



# **American Board of Vascular Medicine (ABVM) Certification Examinations**

## **INFORMATION HANDBOOK**

2019 Version 1.1

Application: Year round  
Scheduling: 2 business days after receiving eligibility email

Test Administration  
**January 1, 2019**  
**General Vascular Exam**  
**Endovascular Exam**

Testing at PSI Services LLC Testing Centers

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# Introduction

## ***Certification***

Beginning January 1, 2019, ABVM is offering computer-based certification tests in the following areas: Vascular Medicine (General Examination) and Endovascular Medicine (Endovascular Examination).

## ***Eligibility Determination***

Using the application available on [www.vascularboard.org](http://www.vascularboard.org), apply for the examination(s) of interest and provide all requested documentation. Once you have received an email confirming your eligibility, please allow 2 business days before trying to reserve your seat at a PSI Testing Center. Applications may take up to 8 weeks to review.

## ***Scheduling***

To schedule your seat, use the PSI website ([www.psiexams.com](http://www.psiexams.com)) or PSI toll-free telephone reservations system (1-800-211-2754). **Scheduling for the General Vascular Medicine and/or the Endovascular Exam will begin on January 1, 2019.**

## ***Test Centers***

These tests can be taken only at a secure, proctored, computer-based testing center. This ensures the security and reliability of the ABVM tests. You cannot take these tests over the Internet at home or in your office.

## ***Recertification Process***

Recertification will be required every 10 years.

# ABVM Examinations

## *Examination Questions and Time Allowed*

Examination	Number of questions	Time allowed
Vascular Medicine	100	3 hours
Endovascular Medicine	110	2 hours

## **2019 Important Dates**

The ABVM examinations are available from January 1, 2019 – November 30, 2019

Scheduling online or by telephone begins 2 business after physician receives eligibility email.

ABVM Examination Important Dates	
Applications	ABVM is accepting applications year round
Scheduling	2 business days after receiving eligibility email
Testing	Candidates have 3 months from date of application to sit

## **Exam Eligibility and Scheduling**

### ***Eligibility Determination***

You must first apply for eligibility determination for the test(s) you desire through the online application process at [www.vascularboard.org](http://www.vascularboard.org). When you have been deemed eligible, you will receive an email providing scheduling instructions. You may not schedule a test until ABVM has informed PSI that you are eligible to do so. The Review Committee may take up to 8 weeks to evaluate your application.

### ***Test Fees***

ABVM charges a per-person application fee, plus a test fee for each examination requested. The fees are:

Application Fee	\$250
Examination Fee (General)	\$850
Examination Fee (Endovascular)	\$1250
Both Exams	\$2000

**A \$75.00 reprocessing fee will be assessed on incomplete/incorrect applications.**

### ***Refunds***

**Please note that the application fee of \$250 is non-refundable.**

**Examination fees are refundable only if the cancellation request is received in writing within 3 months of the application date. After that date, no refunds will be granted.**

## ***Scheduling***

The Vascular Medicine (General Examination) and Endovascular Medicine (Endovascular Examination) are administered only through PSI test sites. Scheduling an exam can be done online or by phone. Please allow 2 business days from receipt of your eligibility confirmation email before trying to reserve your seat at a PSI Test Center.

For expedited service in scheduling your exam, please use the PSI website to schedule your appointment. You may also schedule by phone (1-800-211-2754). Please note that hold times may vary. For this reason, we strongly encourage scheduling online. In addition to the domestic sites, testing is also available in the following cities in the Philippines: Makati City – MISNet Education, Inc (NT) and Quezon City – Cornerstone International College. Please consult with the call center for availability.

If you choose to schedule by phone, the PSI Contact Center is available Monday through Friday between 8:00am and 8:00pm ET, on Saturdays and Sundays from 9am to 5:30pm ET.

## ***Test Center Availability***

Testing times and dates are subject to the schedule and space available at each particular test center. Some test centers are not open every day. Schedule early in the registration period to have the best choice of dates, times and locations. Test session availability is listed on the PSI website.

## ***Appointment Length***

The testing time allotted for each test varies. (See the table on page 4 for specific details).

**Plan to arrive at the testing center 30 minutes before your scheduled testing time** to allow time for check-in. If you do not appear at the test site, appointments will be cancelled 15 minutes after the scheduled time and all fees forfeited.

