



National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM®) Academy of Diplomates Fact Sheet:

Introduction:

The [National Certification Commission of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine](#) (NCCAOM®) launched *the NCCAOM® Academy of Diplomates (Academy)*, a separate chartered division within the NCCAOM to increase promotion and advancement of NCCAOM Diplomates and the NCCAOM credentials.

This chartered division was created in direct response to the NCCAOM Board of Commissioners' request for the national certification organization to expand its services to meet the duality of its mission: [to assure the safety and well-being of the public and to advance the professional practice of acupuncture and Oriental medicine by establishing and promoting national evidence-based standards of competence and credentialing.](#)

The NCCAOM has developed a list of frequently asked questions, below, to provide our Diplomates with information about the Academy and to answer any commonly asked questions. We will be updating this document periodically with the latest information about the Academy. Questions or comments related to this fact sheet should be directed to academy@thenccaom.org.

Q. (1). Why did NCCAOM create the NCCAOM® Academy of Diplomates?

A. (1). A monumental milestone for the NCCAOM occurred in February 2016 when the NCCAOM Board of Commissioners approved a motion to create a separate chartered division titled "NCCAOM® Academy of Diplomates" whose purpose is to further focus on supporting Diplomates in their careers as defined by the NCCAOM Strategic Plan. Having a dedicated division within the organization that has a separate governance structure will facilitate more development of products and services for NCCAOM Diplomates and the Academy will be better positioned to provide greater promotion and advocacy for its Diplomate members. The



impetus for creating this separate chartered division of the NCCAOM was to consolidate all of the organization's membership-type services available to Diplomates and keep the certification services separate.

Q2. Who can be a member of the NCCAOM Academy of Diplomates?

A. (2) All active NCCAOM Diplomates in good standing are automatically enrolled as a member of the NCCAOM Academy of Diplomates. There is no membership dues or fees associated with being a member of the Academy. As long as you are an NCCAOM Diplomat, you are also a member of the Academy.

Q. (3) How do I sign up for membership of the Academy?

A. (3) As long as you are an NCCAOM Diplomat, you will automatically be enrolled as a member of the Academy. There is no need to sign up separately. The NCCAOM is planning to send membership information and benefits to Diplomates in 2018. Although there is no cost to Diplomates to be a member of the Academy, those Diplomates who do not wish to become members of the Academy can opt out of membership by informing the NCCAOM once the full roll out of the Academy occurs in 2018.

Q. (4). What are the benefits of being a member of the Academy to me as an NCCAOM Diplomat?

A (4). [You will benefit from the following publications and services and more.](#)

- **Receive** a free online subscription to *Meridians: The Journal of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine*, sponsored by the NCCAOM
- **Have access to** [free practitioner websites](#).
- **Benefit** from NCCAOM's public awareness and professional education campaigns to promote AOM and NCCAOM National Board Certified Acupuncturists™. Please see [public education campaign activities](#).

- **Benefit** from NCCAOM working with the media to establish the NCCAOM Diplomates as expert source for the profession of acupuncture and Oriental medicine. Please see [NCCAOM Academy Press Section](#).
- **Receive** resources to help Diplomates seeking to work in hospitals and integrative practice settings. Please see [hospital based practice documents](#).
- **Provide** tools for Diplomates to manage their practice more successfully. The Academy offers office brochures for patients and will be providing resources such as job board coming soon, hospital-based practice credentialing documents, etc. Please see [Academy Benefits](#).
- **Pursue** an organizational seat on American Medical Association Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) Health Care Advisory Committee
- **Help** to assure third party reimbursement for acupuncturist-provided acupuncture, by working with other integrative healthcare professions to implement the “non-discrimination” [clause 2706 of the Affordable Care Act](#).

Q. (5). If the Academy is providing these services, then what is the difference between the NCCAOM and the Academy?

A (5). As the NCCAOM began to create services and programs to advance acupuncture and Oriental medicine practitioners, programs such as a public education campaign and advocacy are more outside the realm of the core service of providing national certification for AOM. The Academy facilitates the NCCAOM to expand its offerings and to go far beyond national certification to help our Diplomates be successful in their careers as AOM practitioners. Its focus will be more on member-oriented programs and activities rather than on just national certification and to bring greater recognition to those that are certified.

Q. (6). How is the Academy be governed?

A. (6). The Academy is governed by a separate Board that has its own Charter. The current



Academy Officers elected by the NCCAOM Board are:

- Iman Majd, MD, MS, Dip. ABFM, ABoIM, Dipl. Ac. (NCCAOM)[®], DABMA, ABIHM, Certified GUNN-IMS, EAMP – Academy Chair
- Zonglan Xu, Dipl. O.M. (NCCAOM)[®], – Academy Vice Chair
- Steve Kazmierczak, Ph.D., DABCC – Academy Treasurer
- Kory Ward-Cook, Ph.D., CAE – Academy CEO

Q. (7). Is the Academy charging dues?

A. (7) No. The Academy membership model is based on a non-dues revenue model. Funding for the Academy will be based on allocating a portion of recertification fees for Academy services, programs and products. The Academy is focusing on creating meaningful products and services to benefit its Diplomates at a discounted fee.

Q. (8). Will the Academy be working with other national and state AOM associations?

A. (8). Definitely; the goal of the Academy is to work cooperatively and synergistically with all AOM professional associations so that we can achieve success for every Diplomate, and obtain greater public awareness and acceptance of acupuncturists. The Academy is working collaboratively with other associations; the Academy membership division of the NCCAOM is not a replacement for the other national organizations who represent all licensed acupuncturists. The Academy is representing NCCAOM Diplomates and the Diplomate credentials.

Q. (9). Will the Academy take on all initiatives related to AOM?

A. (9) No. The primary purpose of the Academy is to advance its Diplomates and distinguish them amongst the other practitioners, who perform some forms of acupuncture to consumers, the media, employers, insurance companies and other healthcare providers. The Academy has as its primary goal to provide resources to, and to promote NCCAOM[®] National Board Certified Acupuncturists[™] for the advancement of our Diplomates. Promotion of all licensed acupuncturists will be referred to other AOM national and state associations.



Q. (10). What is the status of the Academy's public education or PR campaign?

A. (10). The Academy is already working with EchoMedia, top [PR firm, to promote NCCAOM Diplomate](#) for distribution of press releases, media campaigns and materials for Diplomates to promote themselves. The Academy also released a new website in January 2017 for this purpose. In addition, the NCCAOM conducted and completed a needs assessment in early 2017 which revealed that a majority of our Diplomates desired a public education campaign to promote their NCCAOM National Board Certifications.

Updated August 2017