

NCCAOM[®] Activity Report for the CCAHM Meeting

Fall Update 2021



PUBLIC PROTECTION THROUGH QUALITY CREDENTIALS

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Introduction

This report serves as an update to CCAHM 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 other stakeholders.

The NCCAOM has a new Mission Statement adopted by the Board of Commissioners at their Summer meeting: To assure the safety and well-being of the public and to advance and advocate for the professional practice of NCCAOM Board-Certified Acupuncturists™ by promoting established national standards focused on competence and credentialing.



You can view the NCCAOM's new [Vision and Core Values Statements](#) on our website, as well as the new [NCCAOM Diversity Equity and Inclusion \(DEI\) Statement](#) under [Latest News](#).

Professional Development (PDA) Program



We are excited to announce the creation of the Recertification / PDA Taskforce in 2022 to address the new clinical skill acquisition course type and other PDA recommendations. Other PDA initiatives are the PDA Newsletter with features Providers, Provider and PDA activity digital badges, and the *NCCAOM® PDA Highlights*. Visit the reorganized [PDA Publications section](#) of the NCCAOM website.

NCCAOM Chinese Herbal Compounding and Safety (CHCS) Certificate of Qualification (COQ)



The CHCS COQ is a **voluntary** online course consisting of 10 assessment-based modules. The program provides FDA Good Manufacturing (GMP) Guidelines, review of FDA regulations, as well as many helpful resources. The CHCS COQ is open to all licensed acupuncturists and herbalists, students, lab technicians, herb pharmacy compounders and any other office staff who compound herbal formulas in their office or retail dispensaries. For successfully completing this herbal program, enrollees receive ten (10) PDA points and the *NCCAOM® CHCS COQ Badge* for displaying their additional education in Chinese herbal safety. For more information please watch the [Chinese Herbal Compounding and Safety \(CHCS\) COQ webinar](#) or sign-up today at <https://www.nccaom.org/education/professional-development/>.

NCCAOM® Exam Administration



English Language Certification Exams Administration:

The NCCAOM compiles and maintains [NCCAOM® Examination Frequently Asked Questions](#), which is posted on the NCCAOM website. The NCCAOM offers our certification exams in all Pearson VUE locations as many testing centers are now opened at 100% capacity. Please note all exam candidates will have to follow protocol and precautions based on COVID-19 state laws concerning safety measures. Candidates are

encouraged to check with the Pearson VUE testing center that they have scheduled their exams for specific requirements.

All exam candidates are encouraged to review the [2020 Exam Content Outlines](#) (based on the 2017 Job Analysis). Recently, the NCCAOM published an article titled [“Creating National Exam Content: The Importance of a Job Analysis Study”](#) in Acupuncture Today that explains the job analysis and exam development process for a national certification exam.

Foreign Language Exams (FLEs) Canceled for 2021 and 2022:

The NCCAOM has canceled the administration of the 2021 and 2022 Chinese and Korean language exams due to the low number of candidates interested in taking these exams, which affects the psychometric reliability of the exams.

The Official NCCAOM® Exam Prep Center

The NCCAOM offers the [Official NCCAOM® Examination Prep Center](#), the one-stop hub to help students and candidates prepare for the NCCAOM exams. The [Official NCCAOM Practice Tests™ for all NCCAOM exams](#) have now been upgraded on a new learning management platform which provides:

- A new updated, user friendly interface for multiple choice questions
- The opportunity to purchase a package of practice test attempts that can be used to take different Practice Test modules as well as to take the same Practice Test module more than one time.

This will allow candidates to access more questions to better prepare for the Board exams. Please refer to the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) and [Step-by-Step instructions](#) for details.

Practice Tests Packages

New pricing allows a user to pay for a number of Practice Test ATTEMPTS. The Practice Test module (ACPL, FOM, BIO, CH)* is chosen by the user at the start of each test attempt.

Package	Price
1 Practice Test attempt	\$70
2 Practice Test attempts	\$133
3 Practice Test attempts	\$190
4 Practice Test attempts	\$239

Faculty Members: It is recommended that ACAHM Approved Schools Faculty members sign up for these practice tests to familiarize themselves with the process.

Diplomates: 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@thenccaom.org.

NCCAOM Policies Update Reminder



As the world is preparing to get back to normal, the NCCAOM COVID-19 temporary exception for all students graduating from an ACAHM accredited school will expire on December 31, 2021. The NCCAOM will continue to work with school administrators to provide the **temporary exception** for all students graduating on or before December 31, 2021. It is important to note that candidates do not become NCCAOM-certified until the school has submitted their official graduation transcript along with successfully passing of all required NCCAOM exams and submitting the CNT certification from CCAHM. Between now and the end of the year, the NCCAOM will only work directly with school administrators and will not grant this exception directly to students. Once again, this temporary exception ends as of **December 31, 2021**.

