



American Board of Addiction Medicine

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What are the requirements for taking the certification or recertification exam?

Initial certification requires verification of

- a. Graduation from a medical school in the United States or Canada
- b. A valid license to practice medicine.
- c. A letter of recommendation to attest that the applicant is in good standing in his/her medical community.
- d. Certification by a Member Board of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) or successful completion of a residency training program in any medical specialty.
- e. At least 1920 hours over the last 10 years in teaching, research, administration, and clinical care of the prevention of as well as treatment of individuals who are at risk for or have a substance use disorder. At least 400 of these hours should have been spent in direct clinical care of patients
- f. 50 hours of Category I Continuing Medical Education (CME) toward the AMA Physician Recognition Award. Credits must have pertained to the diagnosis and treatment of persons with alcoholism and other drug dependencies and must have been accrued within a 24 month period, prior to sitting for the examination.

Complete details for certification and recertification can be accessed by reviewing the [Candidate Information Booklets](#). The booklets can be found from the ABFM home page by clicking on the heading Certification/Recertification and then selecting "Candidate Information Booklets" from the left side of the page.

Re-certification requires verification of

- a. A valid license to practice medicine.
- b. A letter of recommendation to attest that the applicant is in good standing in his/her medical community.

2. How do I apply for the examination?

The application is available online the Home Page of our website. If you do not find an application link, please contact the ABAM Support Center for assistance. The Support Center can be reached by calling (301) 656-3378 or via email: email@abam.net

3. What are the deadlines for an application?

Each exam has specific deadlines that can be viewed by clicking on Important Dates and Deadlines. Generally there is a filing deadline for the application and subsequent late filing deadlines with associated late filing fees. Other components of the application process have their own specific timelines and deadlines as well. After viewing Exam Dates and Deadlines, if you have questions regarding a deadline, please contact our Support Center Staff by calling (301) 656-3378 or by email: email@abam.net

2009

October 31, 2009: Early Deadline for Application

2010

January 30	Standard Deadline for Application
April 30	Late Deadline for Application
September 1	Exam Permits Mailed
September 30	Deadline to Register for Exam Test Center
October 14-26	ASAM Review Course in Addiction Medicine
October 27-30	ASAM Review Course in Addiction Medicine
December 11	ABAM Examination
March 12	Results Mailed

2010 Exam Application Deadlines and Fees

Certification Applicants

Early Deadline:
October 31, 2009
Application Fee: \$1,800

Standard Deadline:
January 30, 2010
Application Fee: \$2,000

Late Deadline:
April 30, 2010
Application Fee: \$2,200

Recertification Applicants:

Early Deadline:
October 31, 2009
Application Fee: \$1,050

Standard Deadline:
January 30, 2010
Application Fee: \$1,150

Late Deadline:
April 30, 2010
Application Fee: \$1,350

4. Are review materials available prior to the exam?

The ABAM Certification/Recertification Examination covers the broad body of knowledge of addiction medicine. Examinees can expect questions on any or all topics that an addiction physician in any specialty can reasonably be expected to know.

The following suggested reading list consists of materials which the examinee may find useful in preparing for the ABAM Certification. It is not intended to be an exhaustive study guide for this examination, nor is it intended to be a list of the best resources available. There may be other resources which prove to be more useful to the examinee. Please Note: ABAM can make no claim that persons who read any or all of the texts listed here will perform at a predictable level on the Certification/Recertification examination

Review Courses

ASAM Addiction Medicine Review Course, October 14-16, 2010, Chicago

At the ASAM Review Course you will receive sample questions, a syllabus, and lectures that review subjects including epidemiology, alcohol, opioids, cocaine, and other topics that you will see on the exam. The course will take place in Chicago, from October, 2010.

Continuing Medical Education: 21 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)TM (estimated).

Information: For more information call the ABAM Conference Department at 301-656-3920 or email: lwatson@ASAM.org ; website: <http://www.ASAM.org>

CSAM Addiction Medicine Review Course, October 27 - 30, 2010, Newport Beach, CA

The Review Course presents an overview of the core elements of addiction medicine, presented by top experts in the field. Participants receive a course syllabus with copies of all lecture handouts and a CD-ROM study guide and help prepare for the exam. CSAM offers a Certification Exam Preparation Track during the Review Course. During the conference plenary, participants in the Certification Exam Preparation Track will sit at designated tables with other exam takers and facilitators who will help identify the key material for the exam and answer questions. It also provides 6 additional CME hours devoted to test-taking strategies, sample questions, high-yield exam content, and tips on how to prepare for the exam.

