



National Examining Board of Ocularists

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ASO Newsletter Clarification and Update

Greetings to all our BCOs and future BCOs,

The NEBO Board report presented by the ASO in the recent newsletter was in fact our (NEBO's) report to the annual ASO Board meeting in San Francisco. BUT because our report was required in advance for inclusion in the ASO Board Book, the report reflected what had been proposed in Florida at the Mid-Year meeting to the ASO Board, Education Committee Meeting and COO meeting. Thus, as part of the record, it was published in the ASO newsletter. While accurate since the last presentation to the Board made at the Florida Mid-Year meeting the information did NOT reflect the current plan developed in San Francisco and beyond. IE; The cost was proposed for an approved meeting per the report was at \$5,000 compared to a 50-credit meeting at the "pay per meeting credits" that currently would cost \$12,000. The final plan allows an unlimited approved credit program for any organization at only \$7,000.

A little background will be helpful for clarity, so please bear with me as it is all very complex and legalistic.

During the last two ASO annual meetings, Executive Director Dr. Daniel Yeager and Chairman Kurt Jahrling have made brief presentations outlining many of the changes we have been working through and some things that are still in flux as we work to finish aligning our policy with the NCCA/ISO17024 standards. While simultaneously resolving numerous past issues that resulted in the denial of our last re-accreditation application, the new detailed rule/standard changes keep moving the "goalposts" for our final re-submission. Literally, any one change can affect the entire scheme and force revisions that then affect other areas. Consequently, all the rule and standard changes from the last 8-10 years have left only about 7% of all certification programs still "accredited" and we are striving to return to that elite group.

One of the most important standards (and items for the defense and protection of the BCO Certification program), was the completion of a new "role delineation" (or RDS), accompanying "Job Task Analysis" (or JTA) combined with a new exam that reflects the new RDS and JTA. These were all requirements that had to be updated and completed (and paid for) for inclusion with our submission and are now on the books with the new exam (San Francisco 2019) data to back everything up and support our history/future.

Another major "financial viability" standard for both accrediting organizations (ISO 17024:2019 Standard 4.2.2 to be specific) requires NEBO to prove that we can deal with day to day expenses but be solvent enough in the financial plan to handle the future expenses of operations. IE; Another RDS/ JTA in six years could cost between \$30,000-\$60,000. Despite the massive amounts of incredible hardworking volunteers, it is expensive to establish, maintain and manage according to scheme standards. To serve that end, many of us on NEBO have completed courses and passed complicated exams to become "Certified Credentialing Specialists". We continue to take even more courses to seek a higher level of qualification in sacrificial service for NEBO's future. IE; Most "Accredited" organizations have at least one "Compliance Officers" in addition to management staff that typically get between \$60,000-\$100,000 per year to just keep operations in line with standards! (Another expense we can't pay so we do it with volunteer NEBO staff). CCE's (Certified Credentialing Experts) can get between \$30-\$60,000 per year depending on experience. We now have four CCE's at various levels within NEBO and both Deans of the C.O.O. have also achieved this recognition.

The current plan, pending on final adjustments and application corrections for the area of “Recertification Standards”;

1. Rather than rely on “Grants”, “yearly program review costs” or “fee for approved program credit” financial models from the past that did work but aren’t sufficient in today’s environment to fund NEBO, we will use a flat program fee of \$7,000 for any approved program for BCO’s to receive CE credits from. This opens programs (with prior review) from all over the world to the BCO to receive CE credits without paying a separate additional fee! This solves a standard for the new application.
2. Using a yearly “Maintenance of Certificate” (dues by any other name) the plan helps us solve another required standard. This idea and cost estimate have been presented by NEBO to Ocularists in our last couple of updates/meetings. The yearly M.O.C. originally estimated at \$200 will actually be \$250 as of this writing. This solves a standard for the new application.
3. Registration (which alternates every 3 years with Recertification every 6th year) and the associated costs will be eliminated after a 3-year transition to get everyone into the new timeline. Note: we will be sending out the completed timeline, transition and recertification explanation once finalized. This eliminated a problem for many standards and points of confusion for us all!
4. Recertification will be the only thing you will do every FOUR years with 200 credits. Currently you “Register” with 50 Credits every 3rd year and Recertify with 300 credits (or retest) every 6th year. After the transition time period of 3 years, using our current credit requirements and look back period everybody will have either “Registered” or “Recertified” and be on the new plan. The credit ratio WILL REMAIN THE SAME!!!! (Currently, 300 credits / 6 years and the new will be 200 credits/4 years, 300/6, 200/4)
5. Will be going to a January 1 thru December 31 year that will comply with the yearly “MOC”. NOT the June to June yearly cross over confusion. This solves several standards AND satisfies the Insurance standard questions of “Is a certain BCO current and in good standing”.
6. BY paying your yearly “MOC” and attending approved NEBO programs (IE; ASO or IAO and future groups) to get the needed 200 credits for your four-year recertification you would pay NOTHING else! If you fail to get 200 credits in four years you would have to pay to take the written test to retain your certification just as you do now.
7. During the transition period of the next three years (when you would normally either register or recertify), you will still pay the yearly “MOC” and the current rate for registering (\$350) or recertifying (\$650) as needed. The following year your “MOC” is waived (or free). This plan supports all the transition costs and increased expenses for the new standard and makes it equitable for all.
8. You may still apply and receive for credits for Journal Articles, lectures, book articles other non-pre-approved Ocularist’s meetings as before. Submit application with a \$50 nonrefundable fee and NEBO will assign credit to the lecture/article/etc. based on time/content/etc. and you’ll have the option to approve or deny these credits at \$10 per credit. These applications must be sent within the same calendar year as the event. Once approved these credits are good until your expiration date.
9. Finally, after the transition period, there will be no more credit look backs. Credits will need to be obtained within the 4-year recertification cycle to be relevant (Issue date- expiration date). This is a very complex standard for recertification that all programs must have beyond original certification for the protection of the public as represented by the Certification.

CLIFF NOTES for what will be happening in the near future;

FOR NOW, continue with your upcoming requirement; registration and 50 credits in the last seven years, or recertification and 300 credits in the past seven years plan.

After you complete whatever process, registration or recertification, you will then recertify every four years with 200 credits (or retake and pass the written exam). Credits must be obtained during that 4-year time period. Registration is eliminated.

Certificates issued for the four-year cycle will run concurrently with a January 1-December 31 calendar year along with a yearly \$ 250 "MOC". (This completes the "in good standing" requirement.)

If you attend any "Approved NEBO Programs" to get your credits and get the required amount (200 in four years) nothing else is needed and no further fees are charged.

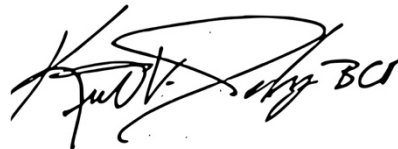
You may still apply and receive other credits, at additional cost, but must apply for within the same calendar year as the event.

In summary, your NEBO Board and staff work daily to finish all the tasks before our re-accreditation. The purpose of this is to make your recertification cycle simpler. Our goal is to get everyone onto the new system as painlessly as possible. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,



Dr. Daniel C. Yeager
BCO, FASO, BADO, CCS
Executive Director NEBO



Kurt V. Jahrling
FASO, BCO, BADO, CCS
Chairman NEBO

