

OSTEOPATHIC PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON'S INITIAL CERTIFICATE

(APPLICATION INFORMATION)

[\(Click here to be taken to the Application Checklist\)](#)

ONLINE APPLICATION

You must obtain an Osteopathic Physician and Surgeon's (P&S) Certificate (certificate/license) from the Osteopathic Medical Board of California (Board) prior to practicing medicine in California. A licensed physician and surgeon may diagnose, prescribe, and administer treatment to individuals suffering from injury or disease. Physicians are authorized to administer and prescribe medication, use devices to sever or penetrate tissues, and to use all methods in the treatment of diseases, injuries, deformities, and other physical and mental conditions.

You must submit your P&S Certificate application online using the [BreEze Online Services](#) portal. **Each page of the online application will time out after approximately 15 minutes. To help with the completion of the application, review the "Application Preparation" section to complete each page within the 15-minute time limit, otherwise the system will time out and you will lose your information.**

To allow sufficient time for processing and remediating deficiencies, the Board strongly encourages you to submit your Application for a Physician and Surgeon's License six months in advance.

ELIGIBILITY

- ❖ You must have received your education and graduated from an osteopathic medical school accredited by the American Osteopathic Association's Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA). <https://osteopathic.org/accreditation/>
- ❖ To meet the postgraduate training requirement for licensure, you must submit proof of 12 months (1st year) postgraduate training credit reflecting completion of at least four months of general medicine, where there was direct patient care responsibility.
- ❖ Submit proof of completion of the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners (NBOME) COMLEX- USA Exam (Levels 1-3); the Federation Licensing Examination (FLEX) in lieu of COMLEX-USA (Level 3). [CCR Title 16 Section 1611 \(d\)](#)

ELIGIBILITY (continued)

- ❖ Disclosure of a United States Social Security Number (SSN) or an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) is mandatory prior to the issuance of a license. [Section 30](#) of the Business and Professions Code (BPC) authorizes collection of an SSN or ITIN. [Section 31\(e\)](#) of the BPC allows the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration and the Franchise Tax Board to share taxpayer information with the Board.

INITIAL P&S LICENSE RENEWAL REQUIREMENTS

- ❖ As a requirement of the initial license renewal, the licensee must provide verification of receiving credit for 36 months of Board-approved postgraduate training consisting of at least 24-continuous months of training within the same program.
 - ❖ Proof of the required postgraduate training must be mailed to the Board and postmarked no later than 60 days after the initial license expiration date to be considered by the Board. Please note that your license will be automatically placed in delinquent status pending review if you do not submit proof of the required postgraduate training within sufficient time for the Board to process it before the end of the 60 days.
 - ❖ You are not required to provide this documentation of postgraduate training after the issuance of your P&S license if you:
 - Provided verification of successfully completing 36 months of postgraduate training with 24 months in the same program during the application process (you will be notified by the Board once this requirement has been completed)
- OR-
- Are being licensed pursuant to Business and Profession Code (BPC) sections [2135](#), [2135.5](#), [2151](#), or [2428](#), or if you used experience under a [BPC section 2113](#) permit to qualify for a P&S license.

GENERAL INFORMATION

As an applicant, **you are personally responsible for all information disclosed on the application**, including any responses that may have been completed on your behalf or information provided to you by others. The Board may deny your application based upon omission, falsification or misrepresentation of any item or response on the application or any attachment. The Board considers violations of an ethical nature to be a serious breach of professional conduct.

GENERAL INFORMATION (continued)

- ❖ **Fingerprints:** Applicants who reside in California must complete the electronic Live Scan fingerprint process. The [Request for Live Scan Service](#) form may be obtained from the [Board's website](#). Please refer to the following website for Live Scan facilities in California: <https://oag.ca.gov/fingerprints/locations>. Applicants residing outside California must submit two completed fingerprint cards or if visiting California, may have their fingerprints completed electronically at a California Live Scan facility. **The Board must receive Criminal Records Check from both the California Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation prior to the issuance of a Physician's and Surgeon's License.**
- ❖ **Custodian Of Records:** The Licensing Program Manager is the custodian of records. Access to records by the individual to whom they pertain may be obtained under the Information Practices Act, Civil Code section 1798.17, by [contacting the Board](#).
- ❖ **Grounds for Denial:** The Board reviews each applicant's credentials for licensure in California on an individual basis. The Board has the authority to deny licensure based upon an applicant's act of dishonesty, unprofessional conduct, conviction of a crime, discipline by a Licensing Board outside of California, or inability to practice medicine safely. See BPC sections [480](#), [2221](#), and [2234](#) for further information.
- ❖ **Priority Review and Expedited Licensure:** Review the additional requirements on qualifying for [Priority Review and Expedited Licensure](#) as outlined below. The Board will NOT expedite review of your application nor the licensure process if any of the required documents are missing or do not meet the requirements:

