

# Maintenance of Fellowship

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is Maintenance of Fellowship?

Maintenance of Fellowship (MOF) was approved by the membership as a bylaws amendment at the business meeting in 2009 at Orlando. All new Fellows and those reactivating Fellowship on or after November 2010 must meet the MOF requirements. All other Fellows are encouraged to participate in the MOF program as well.

### What are the requirements?

Fellows of the Academy are required to renew their Fellowship status every 10 years starting after the annual Academy meeting in 2010. The program is required for any new or reactivated Fellow admitted in 2010 and subsequent years. The program is voluntary for Fellows admitted prior to 2010. Each Fellow is responsible for acquiring 15 points during a consecutive 10 year period. Points are awarded in the following manner:

Requirements	Points
i. Attendance at an Academy annual meeting (Minimum of one meeting required per 10-year period) <i>Note: For those completing a virtual oral exam, it is strongly recommended you attend an Academy meeting within two years of earning your Fellowship.</i>	3 points*
ii. Attendance at any CE-qualifying event at an Academy annual meeting (No maximum)	1 point / 2 hours of CE
iii. Present a one-hour lecture or any workshop at an Academy annual meeting (No maximum)	2 points / presentation
iv. Present a scientific paper or poster, or serve as a symposium speaker at an Academy annual meeting	1 point / presentation
v. Serve as a volunteer on an Academy committee	1 point / year
vi. Complete Academy Online CE courses (Maximum of 2 points)	1 point / 2 hours of CE
vii. Author an article in an accepted peer-reviewed journal (Maximum of 4 points) <i>Note: Must be the first, second, or last author only. Must be published during the 10-year MOF period.</i>	2 points / article**
viii. Author a book chapter (Maximum of 4 points) <i>Note: Must be published during the 10-year MOF period</i>	2 points / chapter**

\*Attendance points to be awarded for any full registration accompanied by CE course attendance or presenting at the annual meeting as listed in items ii, iii, and iv.

\*\*Maintenance of Fellowship Committee will approve the awarding of points for scholarly activity.

### What is the purpose of maintaining my Fellowship?

To ensure the substantial qualifications met at the initial conferring of Fellowship are continued and to further encourage a commitment to lifelong learning and professional excellence.

### Is there another way to obtain MOF points?

Obtaining the Diplomate distinction and Diplomate renewal satisfies the 15 points required for MOF.

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## How will MOF points be tracked?

Points earned by completing activities i. through vi. will automatically be transferred into the MOF portal. Activities vii. and viii. must be submitted to the MOF portal for MOF committee approval.

## When does my 10 year MOF certification period begin?

It starts after you obtain or reactivate Fellowship in the Academy. For instance, if you became a Fellow in 2015, your MOF certification period would begin on January 1, 2016 and end on December 31, 2025.

## What happens if I don't meet the 10 year deadline?

Fellows will be granted a one year probationary period to fulfill the requirements for MOF. There will also be a probationary service fee (\$150) for additional administrative costs incurred by late renewal. If the requirements are met in the probationary period, MOF certification for another 10 year period will be granted with the start date from the original renewal date. For example, if the MOF certification period was 2011 - 2020 and probationary renewal was granted in 2021, the next certification period will be 2021 - 2030.

If a Fellow does not meet the requirements during the probationary period, the FAAO designation will be rescinded and normal procedures for reinstatement must be followed to regain active status in the Academy. Reinstatement entails completing the Candidate for Fellowship application process again to earn the FAAO designation.

Points earned during the probationary period may not be used for the next renewal period.

## What happens if I obtain all of my MOF points before the 10 year deadline?

Once the 15 required points have been accumulated, no further action is needed until the next renewal period begins. Additional points cannot be carried forward from one renewal period to the next.

## Why should I participate if it is not required for me?

Staying current and active in the Academy demonstrates a commitment to the profession. Many Fellows will earn the necessary points for MOF simply by continuing their annual meeting attendance where they obtain CE course credit. The MOF program provides additional encouragement and recognition for those who support Academy functions and strive for a lifetime of learning.

## How do I sign up to participate?

All members who became a Fellow in 2010 or subsequent years have automatically been enrolled in the MOF program. You can view your progress in your Academy member portal at [www.aaopt.org](http://www.aaopt.org).

**Questions? Email us at [membership@aaoptom.org](mailto:membership@aaoptom.org)  
[www.aaopt.org/mof](http://www.aaopt.org/mof)**



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