

One-Day Family Medicine Certification Examination

The One-Day Family Medicine Certification Examination is one of two options available from the American Board of Family Medicine (ABFM) to demonstrate an objective measurement of your cognitive expertise for Family Medicine Certification. It demonstrates your commitment to keeping up to date with the best practices in care across the wide spectrum of conditions treated by family physicians. It sets you apart from other non-certified physicians and non-physician providers, and signals to the public that you strive to deliver the best care possible to your patients and to your community.



Certification Exam Highlights

- The One-Day Examination consists of 300 multiple-choice questions that are completed within four 95-minute sessions of 75 questions.
- The exam is administered and proctored by staff at *Prometric Test Centers* in approximately 350 locations around the United States and 180 international locations.
- You do not need to have extensive familiarity with computers, but you should have experience with the use of a computer keyboard and mouse.
- Computer-based testing functions include the ability to navigate forward and backward through the examination, mark items for further review, highlight/strikeout question content, and review answered, unanswered and marked items.
- A listing of completed questions, incomplete questions, and marked items may be accessed at any time during the examination for the currently active section.
- You must review or change items prior to the time expiration for each section. Once you have completed an exam section, or the exam has timed out, you cannot return to the questions in that section. The computer-based examination contains a clock showing the time remaining in the top center of the exam screen.
- There are 100 minutes of pooled break time between exam sections. This allows two 15-minute breaks and one 70-minute meal break during the three scheduled optional breaks in between each exam content section. However, you can use as much or as little break time as you want during any given break.
- During unscheduled breaks, you may not access your cellular phone, hand-held computers/personal digital assistants, a watch or time piece of any kind, electronic devices, pagers, any writing instruments, paper, purses/wallets, hats, bags, books, or notes.
- Preliminary scores are sent 3-7 business days following your completed examination. Final scores are provided within 6-8 weeks.



One-Day Family Medicine Certification Examination

The One-Day Family Medicine Certification Examination is divided into four separate sections of equal length and 100 minutes of pooled break time is available to be used between sections.

Exam Section	Exam Section Format	Time Allotted
Section 1	75 Multiple Choice Questions	95 Minutes
Section 2	75 Multiple Choice Questions	95 Minutes
Section 3	75 Multiple Choice Questions	95 Minutes
Section 4	75 Multiple Choice Questions	95 Minutes

What to Expect Day of Exam

ABFM certifying exams are administered at secure test centers with specific requirements for anyone who uses their center, including medical students, residents, other medical specialists, teachers, and a host of other learners who must certify that they have gained, and are maintaining, current knowledge in their field.

Items NOT Allowed in Exam Rooms

The following items are NOT permitted into exam rooms:

- Cellular phones
- Hand-held computers/ personal digital assistants
- A watch or timepiece of any kind
- Electronic devices
- Pagers
- Any writing instruments
- Paper
- Purses/wallets
- Hats
- Bags
- Books
- Notes

Light sweaters or jackets are allowed in the exam room but must be hung on the back of the chair if removed.

You are NOT permitted to take any exam materials from the test center or to make written notes of the contents of the exam.



Exam Day Checklist

- ☐ **Report to your selected test center 30 minutes prior to the time listed on your E-Ticket to complete the registration process.** This includes verifying your identification, signing in, emptying your pockets, and other specific security measures that are applied to any examinee who takes an exam at the test center.
- ☐ **Bring one form of valid identification in order to be admitted.** The ID must be a form of government-issued, non-expired identification, containing both a photo and signature.

Accepted proof of identification include *ONE* of the following:

- Driver's license
- Passport
- State/county ID card
- A military ID is acceptable as a primary ID *if accompanied by a secondary ID with a signature*

Employee IDs/work badges, school IDs, and credit cards are NOT accepted by the test center.

- ☐ **The name on the ID must match the name on your E-Ticket.** If your ID does not match the name on record with ABFM, or you have an expired ID, you will not be admitted to the exam. Please contact ABFM if your ID does not match the name on record.

Eligibility Requirements

To become board certified with ABFM, you must first meet the following eligibility requirements:

Medical School

Candidates who obtained their M.D. degree from medical schools in the United States or Canada must have attended a school accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education or the Committee for Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools. Candidates who obtained a D.O. degree must have graduated from a college of osteopathic medicine accredited by the American Osteopathic Association.

