

# THE ROLE OF ONCB AMBASSADOR TO ENHANCE THE CULTURE OF CERTIFICATION

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## Objectives

- Describe strategies to enhance a culture of certification.
- Identify the roles and responsibilities of an ONCB Ambassador .

## Strategies

- Assess barriers to certification.
- Scan organizational culture.
- Raise awareness.
- Support certification.
- Designate and empower the ONCB Ambassador.

Common Barriers	
Certification	Recertification
Cost of examination	No longer practicing in specialty
Lack of institutional reward or support	Inadequate compensation for certification
Access to prep courses or materials	Inadequate recognition
Test anxiety	Cost for recertification and continuing education
Access to continuing education	Access to continuing education

Value of Certification	
Intrinsic	Extrinsic
Personal accomplishment and satisfaction	Peer recognition
Professional challenge and credibility	Personal marketability
Professional commitment and growth	Recognition from other professionals
Validates specialized knowledge	Recognition from employers
Indicates attainment of practice standard	Consumer confidence
Confidence in clinical abilities	Increase salary
Accountability and autonomy	
Indicates clinical competence	

Contact [oncb@oncb.org](mailto:oncb@oncb.org) for additional information

References:  
 American Board of Nursing Specialties (ABNS). (2009). *Frequently asked questions*. Retrieved from <http://www.nursingcertification.org/questions.html#1>  
 American Board of Nursing Specialties (ABNS). (2006). *Specialty Nursing Certification: Nurses' Perceptions, Values and Behaviors*. Retrieved from <http://www.nursingcertification.org/research-study.html>  
 Competency and Credentialing Institute. (2002) *Value of certification*. Retrieved from: [http://www.cc-institute.org/research\\_value.aspx](http://www.cc-institute.org/research_value.aspx)

## ONCB Ambassador

- Advocate for certification through volunteering.
- Complete a Willingness to Serve Form.
- Maintain certification credential.
- Communicate with ONCB through email.
- Participate and interact on Facebook.
- Serve as a certification leader.
- Promote certification to administrators.
- Discuss with managers.
- Recruit colleagues.
- Contact local NAON chapters.
- Facilitate study groups.
- Provide study tips and ONCB resources.

**ONCB**  
 ORTHOPAEDIC NURSES CERTIFICATION BOARD  
 CERTIFYING EXCELLENCE IN ORTHOPAEDIC NURSING

**WILLINGNESS TO SERVE FORM**

Support orthopaedic nursing certification by volunteering with ONCB! Complete this form to indicate your interest, and return it to the ONCB (330 N. Wabash, Suite 2000, Chicago, IL 60611; Fax: 312-673-6971). Call ONCB (1-888-561-ONCB [6622]) with questions about specific volunteer opportunities.

TODAY'S DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
 NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CREDENTIALS \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ BUSINESS PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
 EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_  
 EMPLOYER \_\_\_\_\_ POSITION \_\_\_\_\_

