

## Appendix 2: American Osteopathic Association Specialty Board Certification

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In 2015, the certification process at the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) began its 76th year. The certification process continues to be an important assessment tool for enhancing the quality of health care and protecting the public. Certification demonstrates a standard of excellence for osteopathic physicians, including quality of services and commitment to lifelong learning. In addition, many health care facilities and insurers require physicians to be board certified.

Since its establishment in 1939, the Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists, the official certifying body of the AOA, has issued 43,670 certificates, including primary specialties, subspecialties, and added qualifications (family medicine only). As of December 31, 2015, a total of 27,365 osteopathic physicians were currently certified by the AOA and held a combined total of 31,887 active certifications, representing a 2.4% increase over the number of active certifications held in 2014.

In 2015, a total of 2176 certificates were awarded as follows:

- Primary specialty: 1896
- Subspecialty: 219
- Certificate of Added Qualification (family medicine only): 61

Additionally, 2001 Osteopathic Continuous Certifications (formerly referred to as recertifications) were issued in 2015. A complete list of certifications processed in 2015 and the total number of active certifications by specialty is found in the *Table*.

Since 2011, the number of active board certifications held has risen steadily (*Figure*). This number is expected to continue to rise in the future. (doi:10.7556/jaoa.2016.051)

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**Table.**  
**Certification Statistics, 2015<sup>a</sup>**

American Osteopathic Board of...	Certification Type <sup>b</sup>	Description	New Certification	OCC Completion	Total Active Certifications
Anesthesiology	Primary	Anesthesiology	33 (2)	4 (<1)	636 (2)
	Subspecialty	Pain management	5 (<1)	0	73 (<1)
	Subspecialty	Critical care	0	0	5 (<1)
Dermatology	Primary	Dermatology	42 (2)	42 (2)	522 (2)
	Subspecialty	Dermatopathology	2 (<1)	0	10 (<1)
	Subspecialty	Mohs micrographic surgery	2 (<1)	2 (<1)	28 (<1)
	Subspecialty	Pediatric dermatology	3 (<1)	0	6 (<1)
Emergency Medicine	Primary	Emergency medicine	346 (16)	152 (8)	2804 (9)
	Subspecialty	Emergency medical services	0	0	8 (<1)
	Subspecialty	Hospice and palliative medicine	0	0	2 (<1)
	Subspecialty	Medical toxicology	2 (<1)	0	12 (<1)
	Subspecialty	Sports medicine	1 (<1)	0	7 (<1)
	Subspecialty	Undersea and hyperbaric medicine	0	0	9 (<1)
Family Physicians	Primary	Family medicine/OMT <sup>c</sup>	660 (30)	1023 (51)	12,073 (38)
	CAQ	Addiction medicine <sup>d</sup>	0	0	4 (<1)
	CAQ	Adolescent and young adult medicine <sup>d</sup>	0	0	7 (<1)
	CAQ	Correctional medicine <sup>e</sup>	3 (<1)	0	3 (<1)
	CAQ	Geriatric medicine	9 (<1)	7 (<1)	305 (1)
	CAQ	Hospice and palliative medicine	28 (1)	0	223 (1)
	CAQ	Pain medicine	8 (<1)	0	21 (<1)
	CAQ	Sleep medicine	1 (<1)	0	9 (<1)
	CAQ	Sports medicine	10 (<1)	17 (1)	221 (1)
	CAQ	Undersea and hyperbaric medicine	2 (<1)	0	24 (<1)

(continued)

