

ABO News

The American Board of Orthodontics (ABO) is proud to announce that **63%** of the American Association of Orthodontists (AAO) are now board certified! Board certification continues to set the standard of care for the specialty. We are leading the way - together!

Future Examination Dates Announced

Written Examination: The 2025 Written Exam will be held on April 9, with online registration currently closed. **This year's exam will include, for the first time, multi-select questions (10-25%)**. The exam will be administered at Pearson-Vue Centers in the United States and Canada. Applicants must have graduated or be currently enrolled in an advanced specialty education program in orthodontics and dentofacial orthopedics in the United States or Canada, accredited by CODA. Orthodontic residents must have completed 18 months of their program by the Written Examination date to be eligible to take the exam. To assist in preparation for the examination, a 2025 Written Exam Reading List along with practice questions are located on the ABO website.

Written Examination Certification Coordinator | Nicole Huson
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Scenario-based Clinical Examination: The Fall 2024 Clinical Examination was administered to 368 examinees on September 17, 2024 with a pass rate of 88.6%. The examinations are held at Pearson-Vue Centers Worldwide. Beginning in 2025, the ABO will transition to one fall Scenario-based Clinical Examination per year. Registration is now open for the September 17, 2025 examination.

Clinical Examination Coordinator | Kim Koch
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Certification Renewal Reminder

ABO certification renewal is an important component of the board certification process. Successful completion of the examination is required every 10 years to maintain an active board certification status. Board-certified orthodontists are notified 3 years prior to the expiration date printed on their certificate that they are eligible to take the Certification Renewal Examination. You have two options to renew, including an Online Board Case Exam or a Mail-In Case Report Exam, along with completing continuing education credits from four online AJODO examinations. Online materials are available to prepare for the Certification Renewal Examination and include a Study Guide with FAQs, and a video, summarizing the process

Ambassador Pathway Program Update

The ABO Pathway Program was launched in June 2024 and is off to a successful start, with a total of 16 trained Ambassadors (all constituencies represented) for 2024-2026. All Ambassadors are provided with in-person training and resources including a presentation PowerPoint, ambassador guide, participant guide, and resource guide.

Two presentations are available: The Pathway to Board Certification: Overview and The Pathway to Board Certification: Clinical Examination. Program directors and chairs can request these presentations, and we also offer virtual sessions for all registered examinees before each administration. Three virtual presentations were held before the September

2024 Clinical Exam, attended by 247 participants. Between August and January 2025, 31 presentations (both virtual and in-person) have been scheduled for schools. To accommodate those unable to attend the virtual sessions, a video gallery has been created for future reference.

Additionally, two LinkedIn groups have been set up, one for residents (currently with 136 members) and another for educators (31 members).

The ABO recently partnered with the AAO in a webinar entitled “Navigating the Path to ABO Certification” on January 29th, 2025. This webinar is available to all AAO members and features 2 ABO Ambassadors, Dr. Dong Heon Oh and Dr. Jarrett Caldwell.

ABO Awards

The ABO award recipients for 2025 include the following individuals who will be recognized during this year’s 2025 AAO Annual Session in Philadelphia, PA.

Congratulations!

- **Dr. David Sarver** – Albert H. Ketcham Memorial Award
- **Dr. Scott Jamieson (GLAO) and Dr. Larry Tadlock** - Dale B. Wade Award of Excellence in Orthodontics
- **Mrs. Melissa Brydels** - Earl E. and Wilma S. Shepard Distinguished Service Award
- **Dr. Jim Henderson** - O.B. Vaughan Special Recognition Award

ABO Instagram and Facebook Accounts

Please follow us on our social media channels for the latest ABO news and updates. The ABO has added an “Across the Board” blog on our website. Timely updates and important news will now be shared via this communication method.

<https://americanboardortho.com/blog/>
<https://www.instagram.com/americanboardorthodontics/>
<https://www.facebook.com/americanboardoforthodontics>

I commend all of those who have chosen to make a lifelong commitment to elevate the quality of orthodontic patient care. For those who have not yet undertaken the certification process, I encourage you to consider doing so. If you have any questions regarding the Board, please do not hesitate to connect with me personally at Puntillo@AmericanBoardOrtho.com.