

JCAHPO certifications are competency-based. To be eligible, candidates must fall into one of the following education and work experience categories:

**COA**

Successful completion of a multiple-choice examination is required for certification. Eligibility options are noted below.

	Required Education	Required Work Experience
<b>COA – A1</b>	COA-OMP or CMA accredited clinical training program <sup>1,2</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If you completed the program more than 12 months ago, you will need to submit 18 JCAHPO Group A credits for each year following graduation.</li> </ul> (Candidates who graduate from an accredited formal training program at the Technician or Technologist level are eligible to apply for a lower-level certification under the A1 eligibility pathway).	None necessary
<b>COA – A2</b>	COA-OMP or CMA accredited non-clinical training program including distance learning programs <sup>1,2</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If you completed the course more than 12 months ago, you will need to submit 18 JCAHPO Group A credits for each following graduation.</li> </ul>	500 hours under the supervision of an ophthalmologist within 12 months prior to submitting application
<b>COA – A3</b>	Graduated from high school or the equivalent <i>and</i> Approved Independent Study Course such as the JCAT course or AAO Ophthalmic Medical Assisting course. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If you completed the course more than 36 months ago, you will need to repeat the course or submit 18 Group A credits for each year following the 36-month period.</li> </ul>	1,000 hours under the supervision of an ophthalmologist within 12 months prior to submitting application

**COT**

Successful completion of multiple-choice examination and the computer-simulated COT Skill Evaluation are required for certification. Eligibility options are noted below.

	Required Education	Required Work Experience
<b>COT – T1</b>	COA-OMP or CMA accredited training program at the Technician level <sup>1,2</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If you completed the program more than 12 months ago, you will need to submit 12 JCAHPO Group A credits for each year following graduation. The credits must be earned within 36 months prior to submitting your application.</li> </ul>	None necessary
<b>COT – T2</b>	Previous COA certification & JCAHPO Group A credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You will need to submit 12 JCAHPO Group A credits earned within 12 months prior to submitting your application.</li> <li>Must maintain certification as a COA while pursuing COT certification.</li> </ul>	Employed 2,000 hours as a COA within 24 months prior to submitting application.

	Required Education	Required Work Experience
<b>COT – T3</b>	<p>Previous CO or OC(C) certification &amp; JCAHPO Group A credits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You will need to submit 12 JCAHPO Group A credits earned within 12 months prior to submitting your application.</li> <li>Must maintain certification as an Orthoptist while pursuing COT certification.</li> </ul>	Employed 2,000 hours as CO or OC(C) within 24 months prior to submitting application.
<b>COT – T4</b>	<p>Fast Track option: Allows a current COA the use of 6,000 hours of non-certified work experience prior to becoming certified, and JCAHPO Group A credits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You will need to submit 12 JCAHPO Group A credits earned within 12 months prior to submitting your application</li> <li>Must maintain certification as a COA while pursuing COT certification</li> </ul>	<p>Current COA certification <i>and</i> 6,000 hours of non-certified work experience with an ophthalmologist prior to becoming JCAHPO certified. Verification of previous work experience needs to be in the form of a letter from your ophthalmologist on official letterhead.</p>

### COMT

Successful completion of multiple-choice examination, computer-simulated COT Skill Evaluation, and the computer-simulated COMT Performance Test are required for certification. Eligibility options are noted below.

	Required Education	Required Work Experience
<b>COMT – TG1</b>	<p>COA-OMP or CMA accredited training program at the Technologist level &amp; two or more years of college education<sup>1,2</sup></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If you completed the program more than 12 months ago, you will need to submit 12 JCAHPO Group A credits for each year following graduation. The credits must be earned within 36 months prior to submitting your application.</li> <li>Successful completion of two or more years of college and/or university-level courses (90 quarter or 60 semester credits).</li> </ul>	None necessary
<b>COMT – TG2</b>	<p>COA-OMP or CMA accredited training program at the Technologist level &amp; less than two years of college education<sup>1,2</sup></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If you completed the program more than 12 months ago, you will need to submit 12 JCAHPO Group A credits for each year following graduation. The credits must be earned within 36 months prior to submitting your application.</li> </ul>	4,000 hours under the supervision of an ophthalmologist within 24 months prior to submitting application
<b>COMT – TG3</b>	<p>Previous COT certification &amp; JCAHPO Group A credits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You will need to submit 12 JCAHPO Group A credits earned within 12 months prior to submitting your application.</li> <li>Must maintain certification as a COT while pursuing COMT certification.</li> </ul>	Employed 6,000 hours as a COT
<b>COMT – TG4</b>	<p>Previous CO or OC(C) certification &amp; JCAHPO Group A credits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You will need to submit 12 JCAHPO Group A credits earned within 12 months prior to submitting your application.</li> <li>Must maintain certification as an Orthoptist while pursuing COMT certification.</li> </ul>	Employed 4,000 hours as a CO or OC(C) within 60 months prior to submitting application.

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	Required Education	Required Work Experience
<b>COMT – TG5</b>	<p>Fast Track option: Allows a current COT the use of 6,000 hours of non-certified work experience prior to becoming certified, and JCAHPO Group A credits.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You will need to submit 12 JCAHPO Group A credits earned within 12 months prior to submitting your application.</li> <li>Must maintain certification as a COT while pursuing COMT certification.</li> </ul>	<p>Employed 3,000 hours as a COT <i>and</i> 6,000 hours of non-certified work experience with an ophthalmologist prior to becoming JCAHPO certified. Verification of previous work experience needs to be in the form of a letter from your ophthalmologist on official letterhead.</p>

**OSA**

Successful completion of a multiple-choice examination is required for certification. Eligibility options are noted below.

