

## Special Considerations

If you do not meet the IJCAHPO eligibility criteria, but you believe that your education, training, and/or experience are equivalent, you may request special consideration. People who received ophthalmic training outside the United States and Canada may be among those qualifying for special consideration. The special consideration process is designed to serve an applicant whose educational and/or employment background is different from the established eligibility criteria, but may be deemed equivalent.

Contact the IJCAHPO Certification Department for information on the documentation required to support your special consideration request. Each request is examined on an individual basis and the process may take six to eight weeks. Special consideration is not offered to candidates who have the opportunity to qualify under the established criteria but have chosen not to do so.

## Retirement Credential

Certified individuals retiring from the eye care profession, upon approval, may receive the retired credential, e.g., COA (Ret.).

### Eligibility

A certificant may apply for the retirement credential at the most recent level of certification, if they meet the following requirements:

- The certification must be in good standing for the last ten years. This means the certification may not have been in a revoked status in the last ten years.
- The certificant may no longer receive payment for serving in the eye care field and should not plan on using their certification professionally again. Volunteer work is acceptable.

## Application

A certificant must submit an application for the retirement credential. To request an application, contact the IJCAHPO Certification Department. Applications must be submitted within 30 days prior to the certification expiration date. A fee of \$45 is required to accompany the application and the signature of a sponsoring ophthalmologist is not necessary.

## Renewal

A retirement credential needs to be renewed every 36 months. An application and renewal fee of \$30 needs to be submitted at the time of renewal.

## Returning to a Practicing Credential

If a certificant wishes to return to a practicing credential instead of the retired credential the individual is required to:

- Submit a complete examination application including a sponsoring ophthalmologist's signature.
- Successfully complete the certification examination(s) at the level at which they are retired, or a lower level. This includes the practical examination for the COT and COMT level of the certification.

## International Council of Accreditation (ICA)

The International Council of Accreditation, formerly known as CoA – OMP, is vested with the responsibility and authority to evaluate ophthalmic training programs that have requested accreditation services. ICA's principal means of program evaluation consists of analyzing Self-Study Reports, sending representative teams to conduct Site Visits of programs, and deliberating at Board meetings.

Contact IJCAHPO's certification department with further questions regarding the eligibility requirements.