Report of the ADA-Recognized Dental Specialty Certifying Boards

April 2016

Approved by the Council on Dental Education and Licensure April 21, 2016
INTRODUCTION

The Report of the ADA-Recognized Dental Specialty Certifying Boards contains information collected from the dental specialty certifying boards recognized by the American Dental Association’s Council on Dental Education and Licensure. This report contains data current as of December 31, 2015, is updated annually, and summarizes the following information about each of the nine recognized dental specialty certifying boards:

- Certification and Examination Data Page 3
- Board Executive Directors/Secretaries Page 5
- Eligibility Requirements Page 6
- Examination Procedures Page 8
- Application and Registration Procedures Page 9
- Re-Examination Policies Page 10
- Recertification/Certification Maintenance Policies Page 12

THE ADA-RECOGNIZED DENTAL SPECIALTY CERTIFYING BOARDS AND KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THE REPORT

- American Board of Dental Public Health (DPH)
- American Board of Endodontics (Endo)
- American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology (OMP)
- American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology (OMR)
- American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (OMS)
- The American Board of Orthodontics (Ortho)
- American Board of Pediatric Dentistry (PD)
- American Board of Periodontology (Perio)
- American Board of Prosthodontics (Pros)
<table>
<thead>
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<th>Founding Date</th>
<th>DPH</th>
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<td>114</td>
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BOARD EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS/SECRETARIES

**American Board of Dental Public Health**
Eugenio Beltran, DMD, MPH, MS, DrPH
Executive Director
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FAX: 314/432-8170
chris@americanboardortho.com
www.americanboardortho.com

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Ms. Margie Hannen
211 E. Chicago Avenue, Suite 1100
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FAX: 312/266-9982
abe@aae.org
www.aae.org

**American Board of Pediatric Dentistry**
Dr. Jeffrey A. Dean
5034A Thoroughbred Lane
Brentwood, TN 37027
800/410-1250
FAX: 319/341-9499
jdean@abpd.org
www.abpd.org

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FAX: 813/289-5279
Clarita@ABPath.org
www.abomp.org

**American Board of Periodontontology**
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Brenda J. Mayes, Associate Executive Director
877 Baltimore Annapolis Blvd
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(FAX): 410-647-1260
staff@abperio.org
www.abperio.org

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Department of Comprehensive Dentistry
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FAX: 210/567-3334
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www.abomr.org

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LHoxie@aboms.org
www.aboms.org

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West Hartford, CT 06127-1894
860/679-2649
FAX: 860/206-1169
ttaylorabpros@comcast.net
www.abpros.org
# ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

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<th>Professional</th>
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<td>Years of Advanced Education* in Addition to DDS or DMD Degree</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Certification Pathway for Graduates of non-CODA- Accredited Advanced Education Programs (see page 7 for details)</td>
<td>Yes  Yes  Yes  Yes  Yes  No  Yes  No  No</td>
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</table>

*Advanced Education refers to postdoctoral education programs accredited by the ADA Commission on Dental Accreditation
Certification Pathways for Graduates of Non-CODA Accredited Advanced Dental Education Programs

**Dental Public Health:** Satisfactory completion of two or more years of advanced education in an area related to the practice of dental public health from an institution outside the United States, followed by the satisfactory completion of a residency program in dental public health accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation. The advanced education program’s content shall include biostatistics, epidemiology, health care policy and management, environmental health, and behavioral sciences.

**Endodontics:** Graduates of an Advanced Endodontics Program that has not been accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation may apply for certification by the American Board of Endodontics under the following conditions:

1) The candidate must submit satisfactory evidence of completion of an Advanced Endodontic Program that is equivalent to a program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA).
2) The candidate must have a license to practice dentistry in a state or a teaching institution in the United States.
3) In addition, the candidate must have either a) spent at least one year as an advanced standing resident in an Advanced Endodontics Program accredited by CODA or b) spent two years as a full-time Endodontics faculty member in a dental school accredited by CODA.