## ***E-mail Confirmation***

Immediately after you schedule, you will receive an e-mail confirming your choice of test, the date and time of your testing appointment, and the location of the test center. **You should print a copy of the e-mail for your records. You are responsible for knowing the correct date, time, and location of your test.**

## ***Rescheduling***

If you cannot keep your test appointment and wish to reschedule, you may reschedule online at [www.psiexams.com](http://www.psiexams.com) or call the PSI Contact Center. **You must cancel or reschedule more than 2 days from your scheduled appointment date and time, otherwise your fees will be forfeited. Physicians who fail to cancel their exams, will be assessed a 120.00 fee to their credit card.**

To increase your probability of finding another open test slot at your preferred location, please reschedule as soon as possible. Even if it is too late to reschedule, as a courtesy, please notify PSI if you will be unable to test.

## ***Severe Weather***

For test center closings due to inclement weather, please visit the [www.psiexams.com](http://www.psiexams.com) website or call 1-800-211-2754 for daily updates.

### ***Test Center Interruptions***

If a power failure, technical problem, or any other sort of interruption occurs during your test, you will be asked to wait for a minimum of 30 minutes to attempt to correct the problem.

## Preparing to Test

### *How Should I Prepare?*

Formal general and endovascular board review courses are provided by The Society for Vascular Medicine. Go to <http://www.vascularmed.org/> for information. They also have board review course materials for purchase.

### *Examination Content*

The **General Examination** content is listed below with the approximate proportion of questions to be given in each area.

<b>General Examination Content Outline</b>	
Peripheral Arterial Disease	14%
Aortic Disease	12%
Venous Disease	12%
Vasculitis & Connective Tissue Diseases	10%
Vascular Laboratory	9%
Cerebrovascular Disease	7%
Risk Factors and Prevention	7%
Visceral Artery Disease	6%
Vasospastic & Thermal Disease	4%
Leg Ulcers	4%
Management of Vascular Surgery	4%
Vascular Biology	4%
Thrombosis	2%
Lymphatic Diseases	2%
Congenital Vascular Anomalies	2%
Neurovascular Compression Syndromes	2%

The **Endovascular Examination** content is listed below with the approximate proportion of questions to be given in each area.

<b>Endovascular Examination Content Outline</b>	
Pathophysiology, Risk Factors, and Screening	8%
Diagnosis and Testing	16%
Treatment and Intervention	64%
Prognosis, Surveillance, and Re-intervention	12%

## **Computer-based Test Centers**

### ***PSI Test Centers***

All ABVM computer-based tests are administered at authorized PSI testing sites.

Please go to [www.psiexams.com](http://www.psiexams.com) to locate a test center near you. Note that not all test centers are open every day.

\*International testing: effective in 2019, in addition to the national testing centers, ABVM examinations will also be administered in the following testing centers in the Philippines:

- #9012 Makati City – MISNet Education Inc (NT)
- #9256 Quezon City – Cornerstone International College



## At the Test Center

### ***Check-in Time***

Your confirmation e-mail from PSI includes the address and general directions to the test center. Please leave for the test center early enough to allow for traffic delays and parking. Park only in the designated areas. It is very important that you report to the test center promptly. Plan to arrive EARLY, as your computer is only reserved for you for a specific period of time.

When you check in, you will be asked to sign the examination roster. You will not be allowed to test if you do not sign the roster.

### ***Late Arrivals***

If you are more than 15 minutes late for your appointment, you will not be allowed to test. **If you are unable to test because you miss, or are late for your appointment, you will forfeit all fees.**

### ***Photo ID Requirement***

A **current, valid (non-expired) government-issued ID with photo and another, signed form of identification is required for admission to the test.** If you have had a recent name change (due to marriage, divorce, etc.) you must also provide an official legal document (marriage license or court order) to verify the change. Please note: **you must use the name on the government-issued ID on your application to ABVM.** If the names do not match exactly, even just inclusion of a middle initial, you will be unable to take the exam and will forfeit your fees.

### ***What You Should NOT Bring***

You should not bring anything to the test center other than your identification and printed confirmation email.

