

Family Medicine Certification Longitudinal Assessment

Family Medicine Certification Longitudinal Assessment (FMCLA) is an alternative to the one-day examination requirement for Family Medicine Certification. Launched in December 2018 as a pilot to study the feasibility and validity of an alternative to the 10-year examination, this approach to assessment of cognitive expertise is more aligned with adult learning principles, and when coupled with modern technology, promotes more enduring learning, retention, and transfer of knowledge than episodic examinations.

The initial pilot year was limited to certified Diplomates who were in their tenth year of certification due to end December 31, 2019. Thanks to an overwhelming positive response, this program was expanded to certified Diplomates in their tenth year of certification due to end December 31, 2020. We expect that we will be able to continue to offer FMCLA to other cohorts of Diplomates as an ongoing exam alternative in future years.

If you choose to participate in FMCLA to satisfy your examination requirement, you will need to answer 300 questions over a 4-year time period and achieve a passing score. Since the platform delivers 25 questions each quarter, FMCLA provides flexibility to complete the entire process in three years or extend to a maximum of four years, thus allowing for breaks in the process for life events, unusual practice demands, etc. FMCLA is designed to maintain the same high standards as the 10-year examination. The cut score for the longitudinal assessment will be just as rigorous as the one-day examination.

Meaningful Participation in Pilot Year One

In year one of participation in FMCLA, Diplomates will be required to answer at least 80 out of 100 of the available questions, as well as complete short surveys about FMCLA, in order to meet Meaningful Participation requirements. This provides ABFM the opportunity to continually assess and improve the process, as well as to generate the data necessary to evaluate the comparability of FMCLA to the 10-year examination in terms of assessing cognitive expertise.

By meaningfully participating in year one, you are able to continue into year two, towards completion of the full 300-item assessment. In subsequent years, you will be able to choose to participate fully in each quarter and finish in three years, or take short breaks, if needed, and take up to four years to answer all 300 items needed for scoring.



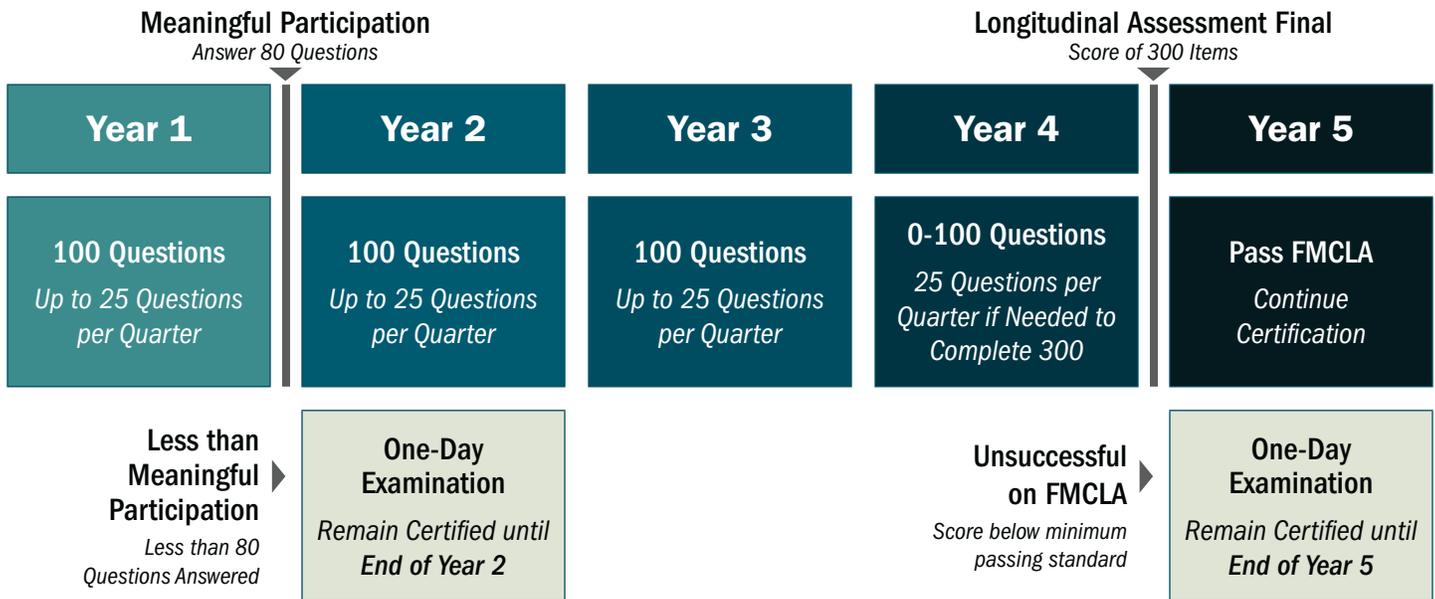
Highlights

- You will be provided 25 timed, multiple-choice questions online each calendar quarter.
- Questions can be completed at the place and time of your choice.
- You may use clinical references during the assessment, much like you do in practice.
- You will not need to travel to a test center, nor spend additional time and money on preparatory courses.

Benefits

- Minimizes time and expense spent in preparation for the examination and the inconvenience of the test center.
- Can be completed when and where is best for you – increased flexibility and less stress than is often associated with the 10-year examination.
- Provides immediate feedback after each response, with a critique explaining reasons for the right or wrong answers and supporting references for future study.
- Learning is more continuous, allowing you to immediately apply information to your practice.
- No additional cost – your certification fees remain the same as with the one-day examination.
- Developed on an ABFM activity platform that has been successfully tested and well-received.

Family Medicine Certification Longitudinal Assessment (FMCLA) Pilot



Longitudinal Assessment Content

While participating in FMCLA, you will answer single best answer, multiple-choice questions about diagnosis, management, and prevention of illness, among other topics in the field of family medicine. You will have five minutes to answer each question.

Following each question, you will receive immediate feedback including whether you answered the question correctly and a detailed item critique.

Five minutes has proved more than adequate to read the question, consider the choices presented, and answer the question, even if you elect to utilize a resource to aid in selecting your answer.

Answering Questions per Quarter

The longitudinal assessment platform provides you with flexibility to complete the entire process in as little as three years or up to a maximum of four years. As an example, the table below lists the beginning and ending date for each quarter for the first group of FMCLA cohorts.

	YEAR ONE
Quarter One	January 4 - March 31
Quarter Two	April 1 - June 30
Quarter Three	July 1 - September 30
Quarter Four	October 1 - December 31



**American Board
of Family Medicine**

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