



## O-1 and H-1B PHYSICIAN OF RENOWN EVIDENTIARY CRITERIA

O-1A immigration status is available to individuals with “extraordinary ability or achievement” in their field. Similarly, status as an H-1B “physician of renown” is reserved for practitioners who are established in their field and have been practicing long enough to be exempt from passing USMLE Steps 1, 2CK, 2CS, and 3. However, you must be eligible to receive an Alabama medical license under either O-1 or H-1B status. USCIS review of these petitions is highly subjective, and they require a substantial amount of supporting evidence.

## USE OF OUTSIDE ATTORNEY

You are welcome to retain outside counsel to assist with letter collection for the O-1A or H-1B physician of renown process. However, per institutional policy, outside counsel *cannot* file immigration petitions on behalf of UAB or HSF and *cannot* file a Form G-28 as a representative of either institution. All forms and letters assembled or prepared by outside counsel **must** be delivered to ISSS in hard copy for review and routing across the university for signatures per institutional policy. We will *immediately* withdraw any O-1 or H-1B petition filed without the knowledge of ISSS.

## MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR O-1A SPONSORSHIP

To be eligible for O-1A status, you must be able to meet at least **three** of the following criteria:

- Receipt of nationally or internationally recognized prizes or awards for excellence in the field of endeavor
- Membership in associations in the field for which classification is sought which require outstanding achievements, as judged by recognized national or international experts in the field
- Published material in professional or major trade publications, newspapers or other major media about you and your work in the field for which classification is sought
- Original scientific, scholarly, or business-related contributions of major significance in the field
- Authorship of scholarly articles in professional journals or other major media in the field
- A high salary or other remuneration for services
- Participation on a panel, or individually, as a judge of the work of others in the same or in a field of specialization allied to that field
- Employment in a critical or essential capacity for organizations and establishments that have a distinguished reputation

You can read more about the O-1A category directly from USCIS [here](#).

## SUPPORTING EVIDENCE NECESSARY FOR EACH OF THE ABOVE CRITERIA

Print and assemble supporting documentation as follows in hard copy and in color when available, or provide all documents clearly labeled in a Dropbox or Box file. Leave the documents at the international center Welcome Desk on the second floor of Sterne Library for review. A member of the ISSS team will contact you with additional questions if necessary.

1. Receipt of nationally or internationally recognized prizes or awards for excellence in the field of endeavor

Print copies of the awards/prizes and a certified translation, if not in English. Tracy Maxwell in the ISSS office is a notary. You can schedule an appointment with her for notary services [here](#). Also print documentation from an authoritative source explaining the selection criteria for the awards/prizes and indicating the significance of the awards/prizes on a national or international level.

2. Membership in associations in the academic field that require outstanding achievements of their members

Print proof of membership in the form of a membership card, proof of payment of dues, etc. Print the criteria for membership, including whether nominations and/or certain number of publications or years of experience are required, and the total number of members of each association from relevant websites. Do NOT include membership in organizations open to the general public simply by paying an annual membership fee. USCIS wants to see membership in multiple associations (*i.e.*, at least two).

3. Published material in professional or major trade publications or major media written by others about the beneficiary relating to the beneficiary's work in the academic field

Print copies of the material (including any necessary translations) and categorize them according to (i) reviews of your work; (ii) research continuing from (or inspired by) your work; and (iii) footnoted acknowledgment of data from your publications.

4. Participation on a panel or individually as a judge of the work of others in the same or a related field

Print emails asking you to review articles for professional journals, confirmation emails acknowledging your submissions, letters from journal editorial review boards, letters from universities attesting that you served on dissertation or thesis committees, and/or letters or emails attesting that you judged a scientific competition. Also print information about the circulation, H/impact factor, and Google ranking of the journal(s) in the field.

