The Family Medicine Board Exam: What to Expect!

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American Board of Family Medicine:

- Primary Certification and Recertification Exams
  - In 2011 July 9- July 22
  - Deadline to withdraw without seat fee 5 days prior to exam date
  - Deadline to change date/location: 48 hours prior to exam date
- Winter exam: November 16-19, 2011
- In-Training Exams
- Certificates of Added Qualifications
  - Adolescent Medicine Exam
  - Sports Medicine Exam
  - Geriatric Medicine

The Board Exam

- No limit to the times a qualified candidate may take the exam
- Those who fail, may take again in November
- Must have completed 3 years of residency training valid medical license and have completed 300 credits of CME
- Application and test-center selection is on-line. First come- first serve
- If license is revoked, certification is rescinded

The Board Exam

- As of 2005 only offered in Computer-Based Format and in all 50 states
- Extra features like brief practice test, time remaining, & unanswered questions shown
- Do not need advance computer skills
- Able to review previous items and change answers
The Board Exam

- Tests cognitive knowledge and problem solving ability
- Questions include diagnosis, management and prevention of illness
- Bring Valid e-ticket and 1 pieces of government issued ID to be admitted (current with photo, signature and name matching e-ticket)
- Registration includes a digital photograph and fingerprint

Exam Section 1

- Exam Section 1 lasts 120 minutes (2 hours)
- Consists of 120 questions covering the breadth of the specialty
- Followed by Optional 15 minute break
Exam Section 2 and 3 - Modules

- Certification and Recertification candidates must choose 2 modules
- Once module selected & confirmed no change allowed
- Each module is composed of 45 multiple-choice questions and lasts 45 minutes
- 70 minute break after Section 2&3

Module Options

- Ambulatory Family Medicine
- Child and Adolescent Care
- Geriatrics
- Women’s Health
- Maternity Care
- Emergent / Urgent Care
- Hospital Medicine
- Sports Medicine

Exam Section 4

- Consists of 80 Multiple Choice Questions (95 minutes)
- Followed by a scheduled optional break (15 minutes)

Exam Section 5

- Consists of 80 Multiple Choice Questions (95 minutes)
- Examinees may take all, part or none of the scheduled optional breaks
I. Cardiovascular 9%
II. Endocrine 6%
III. Gastrointestinal 5%
IV. Hematologic/Immune 2%
V. Integumentary 5%
VI. Musculoskeletal 9%
VII. Nephrologic 2%
VIII. Neurologic 2%

IX. Nonspecific 7%
X. Psychogenic 5%
XI. Reproductive—Female 3%
XII. Reproductive—Male 1%
XIII. Respiratory 10%
XIV. Special Sensory 2%

XV. Population-based Care 3%
   - This includes topics such as biostatistics and epidemiology, evidence-based medicine, prevention, health policy and legal issues, bioterror, quality improvement, and geographic/urban/rural issues.

XVI. Patient-based Systems 3%
   - This includes topics such as clinical decision-making, communication and doctor-patient interaction, family and cultural issues, ethics, palliative care, and end-of-life care.
More info

- 20 questions are field-test items and will not be included in the scoring process.
- No True/False Questions

Strategies for Passing!

- You have roughly 1 minute per question, pace yourself!
- Read questions carefully
- Read all responses carefully and cross out incorrect options

Strategies for Passing!

- Flag unanswered question or guess and note items to return to
- When returning to a question, only change answer if you are sure since 1st thoughtful answer is more likely to be correct

Strategies for Passing!

- Always answer the questions
- Don’t get stuck on difficult question, come back to it later
- Study where you did poorly in past and in areas you are least comfortable with
- Focus on established medicine- remember there is a 9 month development cycle for the exam- so no brand new information
Strategies for Passing!

- FailSafe ABFM Exam Study Tips

- Tutorial
  https://www.theabfm.org/tutorial/cbt/index.html

- Candidate information booklet- on line and mailed to you

Free Practice tests!

- Practice test and tutorial ABFM website-
  www.theabfm.org

- Residency In-Training Exam (ITE) requires a login
  https://www.theabfm.org/residency/ite.aspx

- www.familypractice.com go to Board Prep Review Question section

Scoring

- Pass/ Fail

- Does not depend on how other candidates do- each question graded separately

- Will receive percentile rank and scores by discipline

Scoring

- Score reports will be available online only about 6-8 weeks after end of testing

- Program directors receive scores of recent graduates
Pass Rates

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Certification Type</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Pass Rate</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Pass Rate</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Pass Rate</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Certification</td>
<td>2,200</td>
<td>84.0%</td>
<td>1,191</td>
<td>77.3%</td>
<td>3,491</td>
<td>81.7%</td>
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<td>Recertification</td>
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<td>67.0%</td>
<td>1,061</td>
<td>66.4%</td>
<td>2,458</td>
<td>66.7%</td>
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<td>Medical Training</td>
<td>2,410</td>
<td>82.9%</td>
<td>1,345</td>
<td>76.3%</td>
<td>3,805</td>
<td>80.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>United States</td>
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<td>99.9%</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>66.7%</td>
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<td>91.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
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<td>67.0%</td>
<td>892</td>
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<tr>
<td>Retail State</td>
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<td>83.3%</td>
<td>1,628</td>
<td>83.3%</td>
<td>4,416</td>
<td>86.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>First Time Takers</td>
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<td>614</td>
<td>42.9%</td>
<td>1,412</td>
<td>40.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Repeat Takers</td>
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<td>77.0%</td>
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<td>72.2%</td>
<td>5,448</td>
<td>75.5%</td>
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</table>

1. Minimum passing standard for 2010 is 350.
2. First time takers can be applying for initial certification or recertification but they are not testing on this occasion due to a prior failure. Repeat takers are testing due to a prior failure.

Questions?

- Call the support center - 1-877-233-7437
- Or e-mail help@theabfm.org
- Open Monday - Friday 8:30-9pm
- Saturday 9-5pm

Good Luck!