Honorably Discharged Veterans of the United States Armed Forces

The Board is required to expedite the application review and licensure process if you have served as an active-duty member of the United States Armed Forces and were honorably discharged ([BPC section 115.4](#))

To expedite the review of your application, you must attach a copy of the following documentation on the Attachments page of the online application or attach to your mailed application:

- Official orders issued by the United States Armed Forces verifying that you have been, or will be, honorably discharged.

Practice in Medically Underserved Area or Population

The Board is required to expedite the application review and licensure process if you have received and accepted an offer of employment to work in an area of California formally designated as an underserved area or underserved population. ([BPC section 2092](#))

To expedite the review of your application, you must attach a copy of the following documentation on the attachments page of the online application or attach to your mailed application:

GENERAL INFORMATION (continued)

❖ **Priority Review and Expedited Licensure:** *(Continued)*

1. A signed and dated letter from you to confirm that you accepted employment in California to provide medical services to a formally designated underserved area and/or population.
2. A signed and dated letter from your prospective employer confirming their offer of prospective employment to provide medical services to a formally designated underserved area and/or population in California. The letter must include the proposed employment start date, the name and address of the facility(s) where you will provide medical services, and the medical specialty of the medical services you will provide.

Provide Abortions Within the Scope of Practice of Their Medical License

An applicant who demonstrates they intend to provide abortions within the scope of practice of their license may qualify for expedited application processing, if they provide the board with the documentation identified below. An “abortion” is any medical treatment intended to induce the termination of a pregnancy except for the purpose of producing a live birth.

To expedite the review of your application, you must attach the following documentation with your application:

- A letter declaring your intent to provide abortions; and,
- A letter from an employer or health care entity indicating that you have accepted employment or entered into a contract to provide abortions. This letter must include:
 1. The starting date;
 2. The location where you will be providing abortions; and,
 3. That you will be providing abortions within the scope of practice of your applicable license, in accordance with BPC sections [2253](#), [2725.4](#), and [3502.4](#).

Spouse or Domestic Partner of an Active-Duty Member of the United States Armed Forces

The Board is required to expedite the review of your application and licensure process and waive the application and initial license fee if you are a spouse of, or in a domestic partnership or other legal union with, an active-duty member of the United States Armed Forces who is assigned to a duty station in California under official active-duty military orders. ([BPC section 115.5](#))

To expedite the review of your application, you must attach a copy of the following documentation to your online application or attach to your mailed application:

- Evidence that you are married to, or in a domestic partnership or other legal union with, an active-duty member of the United States Armed Forces who is assigned to a duty station in California under official orders,

GENERAL INFORMATION (continued)

❖ **Priority Review and Expedited Licensure:** *(Continued)*

- Evidence of your domestic partner's or spouse's official assignment to a duty station in California, and
- Evidence that you hold a current, active, and unrestricted medical license in another state, district, or territory of the United States.

Admitted to the United States as a Refugee, Granted Asylum, or Have a Special Immigrant Visa Status

The Board is required to expedite the review of applications and initial licensure process for certain applicants described below. (BPC section [135.4](#)) To have your application expedited, one of the following statements must apply to you:

- You were admitted to the United States as a refugee pursuant to section 1157 of title 8 of the United States Code; or
- You were granted asylum by the Secretary of Homeland Security or the United States Attorney General pursuant to section 1158 of title 8 of the United States Code; or
- You have a special immigrant visa and were granted this status pursuant to section 1244 of Public Law 110-181, Public Law 109-163, or section 602(b) of title VI of division F of Public Law 111-8, relating to Iraqi and Afghan translators/interpreters or those who worked for or on behalf of the United States government.

