

National Board for Certification of Orthopaedic Technologists, Inc.
Report to the Profession 2010

2010 Continuing Education Fee Update:

Since 2000, the charge for logging Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for recertification purposes has been \$2.00 per contact hour if the credential holder was a current paid member of the National Association of Orthopaedic Technologists (NAOT), and \$4.00 per contact hour if the credential holder was not a current paid member of NAOT.

The NBCOT is pleased to announce that as of June 1, 2010 the charge for logging CEUs will be \$2.00 for **all** credential holders.

Understanding the importance of continuing education for our profession, the change in CEU logging fees will not only keep the NBCOT in compliance with NCCA Standards, but the NBCOT is addressing the current cost factors of obtaining CEUs to both credential holders and to employers who may contribute to the certificants educational opportunities each year. The NBCOT Board feels that this across the board change is the best course of action to help control everyone's budget.

That being said, it has become apparent that there are still many certificants that claim to have difficulty obtaining the required 120 CEUs due to the cost of attending conferences and other functions.

At this time, each credential holder is only required to obtain forty (40) category 1 credits with the remaining eighty (80) credits which can be obtained in category 2.

Please review the current CEU guidelines regarding what is required in each category. You will find:

CATEGORY 1 Credits:

CPR – Maximum of 6 credits per 6 year cycle
Item Writing – Maximum of 20 credits per 6 year cycle
Teaching – Maximum of 10 credits per 6 year cycle
Grand Rounds – Maximum of 60 credits per 6 year cycle

If a credential holder were to take advantage of the above CEUs that person would have a total of 96 Category 1 credits.

The remainder credits needed could be obtained by completing On-Line CEUs for Category 2 credits.

Therefore, obtaining the required 120 CEUs is in fact attainable. The NBCOT strongly encourages participation in conferences, symposiums and workshops to keep current with the latest techniques and competencies in the Orthopaedic Technologist profession.

Website Update:

On January 1, 2010 a newer version of our website, www.nbcot.net, was launched, which we feel is more interactive and filled with all the pertinent information that is frequently asked for from our office. Everything from locating and printing commonly used forms, exam applications, updating contact information and privacy option choices can be obtained directly online from our website.

Authorized NBCOT merchandise including the Examination Review Guide can now be ordered securely online using PayPal.

ICE Survey (**BOLD** indicates the NBCOT policy)

ICE (Institute for Credentialing Excellence, Formerly NOCA – National Organization of Competency Assurance) holds regular surveys to obtain information on how certification boards conduct business.

Below are a number of past survey questions that the NBCOT has participated in. You will note that in most cases the NBCOT policy is in line with the national standard. The NBCOT is a member of ICE and the OTC® examination is accredited by NCCA (National Commission of Certifying Agencies).

1. Does your certification program require candidates that do not pass your examination to wait between retaking the certification examination?

Yes  **61%**

No  39%

The NBCOT current policy allows a candidate to sit for the certification examination 3 consecutive times before having to wait a period of 6 months to reapply.

Does your organization have an ethics procedure in practice?

Yes 84%

No 16%

The NBCOT has had ethics procedures in place for over 20 years.

Does your certification organization permit other employees in the candidate's work place to proctor practical exams and/or written exams?

Yes, for practical exams 6%

Yes, for written exams 13%

Yes, for both 0%

No 83%

In an effort to maintain security of the NBCOT examinations, the NBCOT requires outside, impartial proctors to monitor all examinations in a secure location.

Does your certification require membership as a criteria for certification?

Yes	22%
No	71%
I don't know	7%

The NBCOT has never required membership in any association as a prerequisite to certification. However, the NBCOT strongly encourages membership in the National Association of Orthopaedic Technologists (NAOT), which is the professions national source of hands on educational opportunities.

How often do your certificants recertify?

Every Year	8%
Every 2-3 Years	48%
Every 4-5 Years	37%
Every 6-7 Years	1%
Candidates are not required to recertify	4%
I do not know	1%

The NBCOT certifications have always been for a period of 6 years.

Do you offer a "retired" credential category and if so, what is the cost to certificants?

No	60%
Yes-the cost is the same as for our other credentialed members	6%
Yes-less than our other credentialed members	31%
Yes-more than our other credentialed members	4%

The NBCOT has never offered a "retired" credential category. It is the belief of the NBCOT and the majority of the certification boards participating in the above survey that offering a "retired" credential is not a responsible practice. To maintain an individual's certification it is the policy of the NBCOT to require a certificant to either maintain the appropriate number of CEUs or to re-test to maintain current competencies.

How much do you charge candidates to take your exam?

\$1 - \$100	24%
\$101 - \$500	63%
\$501 - \$1000	9%
More than \$1000	4%

The NBCOT has not had an increase in testing fees since 2000.

How does your program recertify candidates?

Continuing Education	51%
Examination	10%
Both	31%
My program does not recertify candidates	8%

Currently the NBCOT requires a certificant to recertify by logging 120 CEUs within the 6 year cycle or by retesting.

How do you administer your examination?

Written Exam	46%
Computer-based Testing	39%
Online Exam	10%
Oral	2%
Other	3%

The NBCOT has administered the certification examinations by computer since 2003.

What are the educational requirements for your credential?

High School Diploma	21%
Bachelor's Degree	23%
Bachelor's and Master's Degree	22%
Doctorate	11%
No educational Requirement	16%
Other	4%

The NBCOT currently requires the minimum educational requirement of a High School Diploma to sit for the certification examinations.

Do individuals who hold a certification from your organization receive higher compensation?

Yes	52%
No	28%
Do not know	13%
Not applicable, certification is required	7%

According to the 2010 NBCOT Annual Survey 41% of those that participated said they received a raise when they became certified. 53.4% stated they were reimbursed for their testing fees.

Does your Board of Directors have a public member?

Yes	62%
No	27%
What is a public member?	11%

The NBCOT currently has two active public members and two physician advisors.

Licensing Update

Regarding State Licensing for the OTC®, the NBCOT can report that this important project is moving forward. The NBCOT already has a bill submitted to the State of California Legislature and we are currently in discussions with members of the Senate and Assembly. While things are moving forward, they are moving somewhat slow based on current governmental issues facing California. The NBCOT holds the licensing issue as its main priority and will continue to work toward this goal.

Testing Update

The NBCOT signed a three (3) year contract with our current testing administrator, Schroeder Measurement Technologies (SMT).

Our test administrator, SMT/IQT has implemented new fees for rescheduling, postponing or cancelling any examination appointment. Please refer to the OTC® or OT-SC™ application for an outline of these fees.

Doris Hardy Memorial Examination Grant

The NBCOT is pleased to announce that Dasha Ward from Jonesboro, GA. is the first recipient of the Doris Hardy Memorial Examination Grant. Ms. Ward is a 2009 graduate of the NAOT recognized Orthopaedic Technology Program at Griffin Technical College in Macon, GA. She will be allowed to sit for the OTC® examination at no charge during 2010.

New Projects

In response to numerous requests by credential holders to the NBCOT, the NBCOT has investigated how to and ultimately obtain a "National OTC® Day". You will soon be able to visit the NBCOT website and sign the petition. You can also download a petition sheet that you can print out and obtain signatures. Remember, to achieve this goal, the NBCOT needs as many signatures as possible to submit to Washington.