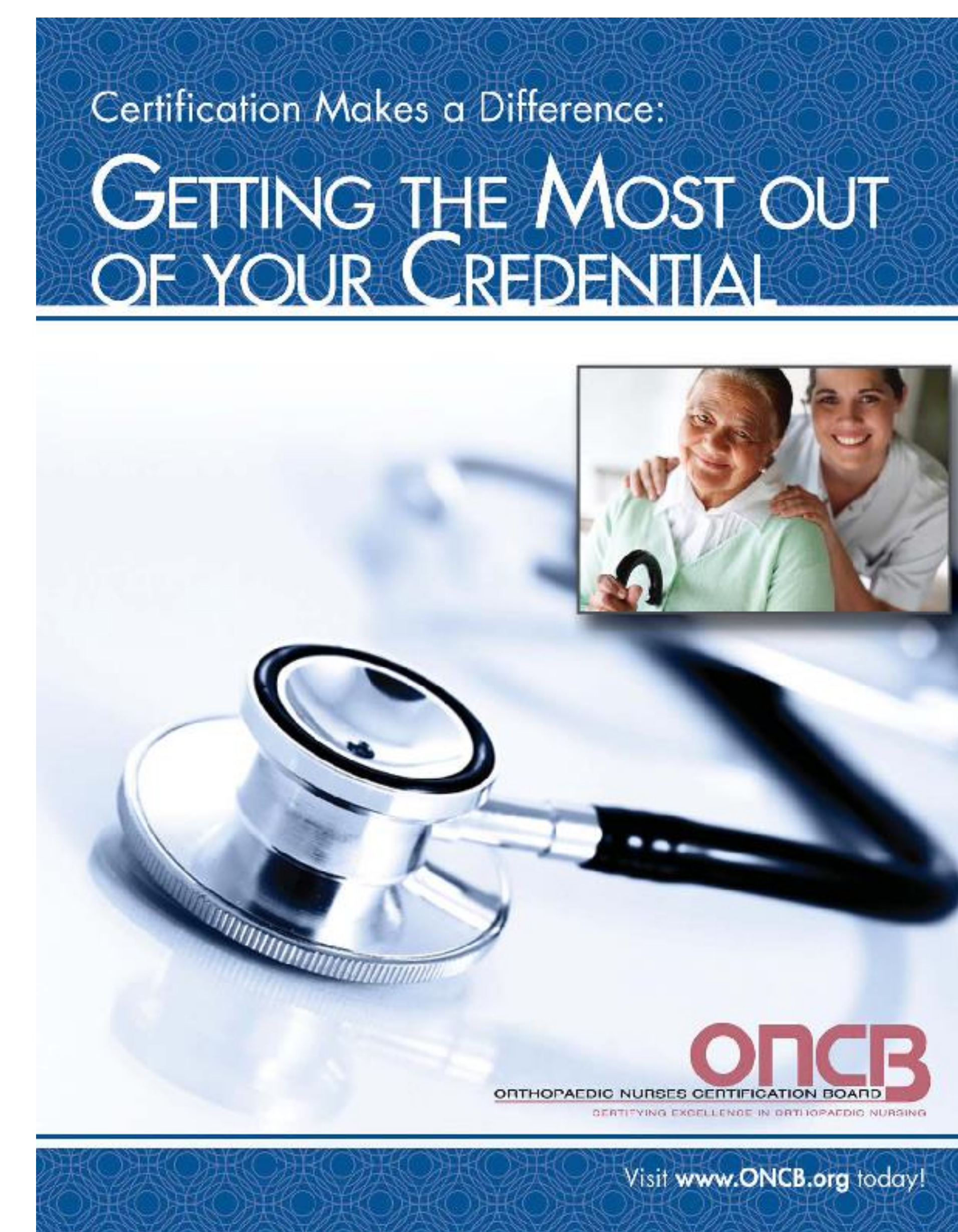
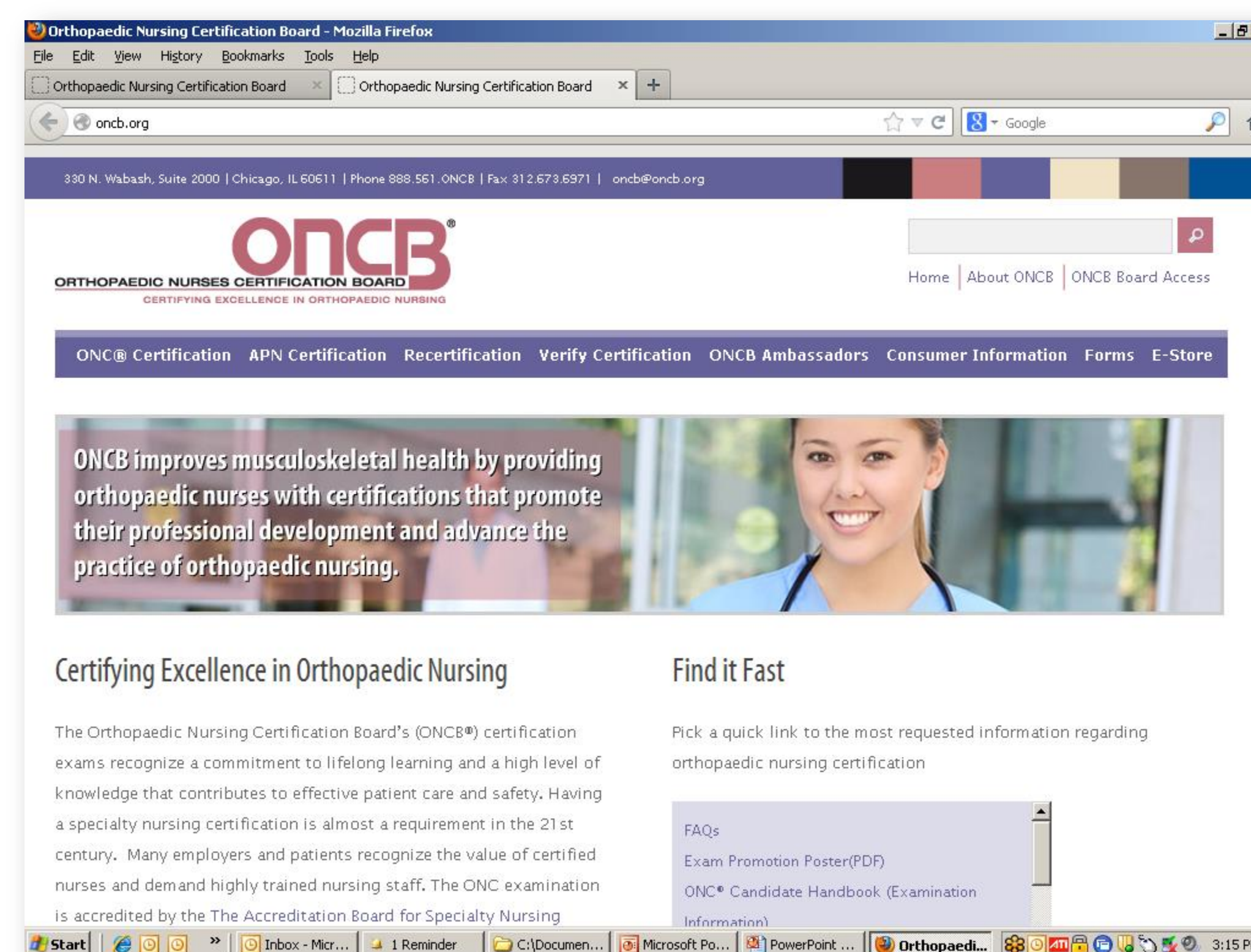
Please mark all areas of volunteer interest.

