

The American Board of Orthodontics
Interim Constituency Report
January 2023 (1.3.23)

The ABO is committed to upholding our mission to elevate the quality of orthodontic care for the public by promoting excellence through certification, education and professional collaboration.

Achieving Board Certification:

Once an orthodontist successfully completes the ABO Written Examination and graduates from a CODA accredited advanced specialty educational program in orthodontics and dentofacial orthopedics in the United States or Canada, the orthodontic professional may register for the ABO Scenario-based Clinical Examination. Once board certification is achieved, a time-limited certificate is awarded, with a Certification Renewal Examination required every 10 years to remain board certified.

The ABO is excited to share that more than half of AAO orthodontists – 58% - are now board certified. This accomplishment allows all of us to have a stronger voice as together we set the standard of care for our specialty. Please view the video announcement [HERE](#).

ABO Examination Update:

- **Written Examination Update:** The April 5, 2022, ABO Written Examination was administered to 412 examinees at Pearson Vue Testing Centers in the United States and Canada with a 90% pass rate.

The 2023 Written Examination is scheduled for April 4, with online registration opening November 9, 2022, and scheduled to close January 12, 2023. As a reminder, once this examination is successfully completed, it does not expire.

The Written Examination is composed of 240 multiple-choice questions on subject areas outlined by CODA divided into 4 modules. Examination specifications and an updated 2023 Written Exam Reading List are located on the [ABO website](#) for reference.

- **Scenario-based Clinical Examination Update:** The ABO conducted 2022 Scenario-based Clinical Examinations in February and October. A total of 352 examinees were certified or recertified during the 1st and 2nd quarters of 2022, including the February 2022 Scenario-based Clinical Examination. A total of 466 examinees were certified or recertified during the 3rd and 4th quarters of 2022, including the October 2022 Scenario-based Clinical Examination. Please visit the [ABO website](#) for a complete listing of names by constituency for all examinations.

The 2023 Scenario-based Clinical Examination is scheduled for February 23-24 at Pearson Vue Testing Centers Worldwide. Examination dates for 2024 have been announced as February 22-23, 2024, with online registration opening March 1, 2023.

Orthodontists taking the Scenario-based Clinical Examination are objectively tested on their knowledge, skills, and critical thinking abilities. The Clinical Examination is comprised of scenarios from each of four domains using ABO provided patient cases. The exam is graded on a pass/fail basis and scored by different pairs of ABO examiners to ensure accuracy and consistency for each section. Examples of what may be included in the cases presented, updated study materials, board prepared videos, along with Clinical Exam FAQs are all located on the [ABO website](#).

- **Certification Renewal:** An important part of the board certification process includes Certification Renewal with successful completion being required every 10 years to maintain an active board status. Voluntary Certification Renewal is also encouraged for Lifetime board certified orthodontists. Certification Renewal demonstrates a board certified orthodontist's commitment to lifelong learning and personal dedication to excellence.

The certification renewal process may be started no earlier than 36 months prior to the expiration date printed on the board-certified orthodontist's certificate. ABO communications are regularly distributed to those up for renewal. Two options in completing the examination are offered to include an online board case exam or mail-in case report exam, both of which require the completion of an AJODO continuing education component. Online preparation materials are available to include a Study Guide with FAQs along with this [video](#), summarizing the process.

Educational Update/Outreach:

- The ABO will hold the 2023 ABO Educators Symposium in St. Louis, Missouri on November 11. Orthodontic department chairs, program directors, ABO ambassadors and emeriti, along with AAO Trustees and CDABO Councilors will be invited to participate.
- The ABO participated in the 2022 GORP meeting held at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI. Dr. Patrick Foley shared information with the residents on his orthodontic journey and ABO staff were available to answer questions on board certification.
- ABO directors attended the 2022 CDABO Summer Meeting in Sonoma, CA.
- Dr. Patrick Foley, ABO President, Dr. Timothy Trulove, ABO President-Elect and Ms. Carole Newport, ABO CEO, attended the Dental Specialties Meeting in Chicago, IL. Attendees at this yearly meeting include National Boards for Dental Specialties recognized by the National Commission on Recognition of Dental Specialties and Certifying Boards.
- ABO directors attended their individual 2022 Annual Constituency Meetings. Tabletop displays showcasing board certification materials were available with directors speaking on board certification when possible.
- The ABO distributed complimentary measuring gauges for incoming residents to requesting CODA-accredited orthodontic programs.
- The ABO's Advocacy Program, originally designed to have at least one assigned volunteer advocate at each CODA accredited orthodontic programs in the United States and Canada to promote board certification, is currently being reviewed and evaluated to ensure the format continues to be relevant since moving to the Scenario-based Clinical

Examination. Should changes be identified in the process, the ABO will communicate updates as appropriate.

- Please follow the ABO's new Facebook page at [facebook.com/americanboardoforthodontics](https://www.facebook.com/americanboardoforthodontics). We are also pleased to announce that the ABO also has an Instagram account <https://www.instagram.com/americanboardorthodontics>. Please follow us on both accounts for the latest ABO updates.
- ABO storefront materials and Educational Toolkit complimentary downloads are available to board certified orthodontists. Items include consumer brochures (customizable), patient/team materials, window clings, pathway graphics, duplicate certificate, ABO seal/logo, suggested website copy, sample press release Educational Toolkit and Brand Standards Guide. Tracking of personal CE credit hours along with the ability to print a complimentary verification letter are also available. Items can be accessed via personal online dashboard accounts located on the ABO website for board certified orthodontists. In addition, an Orthodontist Locator is available on the ABO website for the public to search for a board certified orthodontist in their area. The ABO's "It Takes A Specialist" campaign continues to enjoy positive feedback. The video, viewed [HERE](#), is provided to board certified orthodontists for use in their practice and on social media channels to educate patients and general public on the importance of using a specialist. A digital toolkit has also been developed to compliment the campaign and is also available on personal online dashboards.

Consider Serving as an ABO Director

- If you are a board-certified orthodontist and would like to consider serving as an American Board of Orthodontics director to help further the ABO's Mission of promoting excellence in orthodontics, we encourage you to review details regarding the qualifications and nomination process [HERE](#). Thank you!