

CME FAQs

Q. What are the CME requirements of the AOA?

A. AOA members are required to obtain 120 credit hours in a three-year cycle, with at least 30 hours in Category 1-A. The remaining 90 hours may be obtained in CME designated as Category 1-A, 1-B, 2-A, or 2-B. Osteopathic board certified physicians must earn at least 50 of their total 120 hours in their primary specialty.

Q. I recently completed my residency or fellowship. How does this affect my AOA CME requirement?

A. AOA members are exempt from the CME requirement while in a postdoctoral training program. Upon completion of the training program, the CME requirement will be prorated based on the end date of the program.

Q. How can I obtain AOA Category 1-A credit?

A. Category 1-A credit may be earned by attending formal, face-to-face osteopathic programs sponsored by AOA-Accredited Category 1 CME Sponsors. For a listing of upcoming programs that are eligible for Category 1-A credit, please refer to *The DO* on line at <http://www.do-online.org/TheDO/> under “AOA Coming Events” or see the Calendar of Events at www.do-online.org.

Q. May I earn credit for osteopathic preceptoring?

A. Physicians serving as preceptors in any AOA approved osteopathic medical education program may earn AOA Category 1-B credit. A maximum of 60 hours of Category 1-B for preceptoring may be applied to the 120-hour AOA CME requirement. **No credit is available for preceptoring physician assistants, nurse practitioners, or allopathic medical students.**

Q. How can I check my CME status or obtain a copy of my CME report?

A. AOA members may view their CME reports at www.do-online.org or may contact the CME department at 800-621-1773 ext. 8262. CME reports are available to AOA members only, and there is no fee. Those members who have not created an account to view their CAR information may do so by contacting the AOA Department of Membership at (800) 621-1773, extension 8284.

Q. How should CME credit be reported to the AOA?

A. For CME activities sponsored by an AOA-Accredited Category 1 CME Sponsor, it is the responsibility of the sponsor to report all CME credit. For non-osteopathic sponsored CME activities, it is the responsibility of the physician to provide documentation to the AOA. A certificate of attendance or a letter of verification from the CME sponsor must be provided. Please include your AOA number with any CME submission.

Q. What is my CME requirement for state licensure?

A. CME requirements for state licensure differ between states. Please contact the appropriate state licensing board for more information. For a list of state licensing boards' phone numbers, see the [AOA U.S. Osteopathic Licensure Summary \(PDF format\)](#).

Q. Where can I obtain CME forms for reporting CME credit to the AOA?

A. CME forms for reporting credit may be found online at http://www.do-online.osteotech.org/index.cfm?PageID=cme_forms.

Q. Where can I obtain a copy of the CME Guide for Osteopathic Physicians?

A. The CME Guide may be found online at http://www.do-online.osteotech.org/index.cfm?PageID=cme_guidemain.

Q. Does the AOA grant CME credit for allopathic sponsored programs?

A. CME programs sponsored through organizations that are ACCME-Accredited or AAFP-Approved are eligible for AOA Category 2 CME credit.

Q. Does the AOA grant AOA Category 1-A CME credit for Standardized Life Support Courses and Bioterrorism Courses?

A. Standardized life support courses and Bioterrorism courses are only eligible for AOA Category 1-B credit starting January 1, 2010. Bioterrorism courses are eligible for a maximum of four credits in any 3-year CME cycle.

Q. Does the AOA grant CME credit for volunteer work?

A. The AOA applauds volunteer work, but such work does not qualify for CME credit.

Q. Does the AOA grant CME credit for post graduate studies?

A. Studies undertaken in the quest for advanced degrees, whether Master of Science, Master of Public Health, Master of Business Administration, or Doctorate, does not qualify for CME credit.

Q. Does the AOA grant CME credit for touring medical facilities?

A. Such tours do not qualify for CME credit.

Q. How is CME credit awarded?

A. CME is generally awarded on a credit per hour basis. However, physicians may earn ½ credit hour per issue for studying medical periodicals or tapes, and may earn 5 hours per book for reading medical textbooks.

Q. What is the CME requirement for certified physicians?

A. Physicians who are board certified or board eligible are required to earn a minimum of fifty CME credits in their primary specialty in each three-year CME cycle. These credits may be earned in Category 1 or Category 2.

1. CME sponsored by osteopathic specialty affiliates in the individuals declared specialty, will be applied to this requirement on an unlimited hour-by-hour basis.
2. CME sponsored by AOA CME Sponsors other than the individual's declared specialty affiliate may be awarded by the certifying board with jurisdiction up to a maximum of 25 credits per cycle.

Please contact your certifying board for information regarding the use of precepting or other credit towards this requirement.

Note: Under current AOA policy, failure to meet the AOA specialty CME requirement is interpreted as a failure to meet the individual physician's CME requirement. This could result in the loss of AOA membership and in turn result in the possible loss of certification. Additional information may be found on do-online.org at <http://www.do-online.org/pdf/osteopathicPhysicians.doc>.

Q. What is the policy for granting AOA Category 1-A CME credit for AMA or AAFP credit for members who hold specialty or subspecialty certificates?

A. In recognition that members of the AOA who hold specialty or subspecialty certificates in those specialties with less than two hundred and fifty certificate holders, may have difficulty accruing the necessary AOA 1-A credit required for membership, and to allow adequate time for the development of such programs, such members may apply ACCME or AAFP category 1 credit to their AOA 1-A credit requirement up to the maximum credits per cycle as per the following table.

CME CYCLE	ACCME CATEGORY 1 CREDITS	AOA CATEGORY 1-A CREDITS	TOTAL CREDITS
2007 – 2009	20 CREDITS	10 CREDITS	30 CREDITS
2010 – 2012	15 CREDITS	15 CREDITS	30 CREDITS
2013 – 2015	10 CREDITS	20 CREDITS	30 CREDITS
2016 –onward	0 CREDITS	30 CREDITS	30 CREDITS

The Council on Continuing Medical Education (CCME) has indicated that the policy is for members only who are AOA or ABMS certified.

Q: Are Life Members required to fulfill the AOA CME requirement?

A. AOA Life members in active practice have a CME requirement.

Q. What is the mailing address, fax number, and e-mail address for reporting CME activities?

A. American Osteopathic Association
Division of CME
142 E Ontario St
Chicago, IL 60611-2864
Fax: 312-202-8202 ATTN: CME
Toll Free: 800-621-1773 ext. 8262
cme@osteopathic.org

For additional information, you may contact the following CME staff at (800) 621-1773:

x8054: Delores Rodgers, Director of CME
x8053: Kathy Moreno, Administrator for Accreditation of CME
x8055: Scott Richmond, Senior CME Service Representative
x8057: Greg Milton, CME Service Representative