To expedite the review of your application, you must attach a copy of one of the following documentations to your online application or attach to your mailed application:

- Form I-94, Arrival/Departure Record, with an admission class code, such as "RE" (Refugee) or "AY" (Asylee) or other information designating the person a refugee or asylee.
 - Special immigrant visa that includes the "SI" or "SQ."
 - Permanent Resident Card (Form I-551), commonly known as a "Green Card," with a category designation indicating that the person was admitted as a refugee or asylee.
 - An order from a court of competent jurisdiction or other documentary evidence that provides reasonable assurance that the applicant qualifies for expedited licensure.
- ❖ **Temporary License:** The Board may issue a temporary Physician and Surgeon License if you are married to, in a domestic partnership or in other legal union with, an active-duty member of the United States Armed Forces who is assigned to a duty station in California under official active-duty military orders. ([BPC section 115.6](#)).

A temporary license is valid for a period of 12 months, allowing you to complete the application process for the full P&S license. Upon issuance of the temporary license number, your profile will be available on the Board's [License Verification](#) page.

GENERAL INFORMATION (continued)

❖ **Temporary License:** *(Continued)*

You must hold a current, active, and unrestricted medical license in another state, district, or territory of the United States. You must attach a copy of the following documentation to your online application or attach to your mailed application:

- Evidence that you are married to, or in a domestic partnership or other legal union with, an active-duty member of the United States Armed Forces who is assigned to a duty station in California under official orders.
- Evidence of your domestic partner's or spouse's official assignment to a duty station in California.
- Contact the state board(s) in which you are licensed and request that a verification be sent directly to the Board.

For minimum requirements, information, instructions, and forms, please visit the [Osteopathic Physician and Surgeon Temporary Certificate](#) page on the Board's website.

❖ **Third Party Services:** You may use electronic commercial services to assist in completing your application for licensure. The Board does not mandate any of the electronic services. For additional information, visit the [Board's website](#). The Board is providing this information as a convenience to its applicants.

❖ **Application Preparation:** The online application requires you to provide detailed information. ***Each page of the online application will time out after approximately 15 minutes.*** Gather the following information before starting your online application to avoid your application timing out and losing the information you have entered.

- ✓ Your full legal name and either your Social Security Number or ITIN.
- ✓ Address of Record, which the Board uses to contact you and will become public information once licensed.
- ✓ All examinations for licensure you have taken, and date passed (NBOME, FLEX, or state medical board).
- ✓ Osteopathic Medical school(s) name, mailing address, attendance start and end dates, and date degree was awarded.
- ✓ AOA/ACGME accredited postgraduate training facility name, dates of attendance, and specialty.
- ✓ Medical license(s) ever held, issuing U.S. State, Territory, including, but not limited to, temporary, provisional, or training license(s) regardless of license status.
- ✓ If applying for priority review and expedited licensure, all documents required to verify you meet the requirements, as indicated in the "Priority Review and Expedited Licensure" section above.

As indicated below, you may attach some required documents to the Attachments screen of your online application.

GENERAL INFORMATION (continued)

❖ **Application Preparation:** *(Continued)*

Previously Licensed in California: In accordance with [BPC section 2428, 2452, and 2455](#), an osteopathic physician whose California P&S license expired five or more years ago must reapply for licensure. If you voluntarily canceled your license, you must reapply regardless of the period.

Although section 2428 allows you to undertake a re-application process that is significantly streamlined, you must meet all the requirements as if you were applying for licensure for the first time. Upon receipt of your application and fees, the Board will retrieve your previously imaged licensing record and determine what documents may be used to meet the current requirements. In the event our imaged records do not contain all the documents that are currently required, you may be requested to submit additional documents. For more information on what is required to requalify for licensure, see [BPC section 2428](#).

