

Appendix 2: American Osteopathic Association Specialty Board Certification

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The year 2014 marked the 75th anniversary of the first award of osteopathic specialty certification. The certification process is 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 American Osteopathic Association, has issued 41,492 certifications including primary specialties, subspecialties, and added qualifications. As of December 31, 2014, a total of 26,774 osteopathic physicians were currently certified by the American Osteopathic Association and held a combined total of 31,150 active certificates, representing a 2.9% increase over the number of certificates held in 2013. In 2014, 1828 certificates were awarded in primary specialty and subspecialty areas.

Additionally, 287 certificates of added qualifications were granted and 1208 recertifications (ie, Osteopathic Continuous Certification completions) were issued. A complete list of the certifications and recertifications processed in 2014 and the total number of active certifications by specialty is found in the *Table*.

Since 2010, the number of active board certifications held has risen steadily, as noted in the *Figure*. This number is expected to continue to rise in the future. (doi:10.7556/jaoa.2015.053)

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Editor's Note: The *JAOA* theme issue on osteopathic medical education includes annual updates from the American Osteopathic Association's departments of accreditation and education. Last year's appendix on specialty board certification can be accessed online at <http://www.jaoa.osteopathic.org/content/114/4/313.full>.

Table.
Certification Statistics, 2014^a

American Osteopathic Board of...	Certification Type	Description	New Certification	OCC Completion	Total
Anesthesiology	Primary	Anesthesiology	19 (1)	4 (<1)	624 (2)
	CAQ	Pain management	1 (<1)	0	68 (<1)
	CAQ	Critical care	0	0	5 (<1)
Dermatology	Primary	Dermatology	36 (2)	13 (1)	489 (2)
	CAQ	Dermatopathology	0	0	8 (<1)
	CAQ	Mohs micrographic surgery	3 (<1)	0	27 (<1)
	CAQ	Pediatric dermatology	4 (<1)	0	4 (<1)
Emergency Medicine	CAQ	Emergency medical services	0	0	9 (<1)
	Primary	Emergency medicine	155 (7)	104 (9)	2583 (8)
	CAQ	Hospice and palliative medicine	0	0	3 (<1)
	CAQ	Medical toxicology	0	0	10 (<1)
	CAQ	Sports medicine	0	0	7 (<1)
Family Physicians	CAQ	Undersea and hyperbaric medicine	2 (<1)	0	9 (<1)
	CAQ	Addiction medicine	0	0	4 (<1)
	CAQ	Adolescent and young adult medicine ^b	0	0	9 (<1)
	Primary	Family medicine/OMT ^c	533 (25)	392 (32)	11,985 (38)
	CAQ	Geriatric medicine	10 (<1)	7 (1)	304 (1)
	CAQ	Hospice and palliative medicine	86 (4)	1 (<1)	198 (1)
	CAQ	Pain medicine	4 (<1)	0	15 (<1)
	CAQ	Sleep medicine	1 (<1)	0	8 (<1)
	CAQ	Sports medicine	22 (1)	4 (<1)	211 (1)
CAQ	Undersea and hyperbaric medicine	3 (<1)	0	23 (<1)	

(continued)

