



# American Orthoptic Council

3914 Nakoma Road Madison, WI 53711 ▶ lwfrance@gmail.com ▶ (608) 233-5383 ▶ www.orthoptics.org

## 2021 AOC Certification Examination Policy and Procedures:

2021

**Executive Director**  
Leslie France, CO

**Executive Committee**

**Kim Merrill, CO**  
President  
**Doug Fredrick, MD**  
Vice President  
**Steve Archer, MD**  
Treasurer  
**Mary De Young Smith, CO,**  
Secretary  
**Aaron Miller, MD,**  
Immediate Past President  
**Alex Christoff, CO,**  
AACO President

**Members**

Steve Archer, MD  
Mark Borchert, MD  
Geoff Bradford, MD  
Alejandra de Alba Campomanes, MD  
Sheila Chamberlin, CO  
Stephen Christiansen, MD  
Alex Christoff, CO,  
Ian Clark, MD  
Mary DeYoung-Smith, CO  
George Ellis, Jr., MD  
Douglas Fredrick, MD  
Dusty Gronemyer, CO  
David Hodgetts, CO  
Pam Huston, CO  
Laura Kirkeby, CO  
Kim Merrill, CO  
Emily Miyazaki, CO  
Aaron Miller, MD  
Kaajal, Nanda, CO  
Kanwal Nischal, MD  
Omondi Nyong'o, MD  
James Reynolds, MD  
Sarah Whitecross, OC[C], CO,  
Jocelyn Zurevinsky, OC[C]

**Sponsoring Organizations**

American Academy of  
Ophthalmology  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Association of Certified  
Orthoptists  
American Association for Pediatric  
Ophthalmology and Strabismus  
American Ophthalmological Society

The American Orthoptic Council has within its charge the responsibility to certify that individuals who have received formal education and training in the discipline of Orthoptics possess the scientific knowledge and clinical skills to safely and effectively examine and diagnose children and adults with disorders of vision, ocular health and strabismus.

This certification process requires that the candidate successfully pass first a written qualifying examination and then a virtually administered or in person practical examination. Successful passage of these examinations then allows the individual to become an active member of the American Association of Certified Orthoptists and will allow the individual to use the title CO® (Certified Orthoptist) in professional correspondence and on a resume or curriculum vitae.

## PROCEDURES:

### Written qualifying examination:

#### 1. Registration

Individuals who have received (candidate) or are receiving (candidate in training) formal training in Orthoptics at an approved Orthoptic program and have the signed attestation from the program director that they have successfully fulfilled the requirements for graduation from the program may register to sit for the written examination which is conducted once a year in June. Examination fees will be collected by the deadline posted in the application. The exam fee, minus a processing fee will be refunded if the examination is cancelled by the candidate at least 40 days prior to the scheduled exam.

#### 2. Content

The examination is a 150 multiple choice question timed examination created by the Examination Committee based on the material covered in the Syllabus of Orthoptic Instruction and the Core Competencies document. The questions are routinely reviewed for content accuracy and validity.

#### 3. Administration

The examination is scheduled by the individual candidate with the assistance of our staff liaison working with each candidate to choose the location, date, and time at the testing centers worldwide which administer our exams. Currently the testing center is Pearson Vue. Accommodations accordant with the ADA will be provided, and to maintain security of the examination, no additional times for examinations will be provided.



## 2021

### **Executive Director**

Leslie France, CO

### **Executive Committee**

**Kim Merrill, CO**

President

**Doug Fredrick, MD**

Vice President

**Steve Archer, MD**

Treasurer

**Mary De Young Smith, CO,**

Secretary

**Aaron Miller, MD,**

Immediate Past President

**Alex Christoff, CO,**

AACO President

### **Members**

Steve Archer, MD

Mark Borchert, MD

Geoff Bradford, MD

Alejandra de Alba Campomanes, MD

Sheila Chamberlin, CO

Stephen Christiansen, MD

Alex Christoff, CO,

Ian Clark, MD

Mary DeYoung-Smith, CO

George Ellis, Jr., MD

Douglas Fredrick, MD

Dusty Gronemyer, CO

David Hodgetts, CO

Pam Huston, CO

Laura Kirkeby, CO

Kim Merrill, CO

Emily Miyazaki, CO

Aaron Miller, MD

Kaajal, Nanda, CO

Kanwal Nischal, MD

Omondi Nyong'o, MD

James Reynolds, MD

Sarah Whitecross, OC[C], CO,

Jocelyn Zurevinsky, OC[C]

### **Sponsoring Organizations**

American Academy of

Ophthalmology

American Academy of Pediatrics

American Association of Certified

Orthoptists

American Association for Pediatric

Ophthalmology and Strabismus

American Ophthalmological Society

## 4. Requirements to Pass

Candidates must achieve a minimum score of 75% to pass the examination and qualify for the oral practical exam.