NCCAOM's Exam Retake Policy

The new [NCCAOM Exam Retake Policy](#) implemented In December 2020, which eliminated the 5-Time Rule that limits a candidate to 5 lifetime attempts for each exam module allowing candidates to take the NCCAOM exams more than five times based on meeting criteria has been well received. As of July, sixteen individuals had requested additional attempts and thirteen were approved. The criteria for eligibility is based on the length of time since the last failed attempt and the number of failed attempts. For more information email examattempts@thenccaom.org.

NCCAOM Route 8: Route to Certification for California Licensed Acupuncturists



Application submission for Route 8 ended on September 30, 2021.

Candidates who have already submitted their application on or before September 30, 2021 have until December 31, 2021 to complete all certification requirements. Applicants who have met all requirements of Route 8 will be granted NCCAOM Oriental Medicine certification. As of December 31, 2021, any open applications, where certification requirements have not been met, will expire and all application fees are forfeited.

NCCAOM Diplomates are 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/clinical settings, and certain cruise lines.

[Frequently asked questions and answers](#) about Route 8 are available on the NCCAOM website and was last updated December 29, 2020. As state licensing requirements differ, 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](#) for all state licensing requirements.

The NCCAOM has also created an [informational page for all California Stakeholders](#) to include schools and students as the state explores options of using NCCAOM exams as a pre-requisite for state licensure.

NCCAOM Time-Limited Reinstatement Route to Active Certification

The [NCCAOM Time-limited Reinstatement Route](#) will end on **June 30, 2022**. 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 NCCAOM's accreditor, 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 through demonstrating competency maintenance by submitting PDAs/CEUs coursework in the [Core Competency categories](#).

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. Continuing education credit obtained for state licensing can be submitted for this route. For more information a *NCCAOM® Time-limited Reinstatement Route to Active Certification* [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#) has been developed to assist in this process.

School Resources and Public Education Campaign

All school liaisons and officials are encouraged to visit the [School Official Resources](#) page to stay updated on information regarding certification, exam services and procedures and latest news on policies that affect schools and students.

[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.

[NCCAOM / ASA Town Hall webinars](#) replays can be found under the Resources tab on the NCCAOM website. The NCCAOM in partnership with the ASA has worked to bring relevant information concerning COVID and other current topics to our stakeholders.

[NCCAOM Social Media Sites](#) The NCCAOM continues to promote its Diplomates and the acupuncture 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 Acupuncture Medicine. The most viewed, liked (👍) and shared posts are links to articles on the use of Acupuncture Medicine 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@thenccaom.org.

[Acupuncture & Herbal Medicine Day](#) Acupuncture & Herbal Medicine 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 medicine. This year the NCCAOM partnered with ASA to celebrate [AHM Day](#). A Photo Contest was launched in tandem with the ASA for contestants to showcase their practice and bring attention to some current world issues through visual media. The webinar, ***“Evolving Stronger Together”, What’s in a Name? The Journey to Naming Our Profession***” was presented by F. Afua Bromley (NCCAOM) and LiMing Tseng (ASA) and was very well received. You can see a replay of the webinar by clicking [here](#).

Advocacy Highlights



The NCCAOM continues to partner with American Society of Acupuncturists and our professional government relations and advocacy team to advance the recognition and career advancement of NCCAOM National Board-Certified Acupuncturists™ nationally. The GR team serves as liaison for all advocacy-related matters for the NCCAOM. The most recent Advocacy update concerned the inclusion of acupuncturists by CMS. This topic will continue to be a primary focus of the GR team. The GR team is also the primary contact for NCCAOM Diplomates’ advocacy-related questions. For details on NCCAOM advocacy activities [click here](#).

The NCCAOM and ASA worked with Representative Judy Chu’s (D-CA) office to introduce, H.R. 4803, the Acupuncture for our Seniors Act, a stand-alone bill that would recognize qualified acupuncturists as Medicare providers on July 29, 2021. A [press release](#) and [HR 4803 factsheet](#) was sent out to introduce the bill. The NCCAOM and the ASA have hosted two town halls to provide an overview of H.R. 4803 and guidance on ways individuals can get involved as advocates on September 30: General Acupuncturist Profession and October 14: ATCMA and Chinese national and state associations. The NCCAOM and ASA have also conducted several grass roots advocacy training sessions to help with the launch of promoting the bill. We would like to work with the schools to set up a webinar with students.

NCCAOM School Liaison

School administrators are reminded they can order the 2020 year-end, 2021 mid-year and year-end PPR reports by submitting the form that is available at <https://www.nccaom.org/education/schools/>.

Students were able to register and attend the NCCAOM Student Webinar on November 4. The webinar can be accessed here: [NCCAOM Student Webinars | NCCAOM](#)



If you have questions concerning the PPR reports please send an email to info@thenccaom.org and Samantha Geer will be pleased to assist you.

Olga Cox, Chief Operating Officer and Jennifer Nemeth, Director of Education & Professional Development have developed a “*Steps to NCCAOM® Certification*” teleconference for graduating students. The presentation assists graduating students in how to create an online NCCAOM account, submit an application, and tips to sit for the exams. Working with the students has been very successful and rewarding. If a school is interested in working with NCCAOM to provide the teleconference for their graduating class, please contact Jennifer at jnemeth@thenccaom.org.

Thank you for your support!