



## Occupational Health Nursing Certification Exams: COHN, COHN-S, and CM

### 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.

### Which exam is right for you?

If you have a bachelor’s degree or higher, you are eligible to take either the COHN or COHN-S exam. Check out the algorithm below to help you decide which exam is right for your practice.



### What credentials are available for me?

ABOHN awards two core credentials and one specialty credential.

*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 examination is:*  
**Case Management (CM)**

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 five 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 examinations contain 160 questions. 135 questions are scored items and 25 questions are pre-test items (not scored). The testing time allotted is 3 hours. The Case Management examination contains 110 questions. 100 questions are scored items and 10 questions are pre-test items (not scored). The testing time allotted is 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 2018 and the results can be found on the ABOHN website: [www.abohn.org](http://www.abohn.org).
- 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! **Each exam handbook** contains the test blueprint and core content for each exam. The test blueprint provides the percentage of questions from each area used to construct the exam. Candidates should conduct a “self-assessment” to identify study areas which are the most and least familiar.

**The exam handbooks** also contains the reference material; books, articles and web sites used to construct each exam. These materials should be used in preparing for the exam.

Many candidates have found that having a “study buddy” or studying in a group is helpful.

Certification Self-Assessment Tests (CSAT’s) are offered as a review of how exam questions are written and the rationale for each correct response.

Several organizations and educational institutions offer courses and material to help in preparing for the exam. More information is available on the ABOHN website at [www.abohn.org](http://www.abohn.org).

## How do I get started?

1. **Determine if you are eligible**
2. **Print off the examination handbook**
3. **Review the examination test blueprint**
4. **Complete and submit the application**
5. **Obtain relevant study materials**
6. **Find a “study buddy” or group**
7. **Study and take the exam**

## Once certified, you are required to maintain your certification with ABOHN.

**Annual Renewal:** Due by your due date each year. The Renewal process requires a short form to capture updates to your home, employment and contact information along with an annual fee.

**Recertification:** Due every fifth year. In addition to the information captured during the annual renewal and the annual fee, the Recertification process also requires proof of occupational health-related employment and contact hours achieved over the previous five years.

You can find the latest requirements on the ABOHN website under the Maintenance tab.

### Who is ABOHN?

*ABOHN is the only certifying body for Occupational Health Nurses in the United States. Founded in 1972, ABOHN 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 Executive Director 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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