntary assessment-based certificate for acupuncturists and herbalists wanting to document knowledge of Chinese herbal compounding in compliance with FDA standards for supplements. This COQ has an emphasis on safety as it relates to Chinese herbal formula preparations – compounding and dispensing and is based upon the American Herbal Products Association (AHPA) White Paper – *Good Herbal Compounding and Dispensing Practices*. The program is open to all licensed acupuncturists and herbalists who compound herbal formulas in their office or retail dispensaries. For more information please watch the [Chinese Herbal Compounding and Safety \(CHCS\) COQ webinar](#) or contact Jennifer Nemeth at jnemeth@thenccaom.org.
- NCCAOM Career Center (2nd half of 2020) – This area of the website will allow NCCAOM Diplomates and third-party employers to advertise job openings. Certified Diplomates will also be able to apply for open positions with one click by submitting their resume and cover letter.

School Officials Information

The NCCAOM website includes a page specifically [for school officials](#), under the *Resources* tab, where you can find: [Important Policy Changes](#), [Exam Administration Announcements](#), the newly posted 2019 Mid-Year [Exam Statistics Comparison Report](#) along with the new [NCCAOM Program Performance Report order form](#) hot link, which is included at the end of the first paragraph in the Welcome School Officials message.

To protect NCCAOM stakeholders, meet PCI compliance standards, and maintain our paperless environment the NCCAOM will no longer accept credit card payment information on the order form. To order email the completed form to info@thnccaom.org with a carbon copy to accounting@thnccaom.org. When received, an invoice will be created in your secure NCCAOM online portal (an account will be created for you as needed), at which time you will be notified to enter your portal and apply the credit card payment. Your request will begin processing once payment is complete. Orders for the 2019 full-year Program Performance Reports are due no later than March 15, 2020 at the present year rate of \$125.00. Orders received after March 15, 2020 will be charged the prior year rate of \$200.00. Questions? Email: info@thnccaom.org or Call: 888-381-1140. We encourage you to look at the tiles under the *School Administrator's Toolbox*.

NCCAOM® Official Practice Tests™

The Official NCCAOM® Examination Prep Center

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 development of the actual certification exams. NCCAOM staff is in the process of updating the practice tests items to the 2020 Content Outline.

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@thnccaom.org.

NCCAOM® Exam Administration



English Language Certification Exams Administration for 2019 and 2020:

The NCCAOM compiles and maintains [NCCAOM® Examination Frequently Asked Questions](#), which is posted on the NCCAOM website. Additional details can be found on the [2020 Exam Administration Updates](#) page of our website. The [2020 Content Outlines](#), based on the 2017 Job Analysis will be effective starting January 2020.

The English Language Exams Administration for 2019 is Now Closed.

The NCCAOM English language exam administrations for 2019 ended on October 31, 2019. No English language exams will be offered during the months of November and December 2019. Anyone who canceled exam dates in 2019 must reschedule and sit for the exam during the 2020 exam administration periods. Applicants can begin registering with [Pearson VUE](#) for the 2020 English language exam administration as of November 7, 2019.

The English Language Exam Administration for 2020

2020 Testing Window	English Language Linear Exams Offered	Registration Begins	Registration Ends
January 13 – February 1, 2020 New Content Outlines go into effect	FOM	November 7, 2019	January 31, 2020
	ACPL		
	BIO		
	CH		
April 27 – May 16, 2020	FOM	February 3, 2020	May 15, 2020
	ACPL		
	BIO		
	CH		

The NCCAOM English language adaptive certification exams will resume during the second half of 2020. This actual date will be posted in the first quarter of 2020.

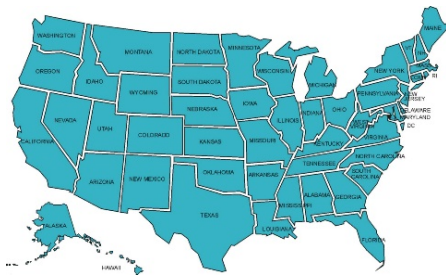
Foreign Language Exams (FLEs): Currently there is one remaining planned testing window for the FLEs in 2019.

