

## What Is Certification?

Certification is "a mark of quality!" As a Certified Occupational Health Nurse, you have demonstrated your knowledge, skills and ability to practice occupational health nursing with competence and expertise. The designation of "certified" tells the public, your clients, peers and employer that you have made a commitment to excellence in the highly specialized field of Nursing in Occupational Health and Safety.

## What Can Certification Do for Me?

Recognized by many regulatory agencies, corporations and other health and safety disciplines, certification can lead to greater employment opportunities, career advancement and increased earning power.

## Reasons for Occupational Health Nurses to Become Certified

- Certification is a mark of prestige.
- Certification is a significant personal and professional accomplishment.
- Certification can advance your career.
- Certified Occupational Health Nurses earn about 10% more than non-certified Occupational Health Nurses.
- Employers regard certification as an indicator of quality and rely on the knowledge of certified Occupational Health Nurses when making employment decisions.
- The Certified Occupational Health Nurse provides knowledgeable management of occupational injuries and illnesses and facilitates early return to work processes.
- The Certified Occupational Health Nurse can reduce the employer's legal exposure through management of regulatory requirements such as OSHA, FMLA, ADA, DOT, HIPAA, etc.
- Certification enhances your disease management and health promotion skills.
- Certified Occupational Health Nurses make a positive impact on the employer's financial bottom line.
- Certification augments competence and on-the-job



## What Is ABOHN?

ABOHN is the only certifying body for Occupational Health Nurses in the United States. Founded in 1972, it has certified Occupational Health Nurses since that time.

The ABOHN certification examinations have met and maintain the very rigorous standards required for accreditation by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) of the Institute for Credentialing Excellence (ICE).

## How Does ABOHN Operate?

ABOHN is a separate and independent credentialing organization that uses the standards of practice established by the membership organizations in Occupational Health Nursing and Safety as a basis for testing competency in practice.

ABOHN programs are managed by an Chief Executive Officer and staff, and are governed by a board of practicing Certified Occupational Health Nurses and a public member to ensure that the interests of the public are always considered.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:



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# Occupational Health Nursing Certification

*The Mark of Quality in  
Health and Safety*





## What Credentials Are Available for Me?

*ABOHN awards two core credentials and one specialty credentials.*

### **The core credentials are:**

#### **Certified Occupational Health Nurse (COHN)**

This credential is offered to registered nurses with an Associate, Diploma or higher degree. The focus of the COHN certification examination is directed toward direct clinical care, and contains questions that apply to the roles of advisor, coordinator and case manager.

#### **Certified Occupational Health Nurse-Specialist (COHN-S)**

This credential is offered to registered nurses who have a Bachelor's degree or higher. The focus of the COHN-S certification examination is on the roles of management, education, consultation and case management, in addition to direct care.

### **The specialty examinations are:**



#### **Case Management**

The Case Management credential requires that the registered nurse hold either a COHN or COHN-S and have documented case management continuing education in the most recent 5 years.

*Check detailed requirements at [www.abohn.org](http://www.abohn.org)*

## What Are the Certification Exams Like?

All ABOHN certification examination questions are written by Occupational Health Nurses currently practicing in a variety of settings and industries. The questions are edited many times to ensure they are accurate, current and important to practice. Each exam is in multiple-choice format. The COHN and COHN-S exams contain 150 questions that must be answered in 3 hours. The Case Management exam contain approximately 100 questions and must be answered in 2 hours.

The blueprints and core content of ABOHN examinations are based on the scientific study of Occupational Health Nursing and Safety practice analysis. The most recent practice analysis was conducted in 2012 and over 8,000 practicing Occupational Health Nurses, educators and leaders participated.

ABOHN examinations are given at testing sites across the country and internationally. For information about application, exam and locations, please go to [www.abohn.org](http://www.abohn.org) or call the ABOHN office.

*Discover the career opportunities and self-esteem certification can bring.*



## How Do I Prepare for a Certification Exam?



Successful candidates for ABOHN examinations prepare in many different ways. The most important aspect is to study the "right" material! The examination outlines contained in the handbooks for each credential will provide a detailed blueprint and core content of the exam. The outlines will also provide the percentage of questions from each area used to structure the exam. While questions differ from time to time, the blueprint remains the same. Candidates should conduct a "self-assessment" to identify study areas which the are most and least familiar.

The reference materials, books and articles used by the writers of exam questions are listed in the handbooks.

Many exam candidates have found that studying in groups is very helpful.

Certification Self-Assessment Tests (CSAT's) are offered as a review of the type of questions contained in the exams. The CSAT has a rationale for each of the correct responses.

Several organizations and educational institutions have developed courses and materials to help in preparing for the exam. A list of these sources is available online at [www.abohn.org](http://www.abohn.org).

## How Do I Get Started?

1. Determine if you are eligible.
2. Complete and submit the application.
3. Decide on an exam date and place.
4. Review the Examination Outline.
5. Obtain relevant study materials.
6. Find a "study buddy" or group.
7. Study and take the exam!