The Family Medicine Board Exam: What to Expect!

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American Board of Family Medicine:

- Primary Certification and Recertification Exams
  - In 2013 April 5- April 22
  - Deadline to withdraw without seat fee 5 days prior to exam date
  - Deadline to change date/ location: 48 hours prior to exam date
  - Results: May 31

- Fall exam: November 1-8, 2013

- 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- If license is revoked, certification is rescinded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 piece of government issued ID to be admitted (current with photo, signature and name matching e-ticket)
- Registration includes a digital photograph and fingerprint

The Board Exam

- No purses, bags, pagers, PDAs, phones or reference materials- locker provided,
- May not take written notes of exam
- May not leave room or make calls
- Erasable board provided for written preparatory work

The Board Exam

- Multiple versions of exam exist. You may have a different version than the person next to you.
- If you need to repeat the exam in November, you will have a different version
- In 2013, repeat exam offered November 1-8

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 - Lunch

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
## Certification/ Recertification Exam Content

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I. Cardiovascular</th>
<th>9%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>II. Endocrine</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III. Gastrointestinal</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>IV. Hematologic/Immune</td>
<td>2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>V. Integumentary</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>VI. Musculoskeletal</td>
<td>9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>VII. Nephrologic</td>
<td>2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>VIII. Neurologic</td>
<td>2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>IX. Nonspecific</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X. Psychogenic</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XI. Reproductive—Female</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XII. Reproductive—Male</td>
<td>1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>XIII. Respiratory</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>XIV. Special Sensory</td>
<td>2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>XV. Population-based Care</td>
<td>3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>– 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.</td>
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<tr>
<td>XVI. Patient-based Systems</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>– 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.</td>
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</table>
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!

- Fail Safe 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
  Free Iphone app available

- Residency In-Training Exam (ITE)
  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
Questions?

• Call the support center- 1-877-233-7437

• Or e-mail help@theabfm.org

• Open Monday- Friday 8:30-9pm

• Saturday 9-5pm
Pass Rates
Good Luck!