5. Evidence of original scientific or scholarly research contributions to the academic field

Provide letters or affidavits from recognized experts in your field commenting on your achievements in the field that clearly and completely demonstrate how your achievements establish you as having "extraordinary ability" in your field. The letters should include information about the writer's qualifications for commenting on your achievements, including how long and in what capacity the writer has known you. Writers should NOT simply regurgitate your CV, and writers should NOT make general statements that you are "ethical," a "pleasure to work with," or an "up and coming young researcher." Writers should NOT repeat that you have published X papers in Y journals—USCIS will have your CV and other supporting evidence about your publication record.

There is no magic number of expert letters required, but we usually recommend that you collect about 5 letters. USCIS very much expects to see **quality over quantity**. The more objective and international letters you can provide, from diverse institutions, the better. Please do not include your recommenders' CVs. The letters should speak directly to the impact and importance of specific research contributions/discoveries you have made, including direct references to how a particular journal article or conference presentation you made changed their outlook or their own practices, or otherwise influenced the field.

Please obtain letters from as many **objective** recommenders as possible. Support letters should be *addressed* to USCIS, **but do not mail them to USCIS!** Ask your recommenders to provide the letters directly to ISSS so that we can include them with the rest of the supporting evidence. A clean scanned copy is fine, but your recommenders can also mail us hard copy originals.

Please provide copies of any pending or approved patents as well.

6. Evidence of scholarly books or articles in scholarly journals with international circulation in the academic field

Print copies of the cover page of each manuscript, book chapter, or book (with certified English translations as appropriate) and the first page where the conclusion and end notes/references of the manuscripts begin. Evidence should include the extent of circulation of the journals. If you are not the primary author of a very well-received and highly-cited manuscript, obtain a letter from the primary author(s) stating whether your involvement included any notable function on either the research or writing teams (leadership, control, design, etc.).

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION:

Please provide pdf copies of **ALL** of the following documents. Please *do not* send pictures or screen shots of the documents. We cannot file the H-1B or O-1A petition without **ALL** necessary documents. Please send all attachments in **one** email or via Dropbox/ Box.

Biographical pages of your current, valid passport and all expired passports
All US visas in current, valid passport and any expired passports
Most recent Form I-94, printed from <a href="https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/i94/#/home">https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/i94/#/home</a>
Current CV
Diplomas and transcripts for <b>ALL</b> degrees (e.g., bachelor's, master's, PhD, MD, etc.) (with certified English translations, as appropriate)
<a href="#">Education equivalency evaluation</a> for all degrees earned outside the US (required by 8 CFR § 212.4(h)(4)(iii)(C)(2) Educational <i>equivalency</i> (confirmation that your education outside the US is equal to obtaining a certain degree as awarded by a US institution) is not the same as educational <i>verification</i> (which confirms that you did, in fact, receive a certain degree). Regardless of your MD, the federal regulations governing the H-1B program require employers to demonstrate that the sponsored physician holds the US "equivalent" of a degree. It is best practice to include an educational equivalency evaluation with every H-1B petition in order to avoid a delay in adjudication in the event that USCIS issues a Request for Evidence (RFE) asking for the evaluation. If you do not want to incur the financial and/or time cost of obtaining an educational equivalency evaluation, please sign here indicating that you have been advised of this requirement and are willing to accept the risk of

delay by filing without the evaluation. \_\_\_\_\_

We recommend [Lisano International](#) or any [NACES member](#) *except* ECE.

ECFMG Certificate

Step 1, 2 CS, 2 CK, and 3 USMLE Score Reports (OR USMLE Transcript of Scores)

Alabama medical license, or letter from ABME stating that you have applied for a license

Copies of certificates of completion of your residency and any fellowships

All prior immigration documents covering entire period of stay in US in any immigration status (e.g., Forms I-20, DS-2019, I-797, I-612 waiver approval, I-140, receipt notice for I-485, etc.)

Three most recent pay slips from current employer (if currently employed in the US)

All EAD cards for non-H-1B employment (e.g., OPT, H-4, J-2, DACA, TPS, etc.)