

# Navigating the Differences in Board Certification: What You Need to Know

The American Osteopathic Board of Family Physicians (AOBFP) and the American Board of Family Medicine (ABFM) have some similarities. They both fulfill all ACGME requirements and both pathways show statistically similar data outcomes. However, there are some key differences to be aware of, covered below:

	<b>AOBFP</b>	<b>ABFM</b>
<b>Qualifications</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MD or DO</li> <li>• In-Service Exam (ISE)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ 190 questions + 75 OPP/OMM; two completions qualify for Early Entrance Initial Certification (EEIC)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MD or DO</li> <li>• In-Training Exam               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ 200 questions</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 50 points in resident certification entry process</li> </ul>
<b>Certification Option</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family Medicine only</li> <li>• Family Medicine and OMT</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family Medicine only</li> </ul>
<b>Certification Pathway</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EEIC - January</li> <li>• Standard Initial Certification - April and November</li> <li>• OMT certification exam at ACOFP annual convention</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standard Initial Certification - April and November</li> </ul>
<b>Exam Fee</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family Medicine only: \$400 - \$550 (EEIC/Standard)</li> <li>• Family Medicine plus OMT = \$900 - \$1,000 (EEIC/Standard)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standard = \$1,300</li> </ul>
<b>Exam Length</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EEIC: 175 questions, 205 minutes</li> <li>• Standard: 275 questions, 329 minutes</li> <li>• OMT Performance Exam: 3 cases, 60 minutes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standard: 300 questions, 380 minutes</li> </ul>
<b>Recertification Options</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Longitudinal assessment with quarterly requirements               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ 30 items annually, not timed</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exam every 10 years</li> <li>OR</li> <li>• Longitudinal assessment with quarterly requirements</li> </ul>



Early Entrance  
Initial  
Certification  
(EEIC)



Initial Primary  
Certification



OMT  
Performance  
Exam



**Questions? ResidentCouncil@acofp.org**