In either of these situations, two letters of support must be submitted on behalf of the candidate from 1) a Department Chair of Endodontics or an Endodontic Postgraduate Program Director who is a Diplomate of the ABE (if the candidate is a Department Chair or Program Director, then the letter of recommendation may be from a Chair or Program Director at another dental school), and 2) the Dean of the dental school in which the candidate has been employed or has been an advanced standing resident.

**Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology:** A candidate must show evidence of satisfactory completion of an OMR advanced education program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation or the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada.

**Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology:** Section 5. Advanced Training Outside the United States and/or Canada. In exceptional circumstances, an applicant who has not met the requirements outlined in Article X, Section 1.a. may appeal to the Board for special consideration. Applicants in this category will be expected to have completed a full-time course of study in oral and maxillofacial pathology of not less than three years duration (in a non-Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA/CDAC) OMP program) and to have spent an additional year in an advanced training program in oral and maxillofacial pathology approved by the CODA/CDAC. The unanimous approval of the Board of Directors is required for such applicants to be admitted to the certification examination. Requirements of Article X, Section 1.b. and c. also apply.

**Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery:** Applicants for certification by the ABOMS must be graduates of a U.S. or Canadian dental program recognized by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) or from a foreign dental school that provides equivalent educational backgrounds. Applicants must have completed advanced educational oral and maxillofacial surgery (OMS) programs accredited by CODA.

Applicants trained in programs not accredited by CODA must provide verification that their OMS training was of equivalent educational backgrounds. In addition, these applicants must complete 1) at least 12 months of OMS training at the senior resident level in a CODA-accredited program, which is verified by the program director. The program director must also verify that all of the program’s educational requirements have been met by said applicant to the satisfaction of the ABOMS; or 2) an accredited fellowship that is a minimum of 12 months duration which is verified by the program director, or 3) 12 consecutive months as a full-time faculty member in an CODA-accredited OMS training program during the past 2 years which is verified by the department chairman in OMS.
**Pediatric Dentistry**: 1) Completion of advanced education in Pediatric Dentistry which has been approved by the American Dental Association/Commission on Dental Accreditation or the Commission of Dental Accreditation of Canada (CDAC).

2) Internationally trained Pediatric Dentist (from a non-accredited ADA/CDA or CDAC specialty program) should contact a Program Director of an ADA/CDA or CDAC approved training program in Pediatric Dentistry and request advanced placement or credit by examination leading to certification of completion of the program.

3) Internationally trained Pediatric Dentist (from a non-accredited ADA/CDA or CDAC specialty programs) who has been a full-time faculty member in an accredited ADA/CODA or CDAC pediatric dentistry training program for 12 consecutive months during the past 2 years with verification by the Department Chair in Pediatric Dentistry.

NOTE: For items 1, 2, and 3 the pediatric dentist MUST provide evidence of an active license (with expiration date) to engage in the practice of dentistry and a copy of the certification of completion of the training program – both must be notarized as official duplications. These documents must be included with the application of Board Candidacy and a completed Credentialing Survey.

**EXAMINATION PROCEDURES**

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Comments:
OMP: Two parts to a surgical (microscopic) exam using glass slides

OMR: The written examination for ABOMR is administered for part 1 only. Part 2 examinees will have written reports for cases and images. There will be an oral exam in addition to the case-based reports.

OMS: COMSSAT – Prior to applying for the Recertification Examination (RE), the Diplomate must successfully complete the ABOMS self-assessment tool (COMSSAT). The COMSSAT is web based and delivered within a specified period of time. Registration for the COMSSAT opens on the ABOMS website at the same time as the RE application.

OMSITE – The Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery In-Service Training Examination (OMSITE) is a secure examination developed for Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Residents. The OMSITE is administered to all registered residents in accredited OMS training programs in the US and Canada. It is an examination of knowledge not a self-assessment or a study tool.

