



## American Osteopathic College of Occupational and Preventive Medicine

### About the Certificate of Added Qualification in Occupational Medicine

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## About the CAQ

The Certificate of Added Qualifications (CAQ) in Occupational/ Environmental Medicine represents credentialing in the field of medicine. The CAQ is approved by the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) through established criteria and a written exam administered by the American Osteopathic Board of Preventive Medicine (AOBPM).

The AOBPM is the AOA-approved examining entity, which administers exams for:

(1) Full Board certification in occupational/environmental medicine, aerospace medicine, and public health/general preventive medicine for the osteopathic profession.

(2) A Certificate of Added Qualification (CAQ) in occupational/environmental medicine.

The AOCOPM CME Conferences offer didactics designed to provide the most up-to-date information for doctors who practice in occupational/environmental medicine, disability/impairment evaluations, public health/general preventive medicine, and aerospace medicine.

In addition, the College sponsor a basic course in occupational and environmental medicine designed to provide a basic understanding and expertise in the areas of occupational and environmental medicine while preparing participants to take a written examination qualifying for an AOA-approved, Certificate of Added Qualification (CAQ).

The Course is presented in three (3) parts; physicians *do not* need to take the parts in sequence. For the convenience of the faculty and participants, one part is provided at each of the two (2) conferences presented by the AOCOPM each year (usually in March and October). Each part is a full day didactic program, requires separate registration to the AOCOPM, and provides seven to nine (7 - 9) hours of 1-A CME credits (Attendance at the AOCOPM conferences in the spring and fall will provide a total of approximately fifty (50) hours of AOA Category 1 CME credits each year).

Study Text: It is suggested that study include such volumes as: "The National Medical Series for Independent Study of Preventive Medicine and Public Health," by Brett J. Cassens, Harvard Publishing; "Occupational and Environmental Medicine," 2nd Edition, Lange Series, by Joseph LaDou; "A Practical Approach to Occupational and Environmental Medicine," 2nd Edition, by Robert J. McCunney, Little, Brown and Company, and "Occupational Medicine" the 3rd Edition by Carl Zenz.

## AOCOPM Membership

Membership: For information on membership in the American Osteopathic College of Occupational & Preventive Medicine, please call 800-558-8686 or email [jeffrey@aocopm.org](mailto:jeffrey@aocopm.org). Please visit [www.aocopm.org](http://www.aocopm.org) for further information or to see about future conferences.



## Eligibility Requirements

- Must be Board Certified by the AOA in an AOA- approved primary certification;
- Hold a valid, unrestricted license to practice medicine in a state or territory of the United States or a province of Canada;
- Show evidence of completion of a basic review course comparable to the one provided through the AOCOPM or document an initial 100 hours of postgraduate training within the past five (5) years in the area of special interest. At a minimum, 50 hours must be in Category I and 50 hours in Category II.
- Submit practice documents verifying current practice in area of special interest (i.e., letters of agreement from companies, schools, hospitals and/or clinics contracted with or performing service for).
- Submit two (2) letters of recommendations from persons competent in the area of special interest.
- Submit the required application, fees, and supporting documents to the Executive Secretary of the AOBPM by January 1 prior to sitting for the CAQ examination.
- Pass appropriate examination designed to evaluate applicant's understanding of the scientific bases of the problems involved in the field of interest and demonstrate current knowledge, sound judgment and a high degree of skill. An oral interview and a written multiple choice examination will be personally conducted, supervised and reviewed by members of the AOBPM.

The application to take the CAQ exam must be obtained from the Executive Secretary of the AOBPM - not from the College. You may contact the AOBPM Executive Secretary:

Michael Shelden, D.O, MPH  
Executive Secretary  
American Osteopathic Board of Preventive Medicine  
142 East Ontario Street, Floor 4  
Chicago, Illinois 60611  
Phone 800-621-1773, Ext 8103 - Fax 312-202-8224  
email [aobpm@osteopathic.org](mailto:aobpm@osteopathic.org)  
web page <http://www.aobpm.org>

The Certificate of Added Qualification (CAQ) is valid from the date of issuance, provided a minimum of 50 hours of Category 1-A in occupational / environmental / preventive medicine is documented every three years.

To prepare for the CAQ examination, it is recommended that in addition to completing a basic review course in occupational medicine, the applicant contact the AOBPM for a list of study materials.

The AOCOPM presents a three-part basic course designed to educate primary care physicians to deal with occupational and environmental medicine issues as they occur in the course of their practices and to assist in the preparation for the CAQ exam.

For more information on the basic course, contact the AOCOPM at 800.558.8686 or e-mail to: [jeffrey@aocopm.org](mailto:jeffrey@aocopm.org).