Residency Training

In addition to all other initial certification requirements, you must pass the Family Medicine Certification Examination, which requires satisfactory completion of three years of training (defined as a full 36 calendar months with 12 months in each of the PGY-1, PGY-2, and PGY-3 years) in an Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME)-accredited family medicine residency program. ABFM prefers all three years of postgraduate training to be in the same ACGME-accredited family medicine program. However, the last two years of family medicine residency training must be completed in the same accredited program.

Upon entry into your family medicine residency, any other postgraduate training (flexible/transitional year, American Osteopathic Association (AOA) internship, etc.) may be considered as partially or fully equivalent to your family medicine requirements. In these cases, residency programs are required to notify ABFM of any resident for whom they are requesting advanced placement credit.

Licensure

Possession of a current, valid and full license to practice medicine is not required for you to apply for and take the examination. However, in order to receive certification, you must obtain either (1) a medical license which is currently active, valid and full in the United States, its territories, or Canada, and should not be subject to any practice privilege limitations in any jurisdictions in the United States, its territories, or Canada, (referred to as an "Unlimited License"), or (2) qualify for, and select, the status of Clinically Inactive and hold either an Unlimited License or a qualified clinically inactive medical license and (3) be in continuous compliance with the ABFM Guidelines for Professionalism, Licensure, and Personal Conduct.

Certification Entry Process

If you are unable to take or successfully pass the Family Medicine Certification Examination within the three calendar years following the year in which you completed residency training, you will need to complete the Certification Entry Process in order to take the exam and gain initial certification status.

Reciprocity

ABFM has reciprocity agreements with the College of Family Physicians of Canada, the Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners, the Royal College of General Practitioners of Great Britain, and the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners.

For further details, visit theabfm.org/reciprocity.

Osteopathic Physicians

As an Osteopathic trained physician, you may qualify to enter the ABFM Family Medicine Certification process in two ways:

1. Complete an ACGME Family Medicine Residency and Advanced Placement Credit
2. AOA Training Pathway, which is time limited.

For more detailed information visit AOA Residency Trained at theabfm.org/oaoresident.



For more information on the One-Day Family Medicine Certification Examination and to find answers to the most frequently asked questions visit theabfm.org/onedayexamination.

Testing Deadlines and Dates

Deadline Description	Spring 2022	Fall 2022
Registration Begins <i>Online Applications Available</i>	December 3, 2021	July 15, 2022
First Deadline to Submit Online Application No Late Fee Assessed	January 24, 2022	August 22, 2022
Priority Seating Ends <i>For Best Seating Options, Select a Testing Center by This Date</i>	February 14, 2022	September 12, 2022
Final Deadline to Submit Online Application <i>Requires a \$100 Non-Refundable Late Fee</i>	February 28, 2022	September 26, 2022
Deadline to Submit Special Testing Accommodations Documentation	February 28, 2022	September 26, 2022
Deadline to Complete All Certification Activity Requirements for Examination	February 28, 2022	September 26, 2022
Deadline to Clear Pending Requirements <i>Except License & Completion of Training</i>	March 14, 2022	October 17, 2022
Deadline to Make Official Name Change with ABFM for Examination	March 14, 2022	October 17, 2022
Deadline to Select Testing Date/Location <i>Note: There will be limited seating for anyone selecting a test center after September 13, 2021 for Fall or February 15, 2022 for Spring.</i>	March 21, 2022	October 24, 2022
All Family Medicine Residency Training Must be Completed	June 30, 2022*	December 31, 2022**
Deadline to Withdraw from Examination without Cancellation Fee	30 days prior to scheduled exam	
Deadline to Withdraw from Examination without Seat Fee	5 days prior to scheduled exam	
Deadline to Change Testing Date/Location	48 hours prior to scheduled exam	
Examination Dates	April 12 – May 3, 2022	November 7 – 12, 2022
Examination Results <i>Tentative</i>	June 17, 2022	December 30, 2022

* Residents who are in good standing and expected to complete training by June 30, 2022 are eligible to take the April 2022 examination. Anyone completing between July 1 and October 31, 2022 will require Program Director approval to take the exam in April 2022. Anyone completing after October 31, 2022 should plan to take the exam in November 2022.

** Residents who are in good standing and expected to complete training by December 31, 2022 are eligible to take the November 2022 examination. Anyone completing between January 1 and April 30, 2023 will require Program Director approval to take the exam in November 2022. Anyone completing after April 30, 2023 should plan to take the exam in April 2023.



**American Board
of Family Medicine**

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