**Recertification Committee:** Participates in review of applications submitted for recertification using the continuing education option; completes an average of 4-5 audits per year. Email access is a requirement. An Appeals Task Force will be formed from members of this committee on an as-needed basis to review individual appeals of the examination or renewal process; the task force will be dissolved following completion of the appeal review. Committee members serve a single 4-year term.

**ONCB Ambassador:** Serve as a grassroots contact for certification questions in your chapter, city, or facility. Uses materials provided by ONCB to promote certification, advertising exam dates/locations and available exam preparation products. The role may involve offering study tips, helping potential certificants obtain registration materials, and serving as moral support for prospective certificants.

**Item Writer:** Serves as part of a task force whose members review and write test items for the ONCB examinations. A task force is convened every 2 years and ideally contains regional representatives from diverse orthopaedic practice areas.

Please describe your experience/skills for the selected volunteer roles.



- Direct others to [www.oncb.org](http://www.oncb.org).
- Request brochures and marketing materials.
- Bring materials to work and networking events.
- Share successes with other ambassadors.



- Promote recertification.
- Direct certificants to continuing education.
- Encourage scholarship applications.
- Review ways to receive credit through professional activities.

## Recognition

Incentive and Recognition Tips	
Incentive	Recognition
Reimburse test fees	List credentials on identification tags
Reimburse continuing education	Post certified nurse plaques on units
Provide onsite review course	Report % of certified nurses on dashboards
Purchase review materials for unit	Introduce to others as certified nurse
Provide paid time off for exam	Publish in newsletters, website and annual report
Link certification to clinical ladder	Wear certification pins
Provide pay differential or annual bonus	Identify physician champion
Develop scholarship program	Celebrate each individual accomplishment



## Conclusion

Earning a specialty nursing credential is an important achievement. The Orthopaedic Nurse Certified (ONC®), Orthopaedic Nurse Practitioner – Certified (ONP-C®), and Orthopaedic Clinical Nurse Specialist – Certified (OCNS-C®) credentials recognize a commitment to lifelong learning and a high level of knowledge that contributes to effective patient care and safety.

Many employers and patients recognize the value of certified nurses and the demand for highly trained nursing staff.

ONCB Ambassadors enhance the culture of certification by recognizing, promoting and supporting certified orthopaedic nurses.