## 5. Retake policy

Candidates who fail the exam may retake the examination the following year.

There is no limit to the number of attempts to sit for the examination.

## 6. Appeals process

Individuals who either fail the examination and/or who have questions regarding the examination content may address their concerns by formally writing to the AOC examination chairs. The chairs will conduct a review of the examination scoring as well as the content issues and will notify the candidate and the AOC executive committee of the outcome of the review and recommendation for any further action or resolution. The decision of the executive committee will be final.

## Practical examination (virtual or in person)

### 1. Registration

Candidates who have successfully passed the written qualifying examination are eligible to sit for the oral/practical examination. The examination is conducted in the fall of each year and the examination date will be announced six months in advance to allow candidates to plan for the examination. The examination will be conducted on a single date each year. Candidates who have scheduling conflicts may have to defer the exam until the following year.

### 2. Content

The examination covers material included in the core curriculum and assesses candidate knowledge, clinical reasoning, clinical skills, and professionalism.

### 3. Administration

The examination will occur in either a virtual environment or an in-person environment. All candidates sitting for the exam will be tested in the same format which may vary year to year depending on the status of COVID-19 (or other) infectious or logistical exigencies. Examination questions will be case based and will be graded using a standard rubric. Examiners will undergo rigorous training to ensure consistency, fairness, and minimal bias. The examination will be comprised of multiple stations with multiple examiners.

### 4. Requirement to pass

a. Candidates must receive a minimal overall score of 75% to pass the examination.

b. Candidates who provide an answer that could result in loss of vision, loss of an eye or loss of life (a dangerous answer) may fail the examination regardless of the scores received in other portions of the exam.



# American Orthoptic Council

3914 Nakoma Road Madison, WI 53711 ▶ lwfrance@gmail.com ▶ (608) 233-5383 ▶ www.orthoptics.org

## 2021

### **Executive Director**

Leslie France, CO

### **Executive Committee**

**Kim Merrill, CO**

President

**Doug Fredrick, MD**

Vice President

**Steve Archer, MD**

Treasurer

**Mary De Young Smith, CO,**

Secretary

**Aaron Miller, MD,**

Immediate Past President

**Alex Christoff, CO,**

AACO President

### **Members**

Steve Archer, MD

Mark Borchert, MD

Geoff Bradford, MD

Alejandra de Alba Campomanes, MD

Sheila Chamberlin, CO

Stephen Christiansen, MD

Alex Christoff, CO,

Ian Clark, MD

Mary DeYoung-Smith, CO

George Ellis, Jr., MD

Douglas Fredrick, MD

Dusty Gronemyer, CO

David Hodgetts, CO

Pam Huston, CO

Laura Kirkeby, CO

Kim Merrill, CO

Emily Miyazaki, CO

Aaron Miller, MD

Kaajal, Nanda, CO

Kanwal Nischal, MD

Omondi Nyong'o, MD

James Reynolds, MD

Sarah Whitecross, OC[C], CO,

Jocelyn Zurevinsky, OC[C]

### **Sponsoring Organizations**

American Academy of

Ophthalmology

American Academy of Pediatrics

American Association of Certified

Orthoptists

American Association for Pediatric

Ophthalmology and Strabismus

American Ophthalmological Society

## 5. Retake policy

Candidates who fail the exam may take the examination the following year. There is no limit to the number of retakes.

## 6. Appeals process

Individuals who either fail the examination and/or who have questions regarding the examination content may address their concerns by formally writing to the AOC examination chairs. The chairs will conduct a review of the examination scoring as well as the content issues. They will notify the candidate and the AOC executive committee of the outcome of the review and recommendation for any further action or resolution. The decision of the executive committee will be final.