The Family Medicine Board Exam 2017: What to Expect

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UCSF Dept of Family and Community Medicine
American Board of Family Medicine:

• Primary Certification and Recertification Exams
  • In 2017: April 6- April 19
  • Deadline to withdraw without seat fee 5 days prior to exam date
  • Deadline to change date/ location: 48 hours prior to exam date
  • Results: TBD (about 6 weeks)

• Fall exam: November 6-11, 2017
  Results: TBD

• In-Training Exams

• Certificates of Added Qualifications
  • Adolescent Medicine Exam
  • Sports Medicine Exam
  • Geriatric Medicine
  • Hospice and Palliative Medicine
  • Sleep 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• If license is revoked, certification is rescinded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
The Board Exam

• 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

• No purses, bags, pagers, PDAs, phones or reference materials- locker provided.

• Pack a lunch, snacks.

• Wear comfortable clothes, dress in layers.
The Board Exam

• May not take written notes of exam

• May not leave room or make calls

• Erasable board provided for written preparatory work

• 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
## Exam Structure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Questions</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Section 1</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>100 min</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Break 15 min (optional)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Section 2/Module</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>100 min</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Lunch 70 minutes (optional)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Section 2/FM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Section 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Section 4</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>100 min</td>
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Module Options

• Ambulatory Family Medicine
• Child and Adolescent Care
• Geriatrics
• Women’s Health
• Maternity Care
• Emergent / Urgent Care
• Hospital Medicine
• Sports Medicine
Certification/ Recertification Exam

- Module 13%
- Respiratory 11%
- Cardiovascular 10%
- Musculoskeletal 10%
- Nonspecific 8%
- Endocrine 7%
- GI 6%
- Psychogenic 6%
- Integumentary 5%
Certification/ Recertification Exam

- Population Based care (biostatistics, bioterror, QI, EBM, prevention) 4%
- Patient-based systems (end of life care, clinical decision making, ethics) 4%
- Neurologic 3%
- Hematologic 3%
- Reproductive-female 3%
- Special sensory 2%
- Reproductive-male 1%
Strategies for Passing

• You have roughly 1 minute per question, Pace yourself!

• Read the stem question carefully. Make note of any relevant information.

• 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

• Always answer the questions
Strategies for Passing

• 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
Scoring

- Pass/ Fail
- Not graded on a curve
- Passing score determined prior to exam
- 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-
  1-877-223-7437

• Or e-mail help@theabfm.org

• Open Monday- Friday 8:30-9pm
  • Saturday 9-5pm
In-Training Exam Booklets

Download Exam Questions and Critique
To access the most recent In-Training Examination Questions, Pictorial Atlas and/or Critique, please click the links below.

2012 ITE Question and Critique
- 2012 Score Report Handbook (871KB)
- 2012 Exam Book: Multiple-Choice Questions (392KB)
- 2012 Exam Book: Pictorial Atlas (1124KB)
- 2012 Exam Critique Book (346KB)

2011 ITE Question and Critique
- 2011 Score Report Handbook (637KB)
- 2011 Exam Book: Multiple-Choice Questions (521KB)
- 2011 Exam Book: Pictorial Atlas (787KB)
- 2011 Exam Critique Book (363KB)

2010 ITE Question and Critique
- 2010 Score Report Handbook (989KB)
- 2010 Exam Book: Multiple-Choice Questions (292KB)
- 2010 Exam Book: Pictorial Atlas (163KB)
Welcome to your Physician Portfolio!

No alerts to display at this time

My MC-FP
- My Requirements
- CME Tracking
- MC-FP User's Guide
- MC-FP Examination
- CAQ Examinations
- Modules

Payments
- No Payments Made
- Make Payment
- Payment Receipts

Current Status
- Request Verification Letter
- Diplomate Status: Certified
- MCFP Status: Meeting Requirements
- Current Cycle: Continuous MC-FP

My Profile
- Contact Information
- Manage Username & Password
- Email Settings
- Update National Provider Identifier
- Update Name
- Training and Certification History
- Exam Results
- Affiliate ID Numbers
- Demographics
- In-Training Examination
- Support Center & Tutorials

Track Your Progress
- Medical Licensure
- MC-FP Modules
- CME
- MC-FP Exam
MC-FP Examination

This component of MC-FP involves the successful completion of a cognitive examination. The MC-FP examination contains multiple-choice (one best answer) questions and is the same for certification and recertification candidates. It is a test of cognitive knowledge and problem-solving ability relevant to Family Medicine. The examination is one full day in length, consisting of morning and afternoon sessions (with a lunch break in between). The examination is offered in computer-based format only. Candidates must meet the appropriate MCFP Certification or Recertification requirements before being approved to take the cognitive examination.

Maintenance of Certification for Family Physicians (MC-FP) Examination
You are currently certified through 12/31/2021; therefore you are not due to apply for the Family Medicine Examination.

- View Key Dates
- Candidate Information Booklet
- Exam Preparation
Exam Preparation

The information on this page is intended to provide the viewer with some guidance regarding how to prepare for the ABFM certification/recertification examination.

Videos

- Introduction
- Study Plan 1
- Study Plan 2
- Study Plan 3
- Study Plan 4
- Study

Documents

- Study Tips [PDF]
- 2-Week Checklist [PDF]
- Exam Tutorial
- Rescore

Upcoming Deadlines

View important dates and deadlines for Certification/Recertification.

FAQs

Get the answers to frequently asked questions.

Sign-up for the MC-FP Exam

Find out how to apply for an exam.
Online Tutorial

The Prometric ABFM Online Exam Tutorial is an orientation to how the Prometric computer-based test (CBT) operates. Sample questions are included at the end of this tutorial so you can see how questions are displayed. When you are ready to progress through the tutorial, click the “Start” button below. Maximize this window for optimal viewing.

This online exam tutorial is best viewed with Microsoft Internet Explorer version 6 or above at a resolution of 1024 x 768 with Javascript and Pop-Up windows enabled. The use of another internet browser or alternate settings may cause some features to malfunction.

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# 2016 Examination Results

## 2016 Family Medicine Certification Examination Pass Rates

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<tr>
<th>Certification</th>
<th>Retake Status</th>
<th>Medical Training</th>
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<th>FALL</th>
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<th>TOTAL</th>
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<th>Pass Rate</th>
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<td>Total</td>
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<td>Total</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Total</td>
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<td>Pass Rate</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>90.0%</td>
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<td>872</td>
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<td>1,666</td>
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1. Minimum passing standard is 360.
2. First-time takers can be applying for initial certification or maintaining their certification, but they are not testing on this occasion due to an immediate prior failure. Repeat takers are testing due to an immediate prior failure.
Total Scores 2010-16
Good Luck!