Postgraduate Training License (PTL) to a Full License: As of January 1, 2022, Postgraduate Training Licenses (PTL) are only valid for 15 months. All licensees issued a PTL after this date who have completed 12 months of postgraduate training, are required to obtain a full unrestricted license prior to their PTL's expiration. The Board will utilize all primary source documentation and background clearances obtain at the time of PTL request. However, you must request the following when applying for a full unrestricted license:

- Certified NBOME Exam Scores reflecting completion of COMLEX (Level 3)
- Certificate of Completion of AOA/ACGME Postgraduate Training Form ([OMB. 25](#))



OSTEOPATHIC PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON'S INITIAL CERTIFICATE

(CHECKLIST)

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Listed below are the minimum application materials and supporting documentation required for a medical school graduate to obtain a P&S License. This list is not all-inclusive as additional items may be necessary based on responses provided on the application or information obtained from other entities.

You are required to submit the following items:

Application, Fees, Fingerprints, and Explanations

Application for Physician's and Surgeon's License, [OMB. 25](#), & [OMB. 26](#)

When submitting your application online using the [BreEze Online Services](#), each page of the online application will time out after approximately 15 minutes. This application requires you to provide detailed information. To help with the completion of the application, review the "Application Preparation" section of this document to complete each page within the 15-minute time limit, otherwise the system will time out and you will lose your information.

PLEASE NOTE: The review of your application will not commence until the Board receives the Attestation and Release of Information Form ([OMB. 26](#)) by [email](#)/mail.

Your P&S Certificate will be issued using your full legal name including middle name or initial and/or suffix. Once your license is issued, you may apply for a Fictitious Name Permit if you choose to practice medicine in California using another name. If you have used multiple variations of your name in the past, you may choose to attach a copy of a current government issued photographic identification (e.g., driver's license, alien registration, passport, etc.) with your application so the review process is not delayed.

If you have changed your name legally in the past, attach a copy of legal documents as proof of name change (e.g., Certified Court Order, Marriage Certificate, Dissolution of Marriage (Divorce), etc.).

APPLICATION CHECKLIST (continued)

❖ Application, Fees, Fingerprints, and Explanations (Continued)

Application & Initial License Fee - \$625.00

You must pay the nonrefundable application and initial licensing fee (\$200 *application fee* + \$425 *initial licensing fee*) to initiate the Board's review of your documents. The receipt date is based on the acceptance of both your application and all applicable fees.

All applicants are required to pay a mandatory \$25 Steven M. Thompson fee, which is included in the initial licensing fee. [Steven M. Thompson Physician Corps Loan Repayment Program](#) encourages recently licensed physicians to practice in underserved locations in California by authorizing a plan for repayment of their educational loans, up to \$105,000, in exchange for their service in a designated underserved area for a minimum of three years.

The application & initial license fee may be waived if you are applying as a spouse of or are in a domestic partnership or other legal union with, an active-duty member of the United States military. You will be required to pay the \$25 fee for the Steven M. Thompson Physician Corps Loan Repayment Program. To qualify for the fee waiver, you must submit the required supporting documents.

When applying online through BreEZe, you will be required to pay all required fees, including the initial license fee.

Fingerprints: Live Scan Form (CA Only) - OR - Two (2) Fingerprint Cards

LiveScan

If you reside in California, you must complete the electronic Live Scan fingerprint process. You will need to download and use the "[Request for Live Scan Service](#)" form from the Board's website. You may mail or upload a copy of the completed form with your application. Please list the following information on your Live Scan form to ensure that the Board receives your completed background clearance

Fingerprint Cards ([packet inserts](#))

If you reside outside of California, you must submit two completed fingerprint cards or have your electronic fingerprints completed at a California Live Scan facility. The Board will mail you a fingerprint card packet upon receipt of request via [email](#). When submitting your request please provide a mailing address where you wish the fingerprint cards to be mailed. the Board receives your application and appropriate processing fee; however, you must complete all personal data on the fingerprint cards, and personally transmit them to DOJ.

The Board must receive the Criminal Records Check from both the California Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation prior to the issuance of a P&S license.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST (continued)

❖ Application, Fees, Fingerprints, and Explanations (Continued)

Photographs

You are required to obtain and affix one (1) recent 2"X 2" (approximate size) passport quality photograph to the following documents.

- One photo must be affixed to your Attestation and Release of Information Form ([OMB. 26](#))
- Please also upload a copy as an attachment at the time of application submission

Osteopathic Medical School Diploma

You must remit a copy of your medical school diploma that is legible and shows all seals and signatures. You may either attach a copy at time of application submission online or request that your osteopathic colleges transmit a copy to the office on your behalf.