PD: Renewal of Certification process


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<td><strong>Annual Fee for Diplomates</strong></td>
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**Note:**

W= Written Exam  
O = Oral Exam  
C = Clinical Exam  
CH= Case History  
Q = Qualifying Exam  
R= Recertification Exam  

**PD:** Time-limited Diplomate: A board candidate who successfully completed the certification process and was awarded a time-limited certificate. They must comply with the Annual Diplomate Renewal fee, have an active license to practice dentistry, submit the annual Credentials Survey, and complete required elements of ROC-P on an annual basis.

**Unlimited Diplomate:** A board candidate who successfully completed the certification process prior to the awarding of the time-limited certificates and must also comply with the Annual Diplomate Renewal fee and submit annual Credentials Survey.
RE-EXAMINATION POLICIES

DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH
Candidates who fail the examination will be accepted for one re-examination. Candidates who fail the re-examination will be required to submit evidence of further formal training or supervised field experience before being accepted for an additional re-examination. Candidates who apply for the written exam only may retake the written examination for a total of three times.

ENDODONTICS
Candidates who fail one component of the examination will be accepted for re-examination in that component if the period of board eligibility for that component has not expired. Failure to pass a re-examination in a single component results in termination of the candidate's board eligibility. Candidates may re-establish Board Eligibility on a two-time basis.

ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL PATHOLOGY
Candidates who fail the examination may retake it each year within the five-(5) year period dating from the time of initial application.

ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL RADIOLOGY
Candidates who fail to successfully complete Part 1 may be permitted, on written request to the Board and payment of a re-examination fee, to repeat Part 1. Candidates who fail to successfully complete Part 2 may be permitted, on written request to the Board and payment of a re-examination fee, to repeat Part 2 for a maximum of two (2) consecutive years. A candidate failing Part 1 or 2 who wishes to repeat Part 1 or Part 2 must submit a written, signed request to the Board, through the Secretary/Treasurer by July 15. A re-examination fee of $350 USD for Part 1 and $500 USD for Part 2 for permission to repeat these parts must accompany the request. A candidate who fails Part 1 or 2 three (3) times and who wishes to repeat Part 1 or Part 2 must submit an application as a new Part 1 applicant. Eligibility for re-examination will be at the discretion of the Directors who will review evidence of additional study and experience to support candidacy for re-examination.

Qualifying Examination
A candidate who fails the Qualifying Examination may retake the examination within a two-year period, then the application is void. Once an application is void, the applicant will no longer be considered a "Candidate." Individuals who re-apply will regain "Candidate" status upon successful completion of the qualifying examination.

Oral Certifying Examination
Once a Candidate successfully completed their Qualifying Examination they are eligible to begin their application for the Oral Certifying Examination. A Candidate has three consecutive years following successful completion of the Qualifying Examination in which to take and pass the Oral Certifying Examination. The ABOMS administrative office must receive the completed Oral Certification Examination application by a specified deadline. A Candidate who does not take and pass the Oral Certifying Examination within the three-year period must re-apply for Board certification. Individuals who are required to re-apply will regain "Candidate" status upon successfully completing the Qualifying Examination.

The Board shall determine the requirements and qualifications for re-examination of any candidate and its decision shall be final.
ORTHODONTICS AND DENTOFACIAL ORTHOPEDICS
Examinees who do not successfully complete the Written Examination in five years from date of application must re-apply. Examinees may repeat the examination as many times as the examination is available in the five-year established time frame. After successful completion of the written examination, there is no time-limit or expiration date for completing the clinical examination.

Examinees taking their first Clinical Examination, who do not successfully complete all required case criteria, are given a time limit and two attempts to resubmit cases for incomplete criteria. If unsuccessful, candidates are required to register for a new examination and present entirely new cases.

PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY
Qualifying Exam (QE): The Candidate who is unsuccessful with the QE can retake the examination annually in years 1 through 4 of their eligibility period. The Candidate must be successful with the QE prior to sitting for the OCE.

Oral Clinical Exam (OCE): The Candidate who is unsuccessful with the OCE can retake the examination annually within their eligibility period. If unsuccessful with the OCE during their eligibility period, the Candidate will need to start the process over.

PERIODONTICS
Qualifying Examination: Candidates who fail the Qualifying Examination may apply and take the examination again.

Oral Examination: Candidates who fail the oral examination in the last year of eligibility. (2 years without extension: 3 years if extension is granted), will be required to restart the Certification Examination process by retaking and successfully completing the ABP Qualifying Examination.

PROSTHODONTICS
Should a candidate fail all or any part(s) of the examination, s/he may apply at any time for re-examination and pay the appropriate fee for each part. If the candidate is unsuccessful in one or two parts, they can be reexamined in that part(s) only at a subsequent Board examination. Relative to the examination, Section B candidates that present an acceptable patient presentation but perform an unacceptable oral examination will be required to successfully complete a 40 minute repeat oral examination focused predominantly on the section failed, but open to all concepts in general prosthodontics and related sciences. This examination will be given at a subsequent Board examination. A failure on any patient presentation will require that the candidate present a new patient treatment or retreatment of the same patient at a subsequent examination.

If the candidate fails any part of the examination three (3) times, Board eligibility is permanently forfeited and may not be re-established except under unusual extenuating circumstances which the Board may determine.
DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH

Recertification by the Board requires completion of an average of ten (10) hours annually of continuing education from an approved CERP or a public health organization. Scholarly activity, such as manuscripts published in peer-reviewed journals, presentations at scientific meetings and providing continuing education courses and lectures will be counted toward these ten (10) hours.

In addition, the Board initiated a voluntary recertification program for all diplomates certified prior to January 1, 2000. These diplomates are requested to seek voluntary recertification within ten (10) years beginning in 2010. Upon review of the diplomates’ recertification credentials, the American Board of Dental Public Health will issue a supplemental certificate that will remain valid for ten (10) years.

ENDODONTICS

Applicants making Preliminary Application on or after January 1, 1997 will be required to be recertified every ten years from the date they are declared Diplomates by the ABE. The purpose of recertification is to ensure that Diplomates are current in the science and clinical practice of the specialty of endodontics.

During the 10-year recertification period, 25 credits or 150 continuing education hours must be earned by the Diplomates to meet the re-certification criteria. A maximum of 8.5 credits or 50 continuing education hours are allowed/counted annually.

Diplomates who submitted Preliminary Applications prior to January 1, 1997, and complete the examination process without having to make a second Preliminary Application after January 1, 1997, are not subject to recertification. However, the Directors of the American Board of Endodontics encourage all Diplomates to seek and maintain the highest level of knowledge of technical skills in the specialty of endodontics.

ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL PATHOLOGY

It is the position of the ABOMP that oral pathology-related continuing education and practice experience are required to maintain knowledge after successful completion of the certification process. The Certification Maintenance (CM) program is directed primarily toward those oral and maxillofacial pathologists with time-limited certificates (certificate received in 2004 or after). The process will be open, however, to all certified diplomates. A diplomate who holds a non-time-limited certificate will not put that certificate in jeopardy by participating in the CM program. A voluntary Continued Competency Assurance Program is also still available for diplomates without time-limited certificates. Certification Maintenance will be based on three components.

1. Evidence of professional standing.
2. Evidence of commitment to lifelong learning and involvement in periodic self-assessment (organized continuing education (CE) and self-learning).
3. Evidence of cognitive expertise (certification maintenance examination).

