



## CME Reductions & Waivers

*As of January 2025*

CME reduction and waiver requests can be submitted for the current certification CME cycle only and will not be reviewed if the diplomate has already met or exceeded the certification CME requirement for the cycle. A reduction or waiver in certification CME requirements will not be granted without due cause.

Common situations that may result in a reduction or waiver of a Diplomate's certification CME requirements are listed in the table below. Certification CME reduction and waiver requests must be submitted by completing the [certification CME reduction or waiver request form](#) and must include the required supporting documentation, as specified in the table below.

CME reductions or waivers for certification granted by the AOA Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists do not affect individual state medical licensing CME licensing requirements.

CME REDUCTION & WAIVER REQUESTS	
Type	Reduction/Waiver Information
<b>Maternity and Paternity leave</b>	<p>Diplomate must provide documentation of approved FMLA from their employer. Self-employed diplomates may provide a letter from the treating provider, which must be on the provider's letterhead and signed by the provider, in lieu of FMLA paperwork.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 25% reduction in each requirement for maternity/paternity leave taken during the current CME cycle.</li></ul>
<b>Medical Disability or Illness</b>	<p>Diplomate must provide a letter from the treating provider, which must be on the provider's letterhead and signed by the provider.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Up to 12 months' illness – 1/3 reduction in each requirement.</li><li>• 13-24 months' illness – 2/3 reduction in each requirement.</li><li>• 25-36 months' illness – 100% waived.</li><li>• 100% of the requirement is waived for diplomates who are permanently disabled.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ If a disabled physician returns to practice, including in an administrative position, the certification CME requirement will be <a href="#">prorated</a>.</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>Military Service</b>	<p>Diplomate must provide military orders that include the anticipated length of service (or final length of service if at the conclusion of service).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1/6 reduction in each requirement for every 6 months of qualifying service.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ If a military physician is deficient in CME at the end of the certification CME cycle, a waiver of the remaining requirement may be requested.</li></ul></li></ul>



## CME REDUCTION & WAIVER REQUESTS

Type	Reduction/Waiver Information
<b>Working outside the geographical boundaries of the United States and Canada</b>	<p>Diplomate working outside of the geographical boundaries of the US and Canada for a minimum of six continuous months must provide documentation from their employer/ or volunteer/missionary organization, which must be signed by the employer/organization, on the employer's/organization's letterhead, and include the dates of service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 6-12 months' service = 1/3 reduction in each requirement.</li><li>• 1-3 years' service = 50% reduction in each requirement (maximum allowed is 50%).</li></ul>
<b>Other extenuating circumstances</b>	<p>Diplomates facing extenuating circumstances that prevent them from meeting their certification CME requirement may request a reduction or waiver of CME requirements. Documentation of the extenuating circumstance must be provided. CME reduction and waiver request questions should be submitted to <a href="mailto:certification@osteopathic.org">certification@osteopathic.org</a>.</p>