**Table (continued).  
Certification Statistics, 2015<sup>a</sup>**

American Osteopathic Board of...	Certification Type <sup>b</sup>	Description	New Certification	OCC Completion	Total Active Certifications
Internal Medicine	Primary	Internal medicine	488 (22)	157 (8)	4059 (13)
	Subspecialty	Adult and pediatric allergy and immunology	3 (<1)	1 (<1)	11 (<1)
	Subspecialty	Cardiac electrophysiology	0	4 (<1)	26 (<1)
	Subspecialty	Cardiology	32 (1)	21 (1)	488 (2)
	Subspecialty	Correctional medicine <sup>e</sup>	1 (<1)	0	1 (<1)
	Subspecialty	Critical care	26 (1)	9 (<1)	160 (1)
	Subspecialty	Endocrinology	5 (<1)	2 (<1)	43 (<1)
	Subspecialty	Gastroenterology	14 (1)	13 (1)	224 (1)
	Subspecialty	Geriatrics	0	9 (<1)	60 (<1)
	Subspecialty	Hematology	5 (<1)	2 (<1)	49 (<1)
	Subspecialty	Hospice and palliative medicine	18 (1)	6 (<1)	118 (<1)
	Subspecialty	Infectious diseases	3 (<1)	2 (<1)	73 (<1)
	Subspecialty	Interventional cardiology	22 (1)	14 (1)	115 (<1)
	Subspecialty	Nephrology	6 (<1)	7 (<1)	137 (<1)
	Subspecialty	Oncology	6 (<1)	7 (<1)	108 (<1)
	Subspecialty	Pain medicine	2 (<1)	0	7 (<1)
	Subspecialty	Pulmonary diseases	13 (1)	10 (<1)	214 (1)
	Subspecialty	Rheumatology	8 (<1)	1 (<1)	69 (<1)
	Subspecialty	Sleep medicine	0	5 (<1)	57 (<1)
	Subspecialty	Sports medicine	3 (<1)	0	10 (<1)
Subspecialty	Undersea and hyperbaric medicine	0	0	4 (<1)	
Neurology and Psychiatry	Primary	Neurology	16 (1)	19 (1)	252 (1)
	Primary	Psychiatry	22 (1)	18 (1)	314 (1)
	Subspecialty	Addiction medicine	0	0	3 (<1)
	Subspecialty	Child neurology	0	1 (<1)	3 (<1)
	Subspecialty	Child psychiatry	3 (<1)	2 (<1)	43 (<1)
	Subspecialty	Geriatric psychiatry	3 (<1)	0	13 (<1)
	Subspecialty	Hospice and palliative medicine	2 (<1)	0	4 (<1)
	Subspecialty	Neurophysiology	1 (<1)	2 (<1)	24 (<1)
	Subspecialty	Pain medicine	1 (<1)	0	2 (<1)
	Subspecialty	Sleep medicine	0	1 (<1)	20 (<1)
NMM	Primary	NMM/OMM <sup>f</sup>	42 (2)	119 (6)	703 (2)
	Subspecialty	Pain medicine	1 (<1)	0	12 (<1)
	Subspecialty	Sports medicine	1 (<1)	0	8 (<1)
Nuclear Medicine	Primary	Nuclear medicine <sup>d</sup>	0	2 (<1)	22 (<1)
Obstetrics and Gynecology	Primary	Obstetrics and gynecology <sup>f</sup>	41 (2)	89 (4)	1272 (4)
	Subspecialty	Female pelvic medicine/ reconstructive surgery	0	0	5 (<1)
	Subspecialty	Gynecologic oncology	0	1 (<1)	13 (<1)
	Subspecialty	Maternal and fetal medicine	1 (<1)	4 (<1)	33 (<1)
	Subspecialty	Reproductive endocrinology	0	0	13 (<1)
	Subspecialty	Sleep medicine	0	0	1 (<1)

(continued)

**Table (continued).  
Certification Statistics, 2015<sup>a</sup>**

American Osteopathic Board of...	Certification Type <sup>b</sup>	Description	New Certification	OCC Completion	Total Active Certifications
Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery	Primary	Ophthalmology	18 (1)	9 (<1)	364 (1)
	Primary	Otolaryngology and facial plastic surgery <sup>f</sup>	31 (1)	27 (1)	479 (2)
	Subspecialty	Sleep medicine	1 (<1)	1 (<1)	7 (<1)
	Subspecialty	Otolaryngic allergy	0	1 (<1)	20 (<1)
Orthopedic Surgery	Primary	Orthopedic surgery	51 (2)	67 (3)	1268 (4)
	Subspecialty	Hand surgery	0	0	55 (<1)
	Subspecialty	Undersea and hyperbaric medicine	0	0	1 (<1)
Pathology	Primary	Anatomic pathology	0	0	23 (<1)
	Primary	Anatomic pathology and laboratory medicine <sup>d</sup>	0	0	13 (<1)
	Primary	Laboratory medicine	0	0	15 (<1)
	Subspecialty	Dermatopathology	0	0	3 (<1)
	Subspecialty	Forensic pathology	0	0	4 (<1)
Pediatrics	Primary	Pediatrics	33 (2)	15 (1)	562 (2)
	Subspecialty	Adolescent medicine	0	0	1 (<1)
	Subspecialty	Hospice and palliative medicine	1 (<1)	0	3 (<1)
	Subspecialty	Neonatology	1 (<1)	1 (<1)	35 (<1)
	Subspecialty	Pediatric allergy and Immunology	0	0	6 (<1)
	Subspecialty	Pediatric endocrinology	0	0	2 (<1)
	Subspecialty	Pediatric pulmonology <sup>d</sup>	0	0	2 (<1)
	Subspecialty	Sleep medicine	0	0	1 (<1)
	Subspecialty	Sports medicine	1 (<1)	0	5 (<1)
Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation	Primary	Physical medicine and rehabilitation	26 (1)	7 (<1)	245 (1)
	Subspecialty	Hospice and palliative medicine	0	0	1 (<1)
	Subspecialty	Pain medicine	3 (<1)	0	30 (<1)
	Subspecialty	Sports medicine	1 (<1)	0	6 (<1)
Preventive Medicine	Primary	Preventive medicine-aerospace medicine	1 (<1)	3 (<1)	37 (<1)
	Primary	Preventive medicine-public health	1 (<1)	1 (<1)	36 (<1)
	Primary	Preventive-occupational-environmental medicine <sup>f</sup>	3 (<1)	4 (<1)	93 (<1)
	Subspecialty	Correctional medicine <sup>e</sup>	1 (<1)	0	1 (<1)
	Subspecialty	Occupational medicine	4 (<1)	0	49 (<1)
	Subspecialty	Sports medicine <sup>d</sup>	0	0	1 (<1)
	Subspecialty	Undersea hyperbaric medicine	0	1 (<1)	6 (<1)
Proctology	Primary	Proctology	1 (<1)	0	25 (<1)

