



## Maintenance of Certification

1. Maintenance of Certification (MOC) involves a process of self-examination and documentation of one's continuing professional development since last examination or review. MOC involves you documenting, using a grid and responding to questions focused on your practice, professional activities you routinely engage in that demonstrate your continuing professional development.

After you complete and submit this document, a member of the ABAPsa board will review it to verify that your submission demonstrates involvement in activities that maintain your specialty-related competence. ABPP MOC is not a re-examination, but rather a demonstration of ongoing professional development that goes beyond simple participation in traditional continuing education activities.

All ABPP specialists who are board certified after January 1, 2015 must demonstrate Maintenance of Certification every ten years. While all board certified specialists are encouraged to participate in the MOC process, those boarded before January 1, 2015 may waive their obligation to participate in maintenance of certification. However, ABAPsa encourages you to participate ("opt in") in MOC as it is consistent with ABPP's philosophy that all psychologists should demonstrate their continuing competence in their specialty.

On January 1, 2015, specialists will be notified by ABPP Central Office that they may submit their MOC documents to ABAPsa, which will include a Specialty Continuing Professional Development Grid (SCPD) and a narrative (maximum of 750 words) that answers focused questions relevant to each category within the MoC grid for the previous two year period. If a specialist does not provide evidence of competence in a required area of practice during the initial Specialty Board review, the Specialty Board reviewer will reach out to the specialist to assist him or her in remediating the submission. If necessary, the specialist will be allowed a year to resubmit the MOC materials to satisfy the MOC standards for the specialty. If the specialist does not provide documentation that satisfies the Specialty Board's standards, the specialist's certificate is not maintained. As with their initial ABPP examination, specialists are afforded two levels of appeal of any Specialty Board decision; one at the Specialty Board level and one at the Board of Trustees level.

MOC fees required of specialists are expected to be nominal and only associated with the cost of administrating MOC.

### 2. Review Process

The specialist's material (grid and narrative) are sent to a ABAPsa reviewer by the Specialty Board Director of MOC. The specialist's material is reviewed by one Specialty Board reviewer using a guide developed and approved by the Specialty Board. If the reviewer rates the specialist's material (grid and narrative) as a pass, then the specialist is awarded an MOC Certificate.

### **SCORING**

When completing the Specialty Continuing Professional Development Grid, the specialist must complete a minimum of CPD 40 credits.. All 8 foundational competencies must be endorsed as well as at least 3 specialty-specific core functional competencies (e.g.,

assessment, intervention and consultation).

If the reviewer rates the specialist's material as a non-pass the specialist's material is forwarded to a second (blind) reviewer by the Specialty Board Director of MOC. If the second reviewer rates the specialist's material a non-pass, the specialist's certificate is not maintained and the specialist is given the opportunity to remediate his or her grid and narrative, resubmit the grid and narrative, and begin the MOC process again, with entirely new reviewers.

If the second reviewer rates the specialist's material as a pass there is a tie. In this event, the material is forwarded by the Specialty Board Director of MOC on to a third reviewer. If the third reviewer rates the material as a pass the specialist's certificate is maintained. If the third reviewer rates the material as a non-pass the specialist is given the opportunity to remediate his or her grid and narrative, resubmit the grid and narrative then begin the MOC process again with a new set of reviewers.

The specialist is allowed one year to resubmit the MOC material (grid and narrative) to the Specialty Board for reconsideration. After the specialist resubmits the grid and narrative, the above outlined review process is employed. If the specialist's resubmitted grid and narrative passes this second submission, the certificate is renewed. If the specialist's second submission is reviewed and determined not to meet the foundational and/or functional competencies set by the Specialty Board, the specialist does not obtain MOC certification. If the specialist does not submit a second grid and narrative for review within one year of notice of not passing the first submission review, the specialist does not obtain MOC certification.

### 3. Maintenance of Certification Appeal Procedure:

There are two levels of examination MOC decision appeal, one at the Specialty Board level, the other at the Board of Trustee level.

- Specialty Board Level (as outlined in G2 above). Specialists will receive notification of appeal decisions within 90 days of resubmission of materials.
- Board of Trustee Level  
Specialists may appeal Specialty Board level decisions to the Board of Trustees if there is an allegation that the ABAPsa did not follow MOC policy or their own Specialty Board appeal procedures. The Board of Trustee level appeal is the final level of appeal. (See: ABPP Policy and Procedures: Sections AC and L.)

## V. Acknowledgements

Thanks! To the applicants/candidates for taking the important step, as a responsible professional, to be identified as a board certified specialist in psychoanalysis. And to those many ABPP certified psychoanalysts whose voluntary participation as peer examiners makes the certification process possible.