If a diplomate is successful in the CM process, a new certificate will be issued. A diplomate will be allowed to sit for the certification maintenance examination in years 7-10 of his/her 10-year certification period. Regardless of the date at which the CM process is completed, the anniversary dates for recertification will be derived from the
initial certification date. If a diplomate does not successfully complete the requirements of the CM process, including passing the certification maintenance examination, the diplomate’s Board certification will expire 10 years after issuance and he/she will no longer be listed as a diplomate.

**ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL RADIOLOGY**

The American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology (ABOMR) strongly values continuing education and expresses so in its mission statement. Compliance with continuing education requirements and other professional activities directed toward maintaining and increasing knowledge, skills and competence in OMR shall be required of all active Diplomates. **Attainment of at least 50 points over a three year period is required for recertification.** Diplomates will be responsible for maintaining their own records and documentation. The ABOMR Recertification Committee has been instructed to audit 5% of active Diplomates annually. These Diplomates will be required to submit documented proof of CEU attainment to the Committee. Diplomates who fail to meet the requirements will be placed on a one-year probation period, and appeals can be made during that time. Failure to comply with the requirements at the end of the probation period may result in revocation of certification as a Diplomate. The Board of Directors will consider petitions from individuals who may have extenuating circumstances for not meeting their obligations.

CEUs derived from CE activities are calculated using the following guidelines:

1. Attendance at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology, or other national or international conferences, CE course, seminars or workshops related to OMR (1 CEU per hour of credit awarded)
2. CE courses or other presentations given related to OMR (2 CEUs per hour of CE given; 2 CEUs per abstract poster or oral abstract presentation)
3. Publications dealing with OMR
   a. Primary/first author in a peer-reviewed journal; book; book chapter; monograph (10 CEUs per publication)
   b. Contributing author in a peer-reviewed journal; book; book chapter, monograph (5 CEUs per publication)
   c. Primary/first author in a non-refereed publication (5 CEUs per publication)

**A minimum of 20 points in 3 years must be earned from activities #1-#3.**

4. Teaching
   a. Full time faculty status (10 CEUs per academic year)
   b. Part time faculty status (1 CEU per half day per week per academic year)

5. Clinical Practice in OMR
   a. Full time (10 CEUs per year)
   b. Part time (1 CEU per half day per week per year)

**A maximum number of 30 points in 3 years may be earned from activities #4-#5.**

The Board implemented a Certification Maintenance (CM) in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery program. The CM runs in 10-year cycles. The components of the CM process are:

**Professional Standing**
The Diplomate provides evidence of professional standing on an annual basis when the Diplomate submits his/her annual registration. Credentialing information provided indicates whether a Diplomate has an unrestricted medical and/or dental license and current hospital privileges permitting performance of core procedures in oral and maxillofacial surgery.

**Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment**
The Diplomate must show evidence that 90 hours of continuing education have been completed within three years of applying for the Recertification Examination.

The Diplomate must show evidence of completion of the ABOMS self-assessment tool (COMSSAT) that will be web based and delivered in a specified period of time. This is a self-assessment. No scores are required nor reported. The COMSSAT must be completed before the Diplomate can apply for the Recertification Examination.

**Cognitive Expertise**
The Diplomate must successfully complete the Recertification Examination (RE). The RE must be successfully completed by the 10th anniversary of the original certificate date, but no earlier than the 8th anniversary of that date. Diplomates will have three (3) consecutive opportunities to take and pass the Recertification Examination. Upon successful completion of the RE and the Certification Maintenance process, a new certificate will be issued that will certify the Diplomate for ten (10) years following the expiration of their current certificate.

**Evaluation of Performance in Practice**
A Diplomate must show evidence of practice performance by completing an Office Anesthesia Evaluation (OAE) program within the timeframe set by the AAOMS or jurisdictional licensing body. Alternative pathways are available for Diplomates unable to participate in the specified OA.

