

ABO News

The American Board of Orthodontics (ABO) remains committed to elevating the quality of orthodontic care for the public by promoting excellence through certification, education, and professional collaboration. **Currently, 65% of AAO orthodontists are board certified**, a significant milestone that reflects a strong collective commitment to excellence within our specialty.

Written Examination:

The 2026 exam will be held on April 7, 2026 at Pearson Vue Professional Centers throughout the U.S and Canada. Registration for the 2026 exam is now closed.

Preparation resources, including the [2026 Written Exam Reading List](#) and practice questions, are available on the [ABO website](#).

Written Examination Coordinator | Nicole Huson
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Scenario-based Clinical Examination:

The 2025 scenario-based exam was held on September 17, 2025. 482 examinees sat for the exam with a pass rate of 79%. Registration for the 2026 exam is now open until June 17, 2026 or until capacity is reached.

Clinical Examination Coordinator | Kim Koch
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Certification Renewal

ABO certification renewal is an important component of the board certification process. The ABO is currently reviewing the Certification Renewal process. Through this effort, we are identifying what is working well, determining areas for improvement, collaborating with other specialty boards, and gathering insights on professional growth and lifelong learning preferences among board certified specialists—all to help guide future enhancements. The goal is to maintain a program that supports lifelong learning, fosters professional growth, and upholds public trust while remaining relevant to board certified specialists. Updates will be shared as they become available.

ABO Awards

We are pleased to announce the 2026 ABO award recipients:

- **Dr. Richard Kulbersh** – Albert H. Ketcham Memorial Award
- **Dr. Steven Marshall** – Dale B. Wade Award of Excellence in Orthodontics
- **Dr. Steven Dugoni** – Earl E. and Wilma S. Shepard Distinguished Service Award
- **Dr. R. David Rynearson** – O.B. Vaughan Special Recognition Award

To learn more about the awards and criteria, the nomination process, and to peruse the list of previous recipients and their bios, please visit [ABO Awards](#).

Please join us in congratulating each of these outstanding individuals.

ABO Resource Guide

The ABO Resource Guide supports board certified orthodontists in promoting and communicating the value of board certification to patients and the public. A new Resource Guide was mailed to active board-certified orthodontists in September 2025, and an eBook version is available via the ABO Storefront.

To access the Storefront, log in to your ABO account and click the blue 'ABO Storefront' button located below your picture on the left side of your dashboard.

ABO Board Certified® Designation

The ABO has introduced a standardized format for displaying board certification credentials: ABO-Board Certified. By displaying the credential (Ex: John Smith, DDS, MS, ABO-Board Certified) you help strengthen recognition of board certification across the profession. A consistent order improves clarity for patients, colleagues, and regulatory organizations and aligns with medical best practices. Read the December 2025 AJO-DO article [here](#).

Additional guidance is available on the ABO [Across the Board](#) blog and within the ABO Brand Standards and Marks Usage Guidelines.

ABO Ambassadors

Launched last year, the ABO Pathway Program reached over 40 CODA accredited programs, helping familiarize doctors with the board certification process and examination preparation. Ambassadors represent all constituencies and attend in-person annual training; all resources and materials are provided by the ABO.

Presentations are available on request for educators, program chairs, directors, and examinees. Virtual sessions are offered before each Written and Clinical Examination.

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ABO at the AAO Annual Session

ABO will be exhibiting at the 2026 AAO Annual Session in Orlando, FL. Please stop by and visit us! We will be located within the AAO Pavillion

Presenting orthodontic residency cases at the AAO Annual Session can be both personally rewarding and a valuable self-assessment experience. The ABO strongly encourages residents to gain extensive experience in reviewing patient cases and conducting objective analyses to develop independent clinical judgment. Engaging in this critical thinking process fosters meaningful reflection on treatment decisions and outcomes.

While case submissions are an accomplishment in and of themselves, we are pleased to announce, beginning in 2026, the ABO will now be offering awards for the top-ranked CDABO Case Displays.

The following prizes will be awarded in both DI10 and DI20 categories:
First Place: \$1,000 | Second Place: \$750 | Third Place: \$500

Registration for the 2026 CDABO Resident Case Display is open now through April 24, 2026. To register, visit: [CDABO Case Displays Registration](#).

Resident Case Displays will be viewable Saturday, May 2, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., and Sunday, May 3, 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. A CDABO/ABO recognition ceremony honoring the winning residents and program faculty will be held Saturday, May 2 at 3:30 p.m. in the Exhibit Hall next to the Innovation Pavilion. The ceremony is open to all.

Our valued collaboration with educators during the 2025 ABO Educators Symposium inspired this initiative, reinforcing our message that *Together We Elevate the Standard of Excellence in Orthodontics*.

ABO Volunteer Opportunities

The ABO welcomes your unique perspective and strengths through a variety of leadership and professional growth opportunities, empowering you to make meaningful contributions to the specialty while advancing your own development. For more information, visit: <https://americanboardortho.com/orthodontists/volunteer-opportunities/>

ABO-Board Certified orthodontists interested in serving as an [ABO Director](#) are encouraged to review the qualifications and nomination process.

If you have any questions regarding the Board or interest in serving please do not hesitate to connect with me personally at Puntillo@AmericanBoardOrtho.com.