

ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility Requirements

Individuals interested in IJCAHPO certification must first establish eligibility to test. The following information provides the eligibility pathways for the COA, COT, and COMT. The eligibility pathways should be reviewed prior to submitting an examination application and related fees. IJCAHPO retains the sole authority to establish eligibility requirements and final decisions regarding examination eligibility.

Core Certifications

IJCAHPO certifications are competency-based and successful completion of the specific examination(s) is required for certification.

To be eligible, candidates must meet one of the following education and work experience categories:

Certified Ophthalmic Assistant (COA)		COA
Level	Required Education	Required Work Experience
COA-A1	<p>International Council of Accreditation (ICA) accredited clinical training program.¹</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">If you completed the program more than 12 months ago, you will need to submit 18 IJCAHPO Group A credits for each year following graduation.	None necessary.
COA-A2	<p>International Council of Accreditation (ICA) accredited non-clinical training program including distance learning programs.¹</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">If you completed the course more than 12 months ago, you will need to submit 18 IJCAHPO Group A credits for each year following graduation.	500 hours under the supervision of an ophthalmologist within 12 months prior to submitting application.
COA-A3	<p>Graduated from High School or the equivalent. <i>and</i> Completed an approved independent study course such as the JCAT course or the AAO Ophthalmic Medical Assisting course.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">If you completed the course more than 36 months ago, you will need to repeat the course or submit 18 IJCAHPO Group A credits for each year following the 36-month period.	1,000 hours under the supervision of an ophthalmologist within 12 months prior to submitting application.