	Required Education	Required Work Experience
<b>OSA – SA1</b>	<p>Must have core level certification (COA, COT, or COMT).</p> <p><i>and</i> COA-OMP or CMA accredited training program for ophthalmic medical technicians that includes instruction and supervised experience in ophthalmic surgical assisting.<sup>1</sup></p>	<p>If you completed the program more than 12 months ago, you will need to provide evidence of six months of work experience in a nationally accredited operating suite, under the supervision of regularly scheduling ophthalmic surgeons, one of whom is your sponsoring ophthalmologist. The work experience must be completed within 12 months prior to submitting application.</p>
<b>OSA – SA2</b>	<p>Must have core level certification (COA, COT, or COMT).</p>	<p>Worked for 18 months in a nationally accredited operating suite functioning as a sterile first assistant, sterile scrub assistant, or non-sterile circulator. This work experience must under the supervision of regularly scheduling ophthalmic surgeons, one of whom is your sponsoring ophthalmologist. The work experience must be completed within 36 months prior to submitting application.</p>
<b>OSA – SA3</b>	<p>Must have core level certification (COA, COT, or COMT)</p> <p><i>and</i> Successful completion of an approved surgical independent study course completed within 12 months of making application.</p>	<p>Log of 15 Category A surgical cases observed within the last 12 months under the supervision of a sponsoring ophthalmologist. Category A surgical cases and the OSA case log may be found in Appendix C.</p>

**ROUB**

Successful completion of a multiple-choice examination is required for certification. Eligibility options are noted below.

	Required Education	Required Work Experience
<b>ROUB - R1</b>	<p>COA-OMP or CMA or accredited training program for ophthalmic medical technicians<sup>1</sup></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If you completed the program more than 36 months ago, you will need to submit 25 approved credits.</li> </ul>	<p>None necessary.</p>
<b>ROUB - R2</b>	<p>See work experience requirement</p>	<p>Employed 2,000 hours as a COA, COT, COMT, or CDOS</p>
<b>ROUB – R3</b>	<p>Continuing Education Credits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5 hours of A-Scan CE credits in a classroom setting within 12 months prior to submitting application.</li> <li>1 hour of A-Scan CE credit in a hands-on course within 12 months prior to submitting application.</li> </ul>	<p>Employed 4,000 hours as an Ultrasound Biometrist under the supervision of a physician.</p>

**CDOS**

Successful completion of a multiple-choice examination is required for certification. Eligibility options are noted below.

	Required Education	Required Work Experience
<b>CDOS - B1</b>	COA-OMP or CMA accredited training program for ophthalmic medical technicians <sup>1</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 hours of B-Scan CE credits in a classroom or distance learning setting earned within 12 months of submitting application.</li> <li>• 1 hour of B-Scan CE credit in a hands-on setting earned within 12 months of submitting application.</li> </ul>	Case log of 20 abnormal ophthalmic B-Scan examinations, performed within 12 months prior to submitting your application. A physician must sign your case log and at least two different pathologies must be listed. Please refer to Appendix E for the CDOS case log.
<b>CDOS - B2</b>	Continuing Education Credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 hours of B-Scan CE credits in a classroom or distance learning setting earned within 12 months of submitting application.</li> <li>• 1 hour of B-Scan CE credit in a hands-on setting earned within 12 months of submitting application.</li> </ul>	Employed at least 4,000 hours as a COA, COT, COMT under physician supervision. <i>or</i> ROUB, RDCS, RDMS, R.T.(S) or CRA under physician supervision. <i>and</i> Case log of 20 abnormal ophthalmic B-Scan examinations, performed within 12 months prior to submitting your application. A physician must sign your case log and at least two different pathologies must be listed. Please refer to Appendix E for the CDOS case log.
<b>CDOS - B3</b>	Continuing Education Credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 hours of B-Scan CE credits in a classroom or distance learning setting earned within 12 months of submitting application.</li> <li>• 1 hour of B-Scan CE credit in a hands-on setting earned within 12 months of submitting application.</li> </ul>	Employed at least 6,000 hours as a sonographer <i>and</i> Case log of 20 abnormal ophthalmic B-Scan examinations, performed within 12 months prior to submitting your application. A physician must sign your case log and at least two different pathologies must be listed. Please refer to Appendix E for the CDOS case log.

**CCOA**

Successful completion of a multiple-choice examination is required for certification. Eligibility options are noted below.

	Required Education	Required Work Experience
<b>CCOA</b>	Approved Independent Study Course such as the JCAT course or AAO Ophthalmic Medical Assisting course completed within 36 months prior to submitting examination application <i>and</i> You will need to submit 12 JCAHPO Group A credits earned within 12 months prior to submitting your application.	Employed by a company or supplier of ophthalmology products and/or services.

<sup>1</sup>COA-OMP is the Commission on Accreditation of Ophthalmic Medical Programs. CMA is the Canadian Medical Association.

<sup>2</sup>Certification examination candidates who attend a formal training program may apply for the certification examination up to two months prior to graduation from the program; however, no examination results will be sent by JCAHPO to the candidate until official notification of graduation is received and verification of the work experience is received if applicable.

If you have questions regarding whether you meet the eligibility requirements, please contact JCAHPO's Certification Department.