



The American Board of Orthodontics

Board Certification

Licensed Specialist

Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics is one of the specific specialties recognized by the American Dental Association. In fact, it is the oldest specialty in dentistry and second oldest in medicine (ophthalmology slightly pre-dates orthodontics). The State of Michigan is one of a few states in the U.S. that has a specialty board examination for licensure as an orthodontist. In order to qualify to sit for this board exam (so that you may announce the limiting of your practice to orthodontics), you must have completed a university-based, orthodontic residency of 2-3 years beyond dental school. An optional “step beyond” is for an orthodontist to earn board certification by the **American Board of Orthodontics**.



Is Every Orthodontist Board-Certified?

No. In fact, just over 25% of all orthodontists are Board-Certified. Certification as a **Diplomate of the American Board of Orthodontics** signifies a unique achievement—a large step beyond the two to three years of advanced education required for a dentist to become a specialist in orthodontics. The current procedure requires the candidate to demonstrate actual accomplishments in patient care with detailed case reports on the treatment provided for a broad range of patient problems. Board certification is a unique honor following a process by which an individual orthodontist is thoroughly examined by an expert panel that assesses the candidate’s orthodontic knowledge and clinical skills.

What is the American Board of Orthodontics? Are there other recognized boards in orthodontics?

No. Today, it is the *only* certifying board recognized by the American Dental Association for the specialty of orthodontics. The **American Board of Orthodontics (ABO)** was founded in 1929 and is the oldest specialty board in dentistry. Key objectives of the **ABO** are to elevate the standards the practice of

orthodontics, and to certify continued proficiency and excellence in orthodontics.



Since Board Certification is voluntary, why would an orthodontist become board certified?

The passage of the examination process is a demonstration to the dental profession and the general public of the orthodontist's pursuit of continued proficiency and excellence in orthodontics. It is a representation of a commitment by a licensed specialist that he/she has the necessary knowledge base and skills to treat patients to the highest standards. It exemplifies a practitioner's commitment to continue to keep abreast of the latest advances in patient care, and to continue to deliver these latest advances to patients.

What is the process by which orthodontists may become board certified?

Since its founding in 1929, the process has changed numerous times. Today, the process involves a thorough Written Examination covering all areas of information on which an orthodontist should be knowledgeable. Successful passage allows the orthodontist to then present detailed case reports, which demonstrate a history of excellence in patient care. The expert examiners of the Board examine these cases during a Clinical Examination. An Oral Examination is then given and the applicant is tested on a wide variety of academic and clinical topics; only then is certification awarded.



What is the Angle Society of Orthodontists?

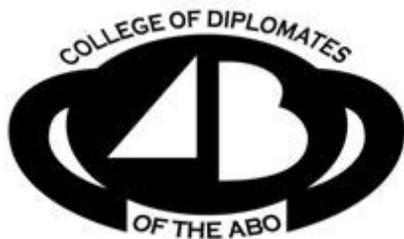
The Edward H. Angle Society of Orthodontists (*EHASO*) is an honorary organization that grew out of a distinguished Angle School alumni organization begun in 1922. The members were dedicated to Dr. Angle's goals of excellence and progress in the art and science of orthodontics. In 1930, the Angle Society as a means of furthering these aims inaugurated *The Angle Orthodontist*.

Today, *EHASO* is a global society that adheres to its founding traditions. Membership, drawn from the entire community of orthodontists, consists of men and women identified as able and willing contributors to the advancement of orthodontics. Orthodontists with these qualities must be invited into the membership process at the regional Component level. Membership is initiated by invitation followed by completing specific requirements of clinical excellence, demonstrated by presentation of treated case report, and presentation of research in orthodontics.

The Angle Society presently has over 660 members (only 5% of North American orthodontists and more than 70 orthodontists from other countries), distributed in seven Component Societies. Each Component meets regularly, with required attendance and participation, for scientific sessions and for fellowship.

Dr. S. Jay Bowman – Board Certified Orthodontic Specialist

Dr. Bowman is an orthodontic specialist, licensed by the State of Michigan and a board certified **Diplomate of the American Board of Orthodontics**. Several years later, he volunteered as a test case for re-certification when the board initiated a new examining process. In addition, Dr. Bowman is a member of the **College of Diplomates of the American Board of Orthodontics** and he is **Regent of the American Board of Orthodontics Foundation**.



**A little learning is a dangerous thing;
Drink deep, or taste not the Pierian spring:
There shallow draughts intoxicate the brain,
And drinking largely sobers us again.**

-Alexander Pope, An Essay on Criticism, 1709



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