



# American Board of Addiction Medicine

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## Examination Description and Scores

### Examination Description:

Certification and Recertification candidates take the same examination, which is a test of cognitive knowledge and problem-solving ability relevant to Addiction Medicine. Questions include, but are not limited to, diagnosis, management, and prevention of Addiction. Candidates must satisfactorily meet the requirements of application, including appropriate training, medical licensure, and continuing medical education, before being approved to take the cognitive examination.

The full day computer-based examination consists of five (5) sections, with 15 minutes of break time allotted for the optional tutorial, and 15 minutes of break time allotted for the entire examination (15 minutes total). Once any section of the exam has been ended or timed out, you are not permitted to return to that section. Each Exam Section will consist of 50 Multiple Choice Questions (60 minutes), followed by an optional break should you choose to take it. Examinees may take all, part or none of the scheduled optional breaks. The break time listed is the minimum of allocated for the entire test day. If the examinee completes a testing block early, the remaining testing time for that block is converted into break time and added to their available break time balance. As the tutorial/practice exam and may be reviewed before exam day, some examinees skip the tutorial on exam-day. The allotted time for the optional tutorial on exam day is 15-minutes, and unused tutorial time also gets added to the break time pool for that examinee

### Examination Scores:

The passing threshold for ABAM examinations is set by a research study involving a large volunteer group of physicians represented from all medical specialties. Their work identifies the minimum passing score for each exam, by combining their estimates of the minimal knowledge level appropriate for ABAM certification with their estimates of the difficulty of the examination. The study and its outcome are reviewed by a committee of the ABAM Board of Directors. The passing score is not based on failing or passing a particular percentage of candidates, but rather on a score that demonstrates a consensus level of mastery of the vast field of Addiction Medicine.

Scores will be reported to candidates as soon as possible after the examination, typically three months after the last examination day. In addition to pass/fail information, candidates receive an overall percentile rank and scores within content categories.

**Reexamination:**

Candidates who fail the administration of the examination may apply to retake the examination in any subsequent administration period. There is no limit to the number of times a qualified candidate may take the examination, provided the qualifications are met with each reapplication. In addition to valid and unrestricted licensure status, 50 credits per year of continuing medical education are required for reexamination. Full fees are charged for each examination.