Ophthalmic Surgical Assistant Certification Requirements (OSA)

Candidates who choose to become certified in the sub-specialty of Ophthalmic Surgical Assisting (OSA) 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 or CMA accredited program for OMP that includes instruction and supervised experience in ophthalmic surgical assisting within 12 months (one-year) prior to submitting your examination application.
- If you completed the program more than 12 months (one-year) 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 12 months (one-year) prior to submitting your examination application.

SA2. WORK EXPERIENCE

- Worked for 18 months (one-year and a half) in a nationally accredited operating suite, functioning as either 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 (three-years) months prior to submitting your exam application.

SA3. APPROVED SURGICAL ASSISTING COURSE AND SURGICAL LOG

- Log of 10 category A surgical cases which have been observed under the supervision of a sponsoring ophthalmologist.
- Successful completion of an approved surgical course to include one of the following:
  1. JCAHPO approved hands-on surgical course
  2. JCAHPO approved lecture or online surgical course
  3. JCAHPO approved surgical independent study course equaling 4 credit hours (contact JCAHPO for more information)

Content Outline for the OSA Examination

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

Please refer to Appendix C for the OSA sub-content areas.

APPENDIX C - Ophthalmic Surgical Assisting (OSA)

Content Areas

1. **Pre-Operative Preparation of the Patient – 5%**
   a. Consent
   b. Intraoperative monitoring
2. **Instruments – 25%**
   a. Identification
   b. Selection/setup
   c. Maintenance
   d. Sterilization
   e. Sutures/supplies
   f. Function
3. **Aseptic Technique – 20%**
   a. Scrubbing/gowning/gloving/prepping
   b. Circulating
   c. General Knowledge
   d. Assisting
4. **Ophthalmic Anesthesia – 5%**
   a. General
   b. Local
   c. Topical
5. **Surgical Procedures – 27%**
   a. Cataract surgery
   b. Corneal surgery
   c. Glaucoma surgery
   d. Strabismus surgery
   e. Oculo-plastics surgery
   f. Orbital surgery
   g. Lacrimal surgery
   h. Refractive surgery
   i. Retinal surgery
   j. Laser surgery
   k. Other
6. **Surgical Complications – 3%**
7. **Ophthalmic Surgical Pharmacology – 10%**
   a. Miotics
   b. Viscoelastics
   c. Enzymes
   d. Mydriatics
   e. Osmotic 9
   f. Narcotics
   g. Other
8. **Minor Surgery – 5%**
   a. Assisting the surgeon
   b. Instructing the patient

Case Requirements for Ophthalmic Surgical Assisting Recertification

The case requirement is divided into two groups: Categories A and B. Certificants may choose to earn 100 percent of their case requirement from Category A or may choose to earn at least 90 percent of the case log from Category A and the remaining cases from Category B.

Category A (at least 90% or 27 cases)	Retina	• Scleral Buckle • Vitrectomy • Membrane removal • Endo laser
	Lens	• Cataract extraction +/- IOL • Secondary IOL • IOL exchange • Implantable Contact Lens (ICL)
	Strabismus	• Muscle procedure
	Cornea	• Penetrating Keratoplasty (PKP) • Lamellar/patch graft • Pterygium with or without conjunctival transplant • Conjunctival autograft • DSAEK (Endothelial Keratoplasty)
	Oculo-Plastics	• Dacryocystorhinostomy (DCR) • Levator procedures • Ptosis repair • Orbital decompression • Ectropion & Entropion repair • Lid laceration • Full thickness or partial thickness lid tumor • Endoscopic brow lift • Blepharoplasty • Conjunctivoplasty • Conjunctival tumors
	Glaucoma	• Trabeculectomy • Seton procedures
	Other	• Scleral patch
Category B (no more than 10% or 3 cases)	Lens	• Resposition IOL
	Strabismus	• Botulinum toxin injection
	Cornea	• Radial Keratotomy (RK) • Automated lamellar keratoplasty (ALK) • Lasik • AK • Excimer laser surgeries (e.g., PRK, PTK) • Conductive Keratoplasty
	Oculo-Plastics	• Tarsorrhaphy • Canthal plication • Chalazion • Trichiasis • Temporal artery biopsy • Nasolacrimal duct (NLD) probing
	Retina	• Intravitreal injections