



Maintenance of Certification Questions & Answers (Qs & As)

National Board Certified Teachers have requested a simplified and less expensive way to maintain National Board Certification that, like the certification renewal process, allows them to reflect on their practice and professional growth.

Hearing those requests, the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards' new Maintenance of Certification (MOC) process is being designed to ensure that Board-certified teachers are continuing to grow professionally while maintaining a strong impact on student learning.

As in other professions, Maintenance of Certification allows National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs) to demonstrate to colleagues, the public, students and themselves that they continue to meet high standards of accomplished practice throughout their careers. The goal of MOC is to ensure all National Board Certified Teachers can continue to experience professional learning and growth as a practitioner while maintaining a focus on student learning.

The new Maintenance of Certification process requires Board-certified teachers to demonstrate their knowledge and skills every five years. This change is designed to make ongoing certification efficient and professionally meaningful, so it can become the norm in the teaching profession. And, the five year timeline is aligned with the majority of state licensure systems.

Latest MOC Developments

One of the hallmarks of National Board Certification is that it is by teachers, for teachers. Throughout 2018, National Board considered input from many stakeholder groups, including NBCTs, to inform the design framework of the MOC assessment process.

First, a total of five separate surveys and a focus group were conducted with the goals of better understanding (1) our stakeholders, including recently certified NBCTs, (2) the professional meaningfulness of the renewal process to those NBCTs who recently renewed, and (3) how the current renewal program, from assessors' perspective, can inform the development of MOC. Input gathered across the surveys and focus group shared with the National Board's Certification Council, Technical Advisory Group, Board of Directors, and the expert and advisory groups that were convened next.

Next, we began the design. A group of NBCTs provided validation of renewal's Profile of Professional Growth (PPG) construct and based on those of renewal, identified key concepts and operational parameters of MOC. This information supported the work of an additional groups of NBCTs serving on MOC Design Panels. The guiding principle of the MOC design framework was just as the construct of initial certification did not change with the assessment redesign, the construct of MOC will remain, in essence, the same as that of the current renewal PPG. The NBCT MOC Design panels performed critical tasks that led to the development of the recommended MOC assessment framework with the construct serving as its foundation. Their

work involved analysis of multiple data sources including survey findings, focus groups of Renewal assessors, and TAG recommendations.

In October 2018, content expert and stakeholder input continued to be gathered as an Evaluation Committee reviewed the work of the design panels, identified the assessment framework's strengths and weakness, and discussed potential policy implications of MOC. The Technical Advisory Group members observing the Evaluation Committee felt the high degree of agreement among Evaluation Committee members served as an endorsement of the Board's process and philosophy underpinning the MOC assessment.

After reviewing the MOC Design Report which recounted the process of establishing the assessment framework from start to finish, the National Board's Certification Council concluded it was confident in both the process used to derive the framework and in the content of the framework itself. The Council found evidence, as did National Board's Technical Advisory Group, that the Board's high-level design plan used in establishing the framework of MOC was sound and that the appropriate people and constituencies were present in designing and evaluating the MOC framework.

In November 2018, after reading the MOC Design Report, being briefed on the Certification Council's oversight of the design process, and conducting their own deliberations, the Board voted to unanimously approve a policy stating the construct of MOC (i.e., high level concept of what is being measured); the outcome of satisfying MOC requirements; the number of retakes NBCTs are permitted should a candidate not satisfy MOC requirements; reference to appeal; and the restrictions (if any) on the number of times an NBCT can extend the expiration date of their certificate via MOC.

What is Maintenance of Certification (MOC)?

The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards' MOC is a process currently being designed that will allow a National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT) to extend certification in five year increments. The process is being designed to ensure that Board certified teachers are continuing to grow professionally while maintaining a strong impact on student learning. MOC is replacing the current certification renewal process.

How will the MOC process be structured?

The MOC process will enable Board-certified teachers to keep their certification current by submitting streamlined MOC components for evaluation within the two years prior to the expiration of their certificate. The MOC process intends to support ongoing professional learning, signal demonstration of performance over time, and communicate to both the public and policymakers that the profession is assuring the knowledge and skills of its own members.

What is the cost?

We have been striving to make the Board certification process more affordable and flexible—and that includes MOC. Exact costs will be announced in 2019. At this time, we can confirm that the fee for MOC will be significantly less expensive than the fee for renewal.

What will be the foundation of the MOC process?

[The Five Core Propositions, the Architecture of Accomplished Teaching, and the National Board Standards](#) in your certificate area will be the basis in which MOC evidence is evaluated. The MOC process is based on parts of the Renewal process' Profile of Professional Growth that

asks NBCTs to demonstrate that their practices are consistent with the high standards that Board certification represents. Due to the increased frequency of MOC, MOC will have fewer components than the Profile of Professional Growth.

What will the eligibility requirements be for MOC?

If you certified in 2017 or later, National Board Certification is active for a period of 5 years. As a National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT), you must successfully complete the MOC process within the two years prior to the expiration of your certificate to maintain certification in your original certificate area. You are offered two opportunities to apply for MOC, the first opportunity will require you to apply no later than the end of February and submit your MOC evidence by May in the fourth year of your current certification. If you do not meet MOC requirements in your fourth year, you will have a second opportunity to apply no later than the end of February in the fifth year of your current certification. MOC must occur within the appropriate application periods outlined in the [MOC Calendar](#) found on the National Board website. Once you successfully complete MOC, your certification is maintained through five years from the expiration of your original National Board Certification, regardless of whether you successfully completed MOC in your fourth or fifth year.