Explanation for Application Question, **Form OMB. EXP** (If applicable)

You may use this form to provide a detailed written explanation for a "Yes" response to a question on the Board's application. Please upload a separate OMB. EXP for each question where a "Yes" response was indicated.

Please include your written explanation as an attachment in BreEZe when submitting your application.

PRIMARY SOURCE DOCUMENTS

You must contact the appropriate entity to request they submit the documents below directly to the Board.

The Board will NOT accept the following documents if they are submitted by you.

Official Examination Scores from the appropriate examination entity:

Applicants must contact the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners, Inc. (NBOME) to request that a certified copy of their COMLEX-USA exam scores (Parts I-III) be sent directly to the Board.

OTHER ACCEPTABLE EXAMINATIONS

- NBOME Parts I-II and Federation Licensing Examination (FLEX) administered prior to Dec 31, 1993 may be substituted for Part III of the NBOME COMLEX-USA exam OR
- A State Written Examination shall be considered on a case-by-case basis. The applicant must hold a current, unrestricted license to practice osteopathic medicine in that state.
OR

APPLICATION CHECKLIST (continued)

❖ Primary Source Documents (Continued)

- The Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Variable Purpose Examination (COMVEX) is acceptable in lieu of a State Written Examination (see above). **NOTE: SPEX (Special Purpose Examination) is no longer accepted.**

Each examination agency must submit an official examination history report directly to the Board to be acceptable. You must request the examination history from the appropriate examination agency's websites listed below:

NBOME (COMLEX/COMVEX) - <https://www.nbome.org/>

FLEX – <https://www.fsmb.org/transcripts/> (The Board will only accept electronic submission of the Transcript of Scores.)

Out of State License Verifications:

Applicants with full-unrestricted licenses in other states must submit license verifications for all licenses, regardless of whether they are active or expired. Applicants must contact the state boards in which they are licensed and request that a verification be sent directly to the OMBC. Verifications may be emailed as long as they are sent directly to the OMBC by the out _____ of _____ state _____ agency.

The Board shall determine that no disciplinary action has been taken against the applicant by any medical licensing authority or that the applicant has not been subject to adverse judgments or settlements resulting from the practice of medicine, which the Board determines constitutes evidence of a pattern of negligence or incompetence.

Official Medical School Transcript

An official medical school transcript is required from each medical school attended. The Transcript must be prepared on the university letterhead affixed with the signature of the dean or registrar and the medical school seal, documenting all the basic science and clinical courses completed during the medical curriculum. **The medical school must submit the transcript directly to the Board either via email: OMBC.Applications@dca.ca.gov or to the Board's physician address to be acceptable.**

Certification of Completion of AOA or ACGME Postgraduate Training

Applicants must download the Certification of Completion of AOA or ACGME Postgraduate Training ([OMB. 25](#)) and send it to their postgraduate training program to be completed by the Program Director. **The training program must sign, affix a program seal, and submit the original directly to the Board either via email: OMBC.Applications@dca.ca.gov or to the Board's physician address to be acceptable.**

APPLICATION CHECKLIST (continued)

❖ Primary Source Documents (Continued)

This form cannot be completed until after the completion of the required training credit; forms pre-dating the completion date will not be accepted.

- Effective January 1, 2022, all applicants will need to submit proof of completion of at least 12 months of postgraduate training credit, to be eligible for licensure.
 - A postgraduate training form ([OMB. 25](#)) verifying completion of the 12 months of training credit must be submitted by the training program when applying.
 - After the completion of the 36 months, the program must submit a second (OMB. 25) form certifying completion of 36 months (24 months in the same training program).
- Postgraduate training credit is only accepted from training programs that are accredited by the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) or American College of Graduate Medical Education (ACGME).
- For applicants who have participated in more than one postgraduate training program, each postgraduate training program you have attended must complete this form.
- Applicants that hold an active, unrestricted, license in another state only need to demonstrate completion of 12 months of postgraduate training credit.
- Applicants who have completed their first year of postgraduate training prior to 1990 are only required to submit a copy of their internship certificate.
- If your postgraduate training program is no longer open, you must contact the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) and request that a Physician Profile Report be submitted to the Board.