

Ophthalmic Surgical Assisting Certification Requirements

Candidates who choose to become certified in the sub-specialty of Ophthalmic Surgical Assisting must be currently certified at one of the three core levels of certification (COA, COT, or COMT).

SA1. GRADUATE OF A FORMAL CLINICAL TRAINING PROGRAM

- Graduated from a CoA-OMP, CMA, or CAAHEP accredited program for OMP (which includes instruction and supervised experience in ophthalmic surgical assisting) within the 12 months prior to submitting your exam application.
 - If you completed the program more than 12 months ago, you will need to provide evidence of six months' work experience in a nationally accredited operating suite, under the supervision of regularly scheduling ophthalmic surgeons, one of whom is your sponsoring ophthalmologist. This work experience must be completed within the 12 months prior to submitting your exam application.

SA2. ON-THE-JOB TRAINING

- Worked for 18 months in a nationally accredited operating suite, functioning either as a sterile first assistant, sterile scrub assistant, or non-sterile circulator. This work experience must be under the supervision of regularly scheduling ophthalmic surgeons, one of whom is your sponsoring ophthalmologist. Work experience must be completed within the 36 months prior to submitting your exam application.

Content Outline for the Ophthalmic Surgical Assisting Examination

Ophthalmic surgical assisting candidates are examined in Content Areas 1-8. Percentages indicate the percentage of total questions devoted to the content area.

CONTENT AREA		% of exam
1	Pre-operative Preparation of Patient	5
2	Instruments	25
3	Aspetic Technique	20
4	Ophthalmic Anesthesia	5
5	Surgical Procedures	27
6	Surgical Complications	3
7	Ophthalmic Surgical Pharmacology	10
8	Minor Surgery	5

1. PRE-OPERATIVE PREPARATION OF PATIENT

- Consent
- Intraoperative monitoring

2. INSTRUMENTS

- Identification
- Selection/setup
- Maintenance
- Sterilization
- Sutures/supplies
- Function

3. ASEPTIC TECHNIQUE

- Scrubbing/gowning/gloving/prepping
- Circulating
- General knowledge
- Assisting

4. OPTHALMIC ANESTHESIA

- General
- Local
- Topical

5. SURGICAL PROCEDURES

- Cataract surgery
- Corneal surgery
- Glaucoma surgery
- Strabismus surgery
- Oculo-plastics surgery
- Orbital surgery
- Lacrimal surgery
- Refractive surgery
- Retinal surgery
- Laser surgery
- Other

6. SURGICAL COMPLICATIONS

7. OPTHALMIC SURGICAL PHARMACOLOGY

- Miotics
- Viscoelastics
- Enzymes
- Mydriatics
- Osmotic 9
- Narcotics
- Other

8. MINOR SURGERY

- Assisting the surgeon
- Instructing the patient