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**New Mexico Regulation and Licensing Department**  
**BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS DIVISION**  
**Board of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine**

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## **EXTERNSHIP CERTIFICATION INFORMATION**

### **DISCLAIMER**

This information is provided as a general description of certain New Mexico statutes and regulations that pertain to the practice of acupuncture and oriental medicine. Every effort is made to provide accurate information as of the date of publication. The statutory and regulatory references provided are not inclusive of all laws that relate to the practice of acupuncture and oriental medicine. Laws are subject to revision or repeal by subsequent legislative action and are subject to interpretation, modification, or limitation by courts or regulatory authorities. Other statutes or regulations not described herein may apply to a particular subject matter, practice area or factual situation. This information is not intended a legal, medical or other professional advice. This article is intended to help the doctor of oriental medicine in New Mexico better understand his or her Externship Certification.

### **SUMMARY**

#### **Scope:**

The scope of practice of an Extern is limited to the practice of acupuncture and oriental medicine except that the Extern shall not prescribe or administer any herbal, nutritional, homeopathic or any other medicines or substances. When diagnosing and treating a patient, the Extern shall practice only within the limits of his or her education and training. The Extern shall possess and apply the knowledge, and use the skill and care ordinarily used by reasonably well-qualified Doctors of Oriental Medicine practicing under similar circumstances, giving due consideration to their limited clinical experience. **NOTE:** Participation as an Extern is optional and not a requirement for licensure.

#### **Limitations:**

In no event shall an Extern practice under Extern certification(s) for more than 12 months or after failing the Board's clinical Skills Examination more than once. Extern certification is not renewable and Exceptions for Good Cause does not apply.

#### **Requirements:**

1. Extern applicants must provide an affidavit stating whether he or she has been: a. the subject of any disciplinary action in any jurisdiction related to the practice acupuncture and oriental medicine or a related health care field for which the applicant is legally recognized to practice; b. involved in any litigation in any jurisdiction and in any health care profession in which the applicant is legally recognized to practice; or. convicted of a felony in any jurisdiction, made a plea of any kind, or sentence that was imposed, suspended or deferred.
2. Applicants who are or have been legally recognized to practice in any profession, in any jurisdiction, shall provide a certificate from each such licensing authority stating the disciplinary record of the applicant.
3. Submission of a signed statement by a registered Externship Supervisor stating his or her willingness to supervise the Extern.
4. Applicants must provide an affidavit as to whether he or she is an Applicant for Licensure.
5. Completed Extern Certification Application and \$200.00 application fee.

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**Educational Requirements:**

Satisfactory proof must be provided of the following:

1. The Extern applicant has completed a Board approved Educational Program.
2. Successful passing of the following NCCAOM exams:
  - a. Comprehensive Written Exam (Acupuncture Portion)
  - b. Comprehensive Written Exam (Clean Needle Technique Portion)
  - c. Practical Examination of Point Location Skills (PELPE) or the Computer-Simulated Point Location Exam (CSPLE)
3. Graduation from a Board approved Educational Program within 12 months of filing the application.

**Issuance:**

Within 30 days of receipt of the completed application for Extern Certification and required documentation, the Board will issue the certification. Temporary certification will be issued in the event that a qualified applicant has completed the application process in the interim between Board meetings. In no event shall the Extern begin practicing acupuncture and oriental medicine until the certification or temporary certification is issued.

**Expiration:**

Extern certification shall expire automatically 12 months after the date of issuance unless the certificate expires sooner for any of the following reasons:

1. Upon licensure;
2. If the Extern fails the Board's Clinical Skills Examination more than once; or
3. If the Extern is no longer under the supervision of the Externship Supervisor.

**Change of Supervisor:**

If the Externship relationship terminates prior to the expiration of the Extern certification, the Extern can reapply to be supervised by another supervisor by filing the appropriate Board forms. The certification time limit of 12 months remains the same and will not be extended.

**Explanation**

The laws and rules discussed in this article can be found at the Board website. Review sections 61-14A-12 of the Act and Part 14 of the Board Rules.

**Definitions**

**"Applicant"** is a person who has submitted to the Board an application for Extern Certification.

**"Board"** is the State of New Mexico Board of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine.

**"Doctor of Oriental Medicine"** is a physician licensed to practice acupuncture and oriental medicine pursuant to the Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine Practice Act and as such has responsibility for his or her patient as a primary care physician or independent specialty care physician.

**"Educational Program"** is a Board approved complete formal program that has the goal of educating a person to be qualified for licensure as a Doctor of Oriental Medicine in New Mexico, is at least 4 academic years and meets the requirements of the Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine Practice Act.

**"Extern"** is a current Applicant undergoing supervised clinical training by an Externship Supervisor, and who has satisfied the application requirements for Extern certification and who has received an Extern certificate issued by the Board pursuant to Part 14 of the Rules.

**"Externship"** is the limited practice of oriental medicine in New Mexico by an Extern supervised by an Externship Supervisor pursuant to Part 14 of the Rules.

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**“Externship Supervisor”** is a Doctor of Oriental Medicine who has at least 5 years Clinical Experience, maintains a clinical facility and maintains appropriate professional and facility insurance, and who has satisfied the Board’s application requirements for an Externship Supervisor and has received an Externship Supervisor registration issued by the Board pursuant to Part 14 of the Rules.

**“Rules”** are the rules, promulgated pursuant to the Act, governing Doctors of Oriental Medicine, Applicants, Temporary Licensees, Applicants for Temporary Licensure, Externs, Educational Programs and applicants for approval of Educational Programs as set forth in 16.2 NMAC.