2019 Testing Window	Languages Offered	Registration Begins	Registration Ends
November 4-16, 2019	Chinese	NOW	November 15, 2019
	Korean		September 15, 2019

NCCAOM® Job Analysis Report

The complete NCCAOM 2017 Job Analysis with all of the complete findings is now available on the [NCCAOM website](#). The [2020 Exam Content outlines](#) are based on this particular content validation study.

State Government Relations Update



It has been an unusually busy summer and an expectedly busy fall for state legislative activities. The NCCAOM also noticed that there has been a major concern in some states that are experiencing physical therapists, chiropractors and nurses trying to enact abbreviated acupuncture programs sometimes called “TCM acupuncture” but with very limited hours. This has happened in Pennsylvania, Connecticut and Washington states. The NCCAOM has supported these states with letters and support attesting to the educational and training standards of NCCAOM National Certified Acupuncturists. This is a serious concern for our profession as it is no longer called dry needling or limited acupuncture, they are using the same terminology as our content outlines in acupuncture and in one case, they mentioned adherence to NCCAOM Code of Ethics. This is something that is at the core of our mission – preventing those who are not qualified to practice acupuncture and misrepresent themselves or the public, especially with the use of our name. The *NCCAOM Dry Needling Position Statement and Fact Sheet* ([available on the NCCAOM website](#)). Please visit the

NCCAOM Route 8: Route to Certification for California Licensed Acupuncturists



Available Until December 31, 2020 - Route 8: Route to Certification for California Licensed Acupuncturists!

The NCCAOM [Route to Certification for California Licensed Acupuncturists](#) was created for two purposes:

1. In anticipation of the California Acupuncture Board (CAB) using the NCCAOM exams in the future, this route will allow those active CA licensed acupuncturists, who were licensed no later than January 1, 2019 to become NCCAOM certified in Oriental Medicine; 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 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.

[Frequently asked questions and answers](#) about the new Route 8 are available on the NCCAOM website and was last updated March 29, 2019. This route may or may not allow successful CA Licensed Acupuncturists applicants who become NCCAOM Diplomates to apply for licensure in other states. Licensure requirements vary from state to state; therefore, it is important to contact the state licensing board before applying for licensure. Some states require that candidates for state licensure send their NCCAOM exam results, while other states only require demonstration of NCCAOM Certification; therefore, the NCCAOM cannot guarantee portability to practice in any other state for individuals who achieve NCCAOM certification through the California Licensed Acupuncturists Route. For details on each state's

regulatory requirements for licensure as an acupuncturist, please see the interactive [NCCAOM State Regulatory Map](#).

NCCAOM Policies Update Reminder



Reminder! Applying for NCCAOM certification: - 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; then the school officials may be notified by the student to upload their transcript through the schools secure online portal as soon as it is available. Also, applicants may apply to take the CCAOM CNT course as soon as they have their NCCAOM ID number. Don't forget to fill out the form to have CCAOM upload the CNT to the applicant's NCCAOM online portal once the course is completed successfully. For more information, please see the NCCAOM Frequently Asked Questions: [Elimination of the NCCAOM Pre-Graduation Route](#).

A major benefit of moving to the new procedures and system is the elimination of paper flow/handling and the reduction in processing time; both to receive an authorization to test and becoming certified. Each process has been reduced from 4-6 weeks to 1-2 weeks a total time savings from 8-12 weeks to 2 - 4 weeks.

School Liaison Update and Contact Information

The NCCAOM visited multiple ACAOM-accredited schools to assist students in preparing to apply for NCCAOM certification, enter the AOM profession and for the NCCAOM to build stronger relationships with the school administration and staff. At each location, presentations were given and an open Q & A session followed. Time was also given to assist faculty and Diplomates with certification and recertification requirements. The following schools were visited:

- FSOMA event, Students and Administrators from multiple Florida schools, August 2019.
- Midwest College of Oriental Medicine, Evanston, IL and Racine, WI campuses on August 16, 2019
- Pacific College of Oriental Medicine, NY on September 14, 2019.
- Pacific College of Oriental Medicine, Chicago on September 16, 2019

The NCCAOM intends to continue visits to accredited schools in 2020. Visit the NCCAOM website to stay current with NCCAOM policy and procedure changes. Jennifer Nemeth, Continuing Education Director is the contact person for school officials. 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 schoolliaison@thenccaom.org.

If you have specific questions about this Update, please contact Mina Larson via email at mlarson@thenccaom.org.

Thank you for your support!