Continuing Medical Education: 30 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)TM (estimated).

Information: For more information call CSAM at 415-764-4855 or email: csam@compuserve.com ; website: www.csam-ASAM.org

Textbook

ASAM is pleased to announce publication of the Fourth Edition of its landmark textbook, Principles of Addiction Medicine. Like the widely praised Third Edition, the 2009 edition of Principles provides a comprehensive overview of the diagnosis and treatment of addictive disorders, as well as the management of co-occurring medical and psychiatric conditions.

Top-the-line research is offering a wealth of new guidance on everything from risk factors to types of addiction. And now the highly anticipated new edition of a gold-standard reference deepens your understanding and offers new tools to aid your success. A team of world-renowned thought leaders brings you scientific, evidence-based facts and perspectives on abuse programs, pain and addiction, co-occurring addiction and psychiatric disorders, psychiatry, neuroscience and neurobiology, pharmacologic advances, screening, the brief intervention, laboratory testing, alcohol treatment, and more!

You can depend on bench-to-bedside recommendations that embrace international opinions and shed new light on contemporary issues, such as addiction to the Internet, addiction and post-traumatic stress disorder, addiction in children and adolescents, and more.

Principles of Addiction Medicine, Fourth Edition, can be ordered by phoning 1-800/638-3030 Monday through Friday between 8:30 am and 5:00 pm EST or visiting Lippincott Williams & Wilkins' website at <http://www.lww.com/product/?978-0-7817-7477-2>.

Price of the 4th edition is \$199.00.

To Order call 1-800-638-3030

5. When is the exam offered?

The primary Addiction Medicine examinations for certification and recertification are offered every other year in December. The next Exam is scheduled for December 11, 2010.

6. How is the exam delivered?

All ABFM exams are now administered on computer at multiple locations around the U.S., Canada, and several overseas locations.

7. Where is the exam offered?

The primary Addiction Medicine examinations for certification and recertification are offered in approximately 477 Prometric Test Center locations which includes 126 international sites.

8. When will I be required to participate in Maintenance of Certification?

All physicians who passed the exam in 2010 or thereafter are required to participate in the Maintenance of Certification (MC-ADM) process. Mandatory participation begins January 1 of the year immediately following your successful exam attempt. For more information about specific requirements, please visit the [Maintenance of Certification](#) section of our website.

Where can I find additional CME? Try AddictionCME.com, or attend one of the ASAM or CSAM Reviews Courses in October of 2010.

May I project what CME I will be taking in the application? Yes.

Are there Sample Questions? If you attend the ASAM or CSAM review Course in Addiction Medicine, you will automatically receive the Review Course CD Rom, and on that CD Rom you will find approximately 250 sample questions.

How can I verify a Physician is Certified? All you need to do is search for the physician by last name in our diplomate and verification directory, and it will let you know.

Does ABAM certification expire? Yes, ABAM Certification is valid for 10 years, and will expire, unless you were originally certified by ASAM in 1996 or in any year prior to 1996, then your certification does not expire, and you are not required to take the ABAM Examination in order to maintain your certified status.

How long is the ABAM Exam? The exam is roughly 5.5 hours long. There are roughly two hundred and fifty questions in total, with 5 sections each of 50 questions. You are given 60 minutes for each section of the exam, plus 15 minutes of optional break time.

I lost my Orange Scheduling Permit to the exam, where can I get another permit to the Exam? You should contact Terri Silver at email@abam.net , and she will Fed Ex one to you.

How do I get a Replacement Certificate? contact Terri Silver at email@abam.net There is no charge for an additional certificate or for replacement of your certificate. It will however, take approximately 3-4 weeks for the calligraphy to be done and for you to receive your certificate.

Where can I get Addiction Medicine Training? You can meet the one year FTE requirement using experience from your practice, or you can take an Addiction Medicine Fellowship. Here is a listing of all ADM Fellowships: [[Fellowships in Addiction Medicine](#)]