



American Academy of Thermology Member Certification Process

AAT Membership Certification is an important step in advancing through levels of Academy Membership and shows an applicant's commitment to education and training in Medical Thermal Imaging. Successfully completing all of the components of an AAT Member Certification program means that the candidate has met all the membership certification requirements and has demonstrated the minimum necessary skills for the clinical administration of Medical Infrared Thermal Imaging and the knowledge base needed to articulate the pathophysiology under study. Higher levels of accomplishment are achieved through gaining Senior Member or Fellow Status (certification is a pre requisite for each).

AAT Membership Certification Qualification courses are open to both members and non-members; however, only AAT members can be recognized as having been certified by AAT. AAT Membership Certification is possible within any category of AAT membership.

AAT Member Certification Programs:

The AAT conducts Member Certification Programs on both an individually prearranged basis and in conjunction with other regularly scheduled meetings. AAT Members who successfully complete an AAT Member Certification Qualification Course may then apply for AAT Certification by completing the necessary application found at the AAT website at www.aathermology.org and submitting it along with the required fee to the AAT. Upon completion of an AAT Certification Qualification Course all post course requirements must be met by the applicant in order to obtain certification. In addition to passing post course testing a summary of the certification criterion are listed below. Competence in interpretation and clinical management is required commensurate with the applicant's level of licensure. The classification of AAT Certified Member is also available for technicians and technologists who are not responsible for clinical management.

The AAT also sanctions other organizations to conduct Member Certification Qualification Courses. Approval by the AAT for such sanctioning must occur in advance of the course offering. The core content of the course and post course testing procedures must comply with the AAT Member Certification Qualification Course policy. This requires advance planning and significant Course Director commitment. Interested parties are encouraged to contact the AAT.

Individuals or small groups who want to arrange for a Member Certification Qualification Course or that want to find out when the next program is scheduled are also encouraged to visit <http://www.aathermology.org> or to contact the AAT at contact@aathermology.org.

Member Certification Application Process:

AAT Members who successfully complete an AAT Member Certification Qualification Course may then apply for AAT Certification by completing the necessary application and submitting it along with the required fee to the AAT. Interested parties should provide proof of their current certification, a copy of their resume and photo, and provide either a letter of recommendation from a current AAT Board member or a Member Certification Course Director (in unusual cases the AAT will also consider two letters of recommendation from other AAT Senior Members and Fellows). The Member Certification application and fee must also be submitted. Only Members can apply for Member Certification. If you are not already a member you must submit the Membership Application and fee as well.

Member Certification Types:

Successful Member Certification Applicants find one of the following categories affixed to their certificate:

Physician (MD/DO)

Chiropractic

DVM Veterinarian

DDS, DMD

Licensed Non Physician Practitioner

Scope of Practice (specific verbiage as allowed by statute for that applicant)

Technician

Technician (Veterinarian)

Clarification of the Licensed Non Physician Practitioner and Scope of Practice Certification Types

The Licensed Non Physician Practitioner and Scope of Practice Certification categories are for practitioners who believe that their licensure is compatible with establishment of a clinical practice that is allowed to diagnose and treat human disease but is not otherwise listed under another category above.

Any application for certification under these categories is subject to acceptance or rejection at AAT's sole discretion. If an individual is accepted for certification under either of these categories, certification does not grant licensure to perform or deliver any medical service, including interpretation of thermograms. Licensure and scope of practice for any non-physician practitioner is determined solely by the applicable licensing authority.

It is the responsibility of the practitioner to establish, to the satisfaction, of the AAT, that the clinician is eligible for this certification. The following language must be submitted along with a Licensed Non Physician Practitioner or a Scope of Practice Certification application:

By submitting this application, I represent that I meet the criteria set forth above because (Please set forth your licensure and specifically include the relevant portion of your licensing statute and/or regulations that you believe establish your eligibility for certification under this classification):

and further, that I agree that:

a) The AAT shall determine, in its sole discretion, whether or not to accept my application for this category of certification, and that I further agree that I recognize that this determination is not subject to any appeal beyond a request for reconsideration which I may submit with additional data, and that request for reconsideration is also subject to acceptance or rejection by AAT at AAT's sole discretion.

b) If I become certified, I recognize that certification does not grant any authority to perform any clinical activity, including interpretation of thermograms. I recognize, understand, and agree that my authority to perform any clinical activity is determined solely by my applicable licensing authority.

