



NCCAOM® Core Competency Categories

Below are **sample** subject areas that apply to the Core Competencies that should be included in reinstatement coursework. All PDA/CEUs must be earned as coursework completed in a classroom or e-learning environment and may be received at any point of time during the individual's terminated period. Visit the [NCCAOM® PDA Search Engine](#) to find NCCAOM PDA approved courses that can be submitted for reinstatement credit.

KEY: PDA Search Engine Filters	
AOM-OM	Oriental Medicine Foundation & Theory
AOM-AC	Acupuncture
AOM-CH	Chinese Herbology
AOM-ABT	Asian Bodywork Therapy
AOM-BIO	Biomedicine/Western Medicine, and Patient Communication/Legal/Regulatory (key word use)
SA	Safety
ET	Ethics

Core Competency Category Sample Subject Areas:

- AOM-OM** Foundations of Oriental Medicine
1. Clinical examination methods
 2. Assessment, analysis, and differential diagnosis based upon acupuncture and Chinese medicine theory
 3. Treatment Principle and Strategy
 4. Lifestyle changes and self-care modalities
- AOM-AC** Acupuncture with Point Location
1. Safety and professional responsibilities
 2. Treatment plan
 3. Treatment techniques
 4. Acupuncture point location
- AOM-CH** Chinese Herbology
1. Safety and quality of Chinese herbs
 2. Treatment planning and strategies
 3. Preparation and administration of Chinese herbs and formulas



4. Patient management
5. Chinese herbal formulas

AOM-ABT Asian Bodywork Therapy

1. Asian Bodywork theory
2. Asian Bodywork evaluation and treatment
3. Asian Bodywork techniques
4. Allopathic anatomy and physiology
5. Oriental medical theory
6. Western massage

AOM-BIO: Biomedicine: The established and evolving clinically relevant western medicine and its application to AOM patient care.

1. Clinical Application of Biomedical Sciences
2. Patient History and Physical Examination
3. Clinical Assessment Process
4. Clinical Decision-Making and Standard of Care
5. Office Safety and Professional Responsibilities
6. Pharmaceuticals and supplements
7. Interpretation of clinical reports
8. Evidence-based practice to improve AOM medical treatments

Patient Communication: Effective information exchange using active listening skills and verbal/non-verbal communication.

1. Professional communication with patients, families, caregivers, and other healthcare professionals
2. Patient counseling & lifestyle intervention
3. Compassionate care for patients
4. Practice in an integrative care setting
5. Patient referral

Legal and Regulatory Compliance: Legal aspects of treatments in practice.

1. Federal
 - a. Regulatory compliance (HIPAA, CDC, OSHA, etc.)
 - b. Professional liability
 - c. Documentation and reporting requirements
2. State
 - a. Rules & Regulations
 - b. Scope of Practice
 - c. Documentation and reporting requirements



SA: Safety **Herbal Safety:** Knowledge and skills in the safe handling and use of Chinese herbs.

1. Regulatory agencies and requirements
2. Documentation and reporting
3. Equipment and calibration
4. Compounding
5. Cautions and contraindications (condition-dependent, incompatibility)
6. Labeling & dispensing (lot numbers, expiration dates and procedures)
7. Management & storage
8. Toxicity
9. Herb-drug interactions & potential adverse effects

Earn 10 PDA points and the *NCCAOM's Certificate of Qualification (COQ)* for completing the *Chinese Herbal Compounding Safety (CHCS)* online program.

Professional Safety:

1. Federal and state requirements (OSHA, CDC, JACHO, State Board of Health)
2. Pathogens
 - a. Definition-infectious agent (micro-organism) that causes disease in host
 - b. Types (viral, bacterial, prion, fungus, protozoan)
 - c. Routes or pathways of transmission (air, blood, soil)
3. Communicable and infectious diseases (Hepatitis, HIV, MRSA, Ebola, etc.)
4. Infection Control
 - a. Universal precautions
 - b. Personal protective equipment (PPE)
 - c. Sterilization techniques
 - d. Medical waste management (Bio-hazardous)
5. Clean needle protocols – see CNT Manual
6. Patient Safety
 - a. Equipment and techniques (lamps, tools [qua sha, cups], instruments)
 - b. First aid stations
 - c. Documentation and reporting
7. Facility Safety
 - a. ADA accommodations
 - b. Emergencies
 1. Plans and procedures
 2. Patient assistance
 3. Staff training
 - c. Staff competence and training



ET: Ethics **Patient Ethics**

1. Respect rights and dignity
2. Non-discrimination
3. Patient's right to treatment
4. Informed consent
5. Confidentiality – HIPPA and patient information
6. Boundaries and relationships
7. Documentation and records
8. State scope of practice
9. Patient referrals
10. Sexual contact

Professional Ethics

1. Standards of the profession
2. Hierarchical relationships
3. Accurate and truthful information
4. Change in professional status
5. Patient relationship power differential
6. National and state regulatory policies
7. Respect of practitioners of AOM and other medical professions
8. Ethical business practices

Public Ethics

1. Comply with state laws
2. Truthful information and advertising
3. Credentials and designations
4. Efficacy in treatment outcomes
5. State regulatory reporting