If you are a current NBCT with a certificate that expires on or after December 16, 2022, you are eligible to extend your certification through the MOC process if:

1. Your initial or renewal certificate is valid
2. Your teaching license is current and unencumbered (e.g., not suspended or revoked), and
3. You are about to enter the fourth or fifth year of certification. See the [MOC Calendar](#).

Can I complete MOC if I am not teaching in a classroom?

Yes. NBCTs who do not teach students but serve in other roles in education are eligible to complete MOC. NBCTs often take on many roles during their careers, and MOC is designed to be supportive of the various classroom and non-classroom placements they may have in any given MOC period. Whether you are an education faculty member, administrator, retiree, work outside the classroom in a teacher leadership role, or have changed the subject area and developmental level you teach, you can still maintain your National Board Certification.

How are NBCTs involved in development of MOC?

MOC, like National Board Certification, is being developed by teachers, for teachers. We have worked with National Board Certified Teachers to design and evaluate the MOC assessment framework, as well as gather input on factors associated with renewing or maintaining one's certification. Questions and discussions around MOC are helping NBCTs, the NBPTS Board of Directors, the Certification Council (with NBCTs serving on each), and the Technical Advisory Group move forward with MOC design, development, and implementation. Multiple survey results and recommendations from conversations with teachers, stakeholders, and measurement experts were presented to the NBPTS Certification Council in October 2018 and Board of Directors in November 2018. Look for more specific details about MOC—which will include input from hundreds of NBCTs and educators—throughout 2019. It is our priority to have as many NBCTs involved in this process as possible.

How will my MOC submission be scored?

Although exact scoring procedures are yet to be determined, scoring is expected to involve one or more NBCTs independently and holistically evaluating the NBCT's MOC submission. Based

on the entire body of evidence submitted, an assessor will then make a single decision— to maintain certification or not to maintain certification. This scoring procedure will mirror what takes place in scoring the current Certification Renewal’s Profile of Professional Growth.

What kind of feedback will I receive on my MOC submission?

The MOC reports will provide teachers with feedback statements comparable to those given in the [current renewal reports](#). If an NBCT chooses to submit their MOC evidence in their fourth year of certification and does not meet the requirements, the NBCT will have a second MOC attempt available in his/her fifth year. If an NBCT is not successful by his/her fifth year, the NBCT will lose their certification. The teacher would be eligible to pursue National Board Certification anew immediately.

When will MOC replace the Certification Renewal process?

MOC will replace the Certification Renewal process beginning in 2021. In 2021, MOC will be the only process by which NBCTs can extend their certificate. Successful completion of MOC will extend an NBCT’s certificate by five years from their previous certificate’s expiration date.

Please refer to the table below to see how the process used to extend your certificate depends on the date your certificate expires. Note that for NBCTs who have certificates expiring in 2021, the first opportunity to extend certification will be to apply for [Certification Renewal](#), and the second opportunity will be to apply for MOC. [See the MOC Calendar](#) for MOC application windows and deadlines.

| Process Used to Extend Certificate Depending on Certificate Expiration | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|--|
| When does your certificate expire? | What process will you use to extend your certificate? | Then your certificate will expire in... | What process will then be used to extend your certificate? | And your certificate will expire again in... |
| 2017 | Renewal | 2027 | | 2032 |
| 2018 | | 2028 | | 2033 |
| 2019 | | 2029 | | 2034 |
| 2020 | | 2030 | | 2035 |
| 2021 | You will use either Renewal (1st opportunity in 2019-20) and/or | 2031 | MOC | 2036 |
| 2021 | Maintenance of Certification (MOC) (2nd opportunity in 2020-21) | 2026 | | 2031 |
| 2022 | MOC | 2027 | | 2032 |
| 2023 | | 2028 | | 2033 |
| 2024 | | 2029 | | 2034 |
| 2025 | | 2030 | | 2035 |
| 2026 | | 2031 | | 2036 |
| 2027 | | 2032 | | 2037 |
| 2028 | | 2033 | | 2038 |

What should I be doing now to prepare for MOC?

First, as an NBCT, verify when your National Board Certification expires, because that will determine when and whether you will complete the Certification Renewal or MOC process. You

can use the chart above to determine what process you will use to extend your certificate. You may also want to contact your state or local program administrator for information about incentives for maintaining certification available in your state.

If you will complete the new MOC process, more information will be available soon. We are working diligently to design the MOC process with NBCTs and are focused on operationalizing the program for the 2020-21 school year. Until that time, the Certification Renewal's Profile of Professional Growth remains available to you for reference. Understanding the basis of and evaluation criteria in the Profile of Professional Growth can help you reflect on your professional growth and consider the kinds of evidence you might gather to demonstrate the impact of the activities in which you have engaged.

If you will complete the Certification Renewal process, for more information visit [our website](#).

What happens when I successfully complete MOC?

NBCTs who are successful in satisfying MOC requirements prior to the expiration date of their certificate will have their certificate extended. Each term will commence at the time of the expiration of an NBCT's current certificate.

Is there a limit to how many times I can extend my certificate?

No limitations will be placed on the number of times an NBCT can extend his or her certificate by meeting MOC requirements.