(continued)

**Table (continued).  
Certification Statistics, 2015<sup>a</sup>**

American Osteopathic Board of...	Certification Type <sup>b</sup>	Description	New Certification	OCC Completion	Total Active Certifications
Radiology	Primary	Diagnostic radiology <sup>f</sup>	27 (1)	27 (1)	728 (2)
	Primary	Radiation oncology	0	1 (<1)	19 (<1)
	Subspecialty	Angiography and interventional radiology <sup>d</sup>	0	0	18 (<1)
	Subspecialty	Body imaging <sup>d</sup>	0	0	9 (<1)
	Subspecialty	Diagnostic ultrasound <sup>d</sup>	0	0	1 (<1)
	Subspecialty	Neuroradiology	4 (<1)	3 (<1)	66 (<1)
	Subspecialty	Nuclear radiology <sup>d</sup>	0	0	4 (<1)
	Subspecialty	Pediatric radiology	0	1 (<1)	20 (<1)
	Subspecialty	Radiation therapy <sup>d</sup>	0	0	1 (<1)
	Subspecialty	Vascular/interventional radiology	1 (<1)	1 (<1)	16 (<1)
Surgery	Primary	Cardiothoracic surgery <sup>f</sup>	0	0	16 (<1)
	Primary	General vascular surgery	1 (<1)	3 (<1)	128 (<1)
	Primary	Neurological surgery	2 (<1)	4 (<1)	121 (<1)
	Primary	Plastic and reconstructive surgery	1 (<1)	1 (<1)	79 (<1)
	Primary	Surgery-general	8 (<1)	33 (2)	1107 (3)
	Primary	Thoracic cardiovascular surgery <sup>d</sup>	0	1 (<1)	48 (<1)
	Primary	Urological surgery	2 (<1)	8 (<1)	215 (1)
	Subspecialty	Critical care	6 (<1)	5 (<1)	80 (<1)
	Subspecialty	Hospice and palliative medicine	0	0	2 (<1)
	Subspecialty	Undersea and hyperbaric medicine	0	0	2 (<1)
<b>Total</b>			<b>2176</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>31,887</b>

<sup>a</sup> Data are current as of December 31, 2015.

<sup>b</sup> In past years, the terms *Certificate of Added Qualifications (CAQ)* and *Certification of Special Qualifications (CSQ)* were used to distinguish subspecialty certifications. The term *subspecialty* is now used for all subspecialty examinations except those in family medicine, which still uses the term CAQ.

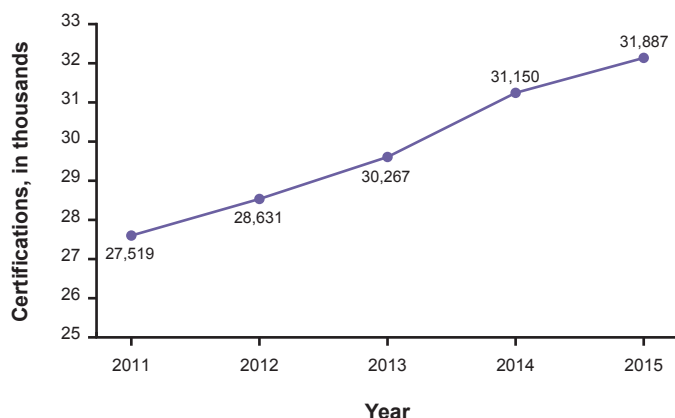
<sup>c</sup> Previously named *family practice/osteopathic manipulative treatment (OMT)*.

<sup>d</sup> No longer issued.

<sup>f</sup> Specialties that are no longer offered but are equivalent to currently offered specialties have been combined as appropriate in this year's table.

These specialties are as follows: *special proficiency in osteopathic manipulative medicine (OMM)* has been combined with *neuromusculoskeletal medicine (NMM)/OMM*; *obstetric and gynecologic surgery* has been combined with *obstetrics and gynecology*; *facial plastic surgery, otolaryngology, and otorhinolaryngology* have been combined with *otolaryngology and facial plastic surgery*; *preventive-occupational medicine* has been combined with *preventive-occupational-environmental medicine*; *diagnostic roentgenology* has been combined with *radiology*; and *thoracic surgery* has been combined with *cardiothoracic surgery*.

**Abbreviation:** OCC, Osteopathic Continuous Certification.



**Figure.**  
Active certifications held, 2011 to 2015.  
Certifications increased from 27,519 in 2011 to 31,887 in 2015.