- **NO cellular phones, hand-held computers/personal digital assistants (PDAs) or other electronic devices, pagers, watches, wallets, purses, firearms or other weapons, hats, bags, coats, books, and/or notes, pens or pencils are allowed in the testing room.**
- Guests, visitors, and family members are not allowed in the testing room or reception area.
- Food and drinks are not allowed in the testing room.
- You may not bring any aids, manuals, books, or notes into the testing room.
- No valuables, backpacks, briefcases, large purses, or other miscellaneous items should be brought to the test center. **ABVM and the PSI Test Centers are not responsible for items left in the reception area.**

## ***Taking the Test***

Before you begin testing, you are asked to agree to a security agreement and pledge to follow PSI policy, maintain the confidentiality of the ABVM test questions, and to affirm your identity and the test you are taking. If you do not agree to these terms, the test will automatically be terminated, you will receive a score of zero on the test, and you will forfeit all fees for that test.

Each test session begins with a short tutorial that explains how to move forward and backward through the test, answer test questions, and flag questions for later review. You may skip questions, flag them, and return to them at any time. During the test, you can change your answer to any question at any time.

The testing clock does not start until you begin the actual test. A clock indicating the time remaining is shown in the top corner of the screen. Once you exit the test you may not return to it.

Your test score is based solely on the total number of correct answers you give, and there is no penalty for wrong answers. Therefore, it is to your advantage to answer every question.

## ***Breaks***

The ABVM examinations do not include scheduled breaks. If you need to take a short break from the exam, you may do so, but the exam clock will continue to run. You will be asked to sign in/out from the testing room and **you may not leave the test center building.**

## ***Score Reports***

At the completion of the exam(s), you will receive your score report from the proctor as to whether you passed/failed. Those who passed will receive a certificate once they have been printed and processed.

## ***Providing Feedback***

At the end of your test appointment, you will be asked to complete a short computerized survey to tell ABVM about your experience with various aspects of the test.

## ***Americans with Disabilities Act***

Individuals who have been professionally diagnosed with a physical or mental impairment as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act may request assistance when taking the tests. ABVM and the PSI Testing Centers will make a reasonable effort to accommodate your request. To request special arrangements contact:

Micheline Watt, Administrative Director  
American Board of Vascular Medicine  
446 North Street  
Chagrin Falls, OH 44022  
Phone: 440-247-4015  
Fax: 440-893-9357  
Email: wattm1@sbcglobal.net

**All requests for testing assistance must be approved by ABVM in advance of scheduling. No requests for assistance made at the testing center on the day of the test will be accepted.**

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### ***How does the process work?***

You must first apply for the test(s) you desire. When you have been determined eligible, you will receive an email providing scheduling instructions. You may not schedule a test until ABVM has informed PSI that you are eligible to do so. Please allow 2 days from your receipt of the email before attempting to schedule your appointment.

Application period:                    You must sit within 3 months from your application date. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture of testing fees.

Scheduling period

Testing period:                         January 1, 2019 - year round testing

To schedule, go online to: [www.psiexams.com](http://www.psiexams.com) or call toll-free: 1-800-211-2754

After being deemed eligible, you will be able to schedule your testing date and time, subject to availability. You must schedule at least 2 business days in advance. You will receive an appointment confirmation via e-mail.

Go to the test center at your appointed time and present your government-issued photo ID and another signed proof of identity (e.g., credit card, social security card). You will be seated, given a brief tutorial to acquaint you with the computer-delivered test, and then be able to take the certification test(s). After you complete your test(s), you will be asked to respond to a short survey about the examination experience.

### ***When will I receive my test results?***

After completion of the exam, the candidate will receive a score report from the proctor. Certificates will be sent to those who passed after ABVM has received the results from the testing company. Please allow time for printing and processing of certificates.

### ***Can I take the ABVM tests online, over the Internet, from my home computer?***

No. The centralized test centers have been selected to present a cost-effective, reliable, secure, and proctored environment best suited to maintain the integrity of the ABVM credential. Testing over the Internet presents numerous test security and operational issues that cannot be addressed, such as verifying the identity of the individual taking the test or maintaining the communications connection throughout the session.

### ***Can I take both tests on the same day?***

Yes. You may register to sit for both exams, but you must schedule two separate appointments.

### ***Where are the test centers?***

There are over 250 test centers throughout the U.S. Go online to [www.psiexams.com](http://www.psiexams.com) to find the nearest location. Once you schedule, you will receive a confirmation e-mail, which will provide

the exact location of the test center, including the building name, room number, and driving directions.

***How much does the ABVM examination cost?***

Application Fee	\$250
Examination Fee (General	\$850
Examination Fee (Endovascular)	\$1250
Both Exams	\$2000