Certificates are limited to 10 years; therefore, a Recertification Examination is required to maintain certification. The requirements for each Recertification Exam will differ depending on one’s progression level (1st Recertification through 4th Recertification). The Diplomate may re-certify within two years prior to certificate expiration and may re-examine to meet requirements prior to certificate expiration. A Diplomate who does not complete re-certification prior to certificate expiration loses board certification and must take the same exam at some future time in order to acquire certification.

Diplomates who received certification prior to January 1, 1998 are not required to recertify, but may take a Voluntary Recertification Examination at any time.
The Renewal of Certification Process (ROC-P) is a four-part process that includes annual requirements (Parts 1, 2 and 4) and an examination once every 10 years (Part 3). The examination is an “open book” 50-item, multiple choice, web-based examination completed during the ninth year of a diplomate’s ten (10) year cycle. The examination can be accessed multiple times, but must be completed within a 48-hour period. The Renewal of Certification examination is based on contemporary general knowledge topics in pediatric dentistry.

PERIODONTICS

Statement of compliance to continuing educational requirements and other professional activities directed toward maintaining current knowledge and competence in Periodontics shall be required of all Diplomates, except those in retired status. Failure to meet this requirement will cause the Diplomate to be placed on inactive status. Diplomates are required to meet recertification requirements every six (6) years by attaining BOTH of the following: 1) Completion of the ABP Self Study Recertification Program (SSRP) and 2) at least 60 points of continuing education credit.

Beginning May 2013 candidates who successfully complete the Oral Examination will be awarded time-limited certificates of six (6) years. Diplomate must complete Recertification requirements in the sixth year or lose Diplomate status and will be required to begin the certification process again. A one year extension period to complete Recertification may be requested due to extenuating circumstances (i.e. severe illness, etc). Requests will be reviewed by the Directors for approval. Ultimately, granting of a one year extension is at the sole discretion of the Directors.

Diplomates who were awarded certificates prior to May 2013 will continue to have certificates which are not time limited. Diplomates certified prior to 2013 who fail to complete the Recertification requirements on time will result in the individual’s Diplomate status being placed into “Suspended” status during which time the individual cannot claim to be “Board Certified”. This “Suspended” status will remain in place until the individual completes the Recertification process and is returned to Active Diplomate status. During this time the individual will not be recognized as and cannot claim to be a Board-Certified Diplomate of the American Board of Periodontology. Request for a one year extension to complete the recertification requirement may be requested.
PROSTHODONTICS Summary - Requirements for Continued Proficiency (Recertification)

A. Continuing Education

Attainment of at least forty (40) points in an eight-year period will be required of all Diplomates except those in a Life Diplomate status. A maximum of ten (10) points per year will be allowed towards the total for forty (40) points. Points may be accumulated in the following ways:

1. Attendance at a scientific session sponsored by a major Prosthodontic organization (one point per day).
2. Other courses, conferences and meetings applicable to Prosthodontics preferably “CERP” approved (one point per day).
3.* Publications in peer reviewed Journals (not to include abstracts), (two points per publication).
4.* Prosthodontic book chapters (one point per chapter).
5.* Professional lectures given and study club activities related to prosthodontics (one point per day).

*A maximum of sixteen (16) points in an eight (8) year period may be credited from publications, lectures and study group activities. Activities of ½ day will earn ½ point (three hours equal ½ point).

Continuing education activity will be reported yearly on the registration form. All diplomates will be responsible for maintaining updated documentation of their continuing education activity. A percentage of randomly chosen diplomates will be requested to furnish documentation to the Board relating to their continuing education activities.

B. Self-Assessment

A self-assessment of recent Prosthodontic advances will be prepared by the American Board of Prosthodontics. The self-assessment can be requested on the annual registration form beginning in 1998. A package of questions with score card will be mailed to the diplomates requesting the self-assessment. The completed score card will be mailed to the Executive Director of the Board, logged and scored. The results, with correct answers and references, will be sent back to the diplomat.

C. At least one (1) documented self-assessment is required in the eight (8) year certification period.