



## 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 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.

### 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 completing streamlined MOC components every 4-5 years during their career. 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.

### How often will I have to complete MOC?

MOC will be required once every 5 years during an NBCT's certification. NBCTs have two opportunities to apply for MOC no later than the end of January in the fourth and fifth years of certification. That is, an NBCT can complete MOC in their fourth year, and if they do not earn MOC, they have the opportunity for a second attempt in their fifth year. See the [Renewal Calendar](#) for the appropriate application and submission dates.

### 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 of MOC. The underlying foundation is the same as that of the Certification Renewal process' Profile of Professional Growth that asks NBCTs to demonstrate that their practices are consistent with the high standards that Board certification represents.

### 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 complete the MOC process before your certification expiration date 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 January in the fourth year of your current certification and the second opportunity will require you to apply no later than the end of January application window opening in the fifth year of your current certification. MOC must occur within the appropriate application periods outlined in the [Renewal 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 the date you successfully completed MOC.

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 [Renewal Calendar](#).

### Can I complete MOC if I am no longer teaching in a classroom?

Yes. NBCTs who no longer teach students but serve in other roles in education are eligible to complete MOC. Whether you are an education faculty member, retiree, work outside the classroom, 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 begun working with National Board Certified Teachers to 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 will be presented to the NBPTS Certification Council in October 2018 and Board of Directors in November 2018. We expect to provide more specific details about MOC—which will include input from hundreds of NBCTs and educators—early in 2019. It is our priority to have as many NBCTs involved in this process as possible.

### How do I provide more input about MOC?

Your insights and ideas are essential and are helping us update MOC to better fit your needs. National Board welcomes you to contribute your input on the design and development of the MOC process by completing this [survey](#).

Teachers and others in the education profession and public are invited to provide feedback about Maintenance of Certification (MOC) design process through the survey. The survey results will be used as part of a broad evaluation of National Board's Certification Renewal process and design for MOC to make ongoing certification efficient and professionally meaningful. NBPTS will present the results from the survey at meetings of the NBPTS Certification Council, Technical Advisory Group, and Board of Directors.

### 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 mirrors what takes place in scoring the current Certification Renewal's Profile of Professional Growth.

### What happens if I don't do well 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 pursue MOC in their fourth year of certification and does not meet the performance standard, the NBCT will have a second MOC attempt available in his/her fifth year. If an NBCT is not successful by their fifth year, the NBCT will lose certification. The teacher would be eligible to pursue National Board Certification anew immediately.

### When will MOC replace the Certification Renewal process?

This change took effect starting with candidates who certified in 2017. Beginning in 2021, as existing 10-year certificates expire, NBCTs will extend their certificate at five-year intervals through the MOC process. 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 the first opportunity to extend certification for NBCTs who have certificates expiring in 2021 will be to apply for Certification Renewal; the second opportunity will be to apply for MOC.

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) <b>and/or</b>	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. Based on the Five Core Propositions and certificate area standards, those requirements 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](#).