Note: NPs, PAs, DOMs, etc should apply as technicians if their State Licensure does not define the ordering and interpretation of diagnostic studies as part of their scope of practice or if the applicant is only interested in obtaining Member Certification that speaks to the performance of Thermal Imaging studies.

Note: Upon annual membership renewal all new Member Certified Non Physician Practitioners should renew their annual membership as a Physician Member and pay the fee associated with the same.

Attestations:

Regardless of the entry into the AAT Member Certification application process, the new member applicant must submit a signed letter to the AAT with the following text:

“To whom it may concern: I, _____, understand that the granting of AAT Member Certification is not the same as having achieved AAT Senior Member, Fellow Member, or Life Member status. By signing this letter I further agree to comply with the American Academy of Thermology’s Mission Statement, Bylaws, and Certification Policy and Procedures. I also agree that I will both fulfill the requirements needed to maintain AAT Member Certification status and that I will not falsely represent my AAT Certification credentials as having the rights and privileges of AAT Senior Member, Fellow, or Life Status”.

After achieving Certification status, AAT members are eligible to seek Senior Member and then Fellow status. While Fellowship is the highest level of distinction an AAT member may achieve, Certification elevates a member’s standing within the organization no matter what their level of membership is.

Additional Information:

More detailed information concerning member certification, core course content, obtaining AAT Sanctioning for an AAT Member Certification Qualification Course, and alternative pathway AAT Member Certification can be obtained by downloading the AAT policies and Guidelines via the links below.

After achieving AAT Member Certification status AAT members are eligible to seek Senior Member and then Fellow status. While Fellowship is the highest level of distinction an AAT member may achieve, Certification elevates a member's standing within the organization no matter what their level of membership is. Members who successfully complete the certification process may designate their achievement as follows: AAT Certified Member.

Member Certification status begins on January 1st of the year in which Certification is obtained and lasts for three years from that date (renewal will be due after December 31st of the third calendar year).

AAT Member Certification Requirements

1. Membership in Good Standing of AAT for at least 1 year.* Alternative demonstration of training and experience will be considered on an individual basis. While anyone may attend an AAT Member Certification Course the AAT will not issue AAT Certification status to non-members.
2. Attendance at least 1 AAT sanctioned meeting or training course.
3. Demonstration of competency in core curricula relevant to the field of Medical Thermal Imaging by written or oral examination.
4. Familiarity with content of at least three medical thermology text books (the texts must be acceptable to AAT).
5. Demonstration of ability to read thermal imaging studies via case submission or direct oral examination (Technicians are required to submit completed studies; Physicians must also submit narrative reports).
6. AAT will take individual consideration into account with respect to teaching and publication criteria for demonstrated professional leadership in the field of Medical Thermal Imaging.

Note: Member Certification is time limited to three years after which re-certification must occur.

*New members may apply for a one year Provisional Certification. Come January 1st of the following calendar year the candidate must apply for three year certification as their provisional status will have expired. Submission of new studies may be required at the discretion of the candidate's sponsor and will be determined on an individual basis.

AAT Member Certification Maintenance Requirements (each three years from the anniversary year of initial certification)

After successfully completing an AAT Sanctioned Member Certification Program, there are requirements for ongoing Certification Maintenance. These requirements include:

1. Membership in Good Standing of AAT on an annual basis.
2. Attendance at an AAT sanctioned meeting at least once during each three year period
3. Evidence of continued interest or practice in Medical Thermal Imaging
4. Submission of at least one publication to a professionally relevant journal or equivalent
5. Demonstration of lecture or other equivalent teaching methodology
6. AAT will take individual consideration into account with respect to teaching and publication criteria for demonstrated professional leadership in the field of Medical thermal Imaging.