**Table (continued).
Certification Statistics, 2014^a**

American Osteopathic Board of...	Certification Type	Description	New Certification	OCC Completion	Total
Internal Medicine	CSQ	Adult and pediatric allergy and immunology	0	1 (<1)	8 (<1)
	CAQ	Cardiac electrophysiology	2 (<1)	0	24 (<1)
	CSQ	Cardiology	30 (1)	29 (2)	486 (2)
	CAQ	Critical care	0	11 (1)	141 (<1)
	CSQ	Endocrinology	2 (<1)	3 (<1)	40 (<1)
	CSQ	Gastroenterology	12 (1)	23 (2)	224 (1)
	CAQ	Geriatrics	6 (<1)	2 (<1)	61 (<1)
	CSQ	Hematology	1 (<1)	2 (<1)	46 (<1)
	CAQ	Hospice and palliative medicine	66 (3)	0	104 (<1)
	CSQ	Infectious diseases	4 (<1)	5 (<1)	72 (<1)
	Primary	Internal medicine	397 (19)	177 (15)	3889 (12)
	CAQ	Interventional cardiology	1 (<1)	4 (<1)	102 (<1)
	CSQ	Nephrology	8 (<1)	5 (<1)	132 (<1)
	CSQ	Oncology	6 (<1)	7 (1)	105 (<1)
	CAQ	Pain medicine	2 (<1)	0	5 (<1)
	CSQ	Pulmonary diseases	15 (1)	13 (1)	216 (1)
	CSQ	Rheumatology	6 (<1)	3 (<1)	68 (<1)
	CAQ	Sleep medicine	9 (<1)	0	59 (<1)
	CAQ	Sports medicine	0	0	7 (<1)
	CAQ	Undersea and hyperbaric medicine	3 (<1)	0	4 (<1)
Neurology and Psychiatry	CAQ	Addiction medicine	0	0	3 (<1)
	CSQ	Child neurology	0	0	2 (<1)
	CSQ	Child psychiatry	2 (<1)	2 (<1)	43 (<1)
	CAQ	Geriatric psychiatry	2 (<1)	1 (<1)	11 (<1)
	CAQ	Hospice and palliative medicine	0	0	2 (<1)
	Primary	Neurology	15 (1)	5 (<1)	242 (1)
	CAQ	Neurophysiology	0	0	24 (<1)
	CAQ	Pain medicine	0	0	1 (<1)
	Primary	Psychiatry	25 (1)	7 (1)	305 (1)
	CAQ	Sleep medicine	5 (<1)	0	19 (<1)
NMM	Primary	NMM/OMM	40 (2)	62 (5)	565 (2)
	CAQ	Pain medicine	5 (<1)	0	12 (<1)
	Primary	Special proficiency in OMM ^b	0	0	114 (<1)
	CAQ	Sports medicine	0	0	7 (<1)
Nuclear Medicine Obstetrics and Gynecology	Primary	Nuclear medicine	0	0	22 (<1)
	CSQ	Female pelvic medicine reconstructive surgery	1 (<1)	0	5 (<1)
	CSQ	Gynecologic oncology	2 (<1)	0	13 (<1)
	CSQ	Maternal and fetal medicine	1 (<1)	1 (<1)	32 (<1)
	Primary	Obstetrics and gynecologic surgery	0	0	49 (<1)
	Primary	Obstetrics and gynecology	97 (5)	63 (5)	1215 (4)
	CSQ	Reproductive endocrinology	1 (<1)	0	13 (<1)
CAQ	Sleep medicine	1 (<1)	0	1 (<1)	

(continued)

**Table (continued).
Certification Statistics, 2014^a**

American Osteopathic Board of...	Certification Type	Description	New Certification	OCC Completion	Total
Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery	Primary	Facial plastic surgery	0	0	5 (<1)
	Primary	Ophthalmology	12 (1)	10 (1)	360 (1)
	Primary	Otolaryngology and facial plastic surgery	22 (1)	9 (1)	417 (1)
	CAQ	Otolaryngology - sleep medicine	0	0	6 (<1)
	CAQ	Otolaryngic allergy	0	1 (<1)	22 (<1)
	Primary	Otolaryngology	0	2 (<1)	11 (<1)
	Primary	Otorhinolaryngology ^b	0	0	29 (<1)
Orthopedic Surgery	CAQ	Hand surgery	9 (<1)	0	56 (<1)
	Primary	Orthopedic surgery	81 (4)	96 (8)	1254 (4)
	CAQ	Undersea and hyperbaric medicine	0	0	1 (<1)
Pathology	Primary	Anatomic pathology	0	0	21 (<1)
	Primary	Anatomic pathology and laboratory medicine	0	0	12 (<1)
	CAQ	Dermatopathology	0	0	2 (<1)
	CSQ	Forensic pathology	0	0	2 (<1)
	Primary	Laboratory medicine	0	0	15 (<1)
Pediatrics	CSQ	Adolescent medicine	0	0	1 (<1)
	CSQ	Adult and pediatric allergy and immunology	1 (<1)	0	2 (<1)
	CSQ	Hospice and palliative medicine	2 (<1)	0	2 (<1)
	CSQ	Neonatology	2 (<1)	0	2 (<1)
	CSQ	Pediatric allergy and immunology	0	0	7 (<1)
	CSQ	Pediatric endocrinology	0	0	2 (<1)
	CSQ	Pediatric pulmonology ^b	0	0	2 (<1)
	Primary	Pediatrics	41 (2)	26 (2)	549 (2)
	CAQ	Sleep medicine	1 (<1)	0	1 (<1)
	CAQ	Sports medicine	3 (<1)	0	4 (<1)
Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation	CAQ	Hospice and palliative medicine	0	0	1 (<1)
	CAQ	Pain medicine	7 (<1)	0	28 (<1)
	Primary	Physical medicine and rehabilitation	0	0	235 (1)
	CAQ	Sports medicine	2 (<1)	0	5 (<1)
Preventive Medicine	CAQ	Occupational medicine	0	2 (<1)	50 (<1)
	Primary	Preventive medicine-aerospace medicine	0	2 (<1)	39 (<1)
	Primary	Preventive medicine-occupational medicine ^b	0	0	7 (<1)
	Primary	Preventive medicine-public health	1 (<1)	0	36 (<1)
	Primary	Preventive-occupational-environmental medicine	2 (<1)	6 (<1)	84 (<1)
	CAQ	Sports medicine	0	0	1 (<1)
	CAQ	Undersea hyperbaric medicine	0	0	6 (<1)
Proctology	Primary	Proctology	2 (<1)	2 (<1)	24 (<1)

(continued)

**Table (continued).
Certification Statistics, 2014^a**

American Osteopathic Board of...	Certification Type	Description	New Certification	OCC Completion	Total
Radiology	CAQ	Angiography and interventional radiology ^b	1 (<1)	0	18 (<1)
	CAQ	Body imaging ^b	0	0	9 (<1)
	Primary	Diagnostic radiology	33 (2)	28 (2)	691 (2)
	Primary	Diagnostic roentgenology	0	0	1 (<1)
	CAQ	Diagnostic ultrasound	0	0	1 (<1)
	CAQ	Neuroradiology ^b	4 (<1)	2 (<1)	66 (<1)
	CAQ	Nuclear radiology	0	0	4 (<1)
	CAQ	Pediatric radiology	1 (<1)	0	23 (<1)
	Primary	Radiation oncology	0	0	19 (<1)
	CSQ	Radiation therapy ^b	0	0	1 (<1)
	Primary	Radiology ^b	0	0	44 (<1)
	CAQ	Vascular and interventional radiology	1 (<1)	4 (<1)	17 (<1)
Surgery	Primary	Cardiothoracic surgery	3 (<1)	0	13 (<1)
	CAQ	Critical care surgery	16 (1)	4 (<1)	76 (<1)
	Primary	General vascular surgery	9 (<1)	9 (1)	129 (<1)
	CAQ	Hospice and palliative medicine	0	0	2 (<1)
	Primary	Neurologic surgery	26 (1)	4 (<1)	124 (<1)
	Primary	Plastic and reconstructive surgery	18 (1)	2 (<1)	81 (<1)
	Primary	Surgery (general)	146 (7)	42 (3)	1119 (4)
	Primary	Thoracic cardiovascular surgery ^b	0	1 (<1)	48 (<1)
	Primary	Thoracic surgery ^b	0	0	5 (<1)
	CAQ	Undersea and hyperbaric medicine	2 (<1)	0	3 (<1)
	Primary	Urologic surgery	23 (<1)	5 (<1)	227 (1)
	Total			2115	1208

^a Data presented as No. (%). Percentages do not total 100 because of rounding. Totals are calculated by the Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists. Data are current as of December 31, 2014.
^b No longer issued.
^c Previously named *family practice/osteopathic manipulative treatment (OMT)*.

Abbreviations: CAQ, Certification of Added Qualifications; CSQ, Certification of Special Qualifications; OCC, Osteopathic Continuous Certification; OMM, osteopathic manipulative medicine; NMM, neuromusculoskeletal medicine.

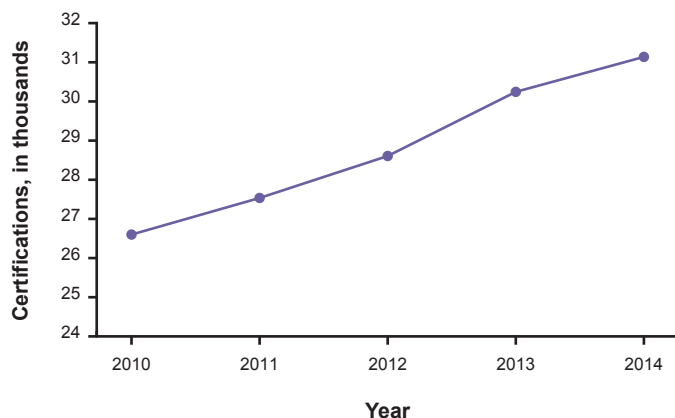


Figure.
Active certifications held, 2010 to 2014. Certifications increased from 26,698 in 2010 to 31,150 in 2014.