

# Certification Information

## What is certification?

Certification is a voluntary process by which a nongovernmental agency formally recognizes specialized knowledge, skills and experience in a designated area. Certification establishes minimum competency standards in the specialty and offers recognition for those who have met the standards. A primary purpose of certification is the protection of the public through a means of measurement of current skills and knowledge through a standardized comprehensive examination.

## Purpose of certification and recertification

The purpose of the certification and recertification process is to protect the public by:

1. Providing standardized measurement of current essential knowledge needed for persons practicing vascular access
2. Encouraging individual growth and study, thereby promoting professionalism among professionals in vascular access
3. Formally recognizing professionals in vascular access who fulfill the requirements for certification and recertification.

## Who should consider certification?

Certification through VACC is multidisciplinary in scope and includes the broad range of health care professionals and clinicians actively engaged in the practice of vascular access. Clinical professionals to include but not limited to; MD's, PA's, NP's, RN's, LPN/LVN's, RT's, RRT's, Infection Control, Educators, EMS professionals. Vascular Access Specialists provide care in many settings. Examples include but are not limited to acute care hospitals, outpatient settings, long term care facilities, homecare, industry. Vascular Access Specialists are also university faculty, administrators or educators.

## About the VA-BC™ Examination

The Vascular Access Certification Examination is the standardized measure of the basic knowledge, skills and abilities expected of professionals working in vascular access. The certification examination is offered the entire month of June and December at testing centers throughout the United States (to include U.S. territories), Canada and select international sites. The certification exam is available only in English and all references used to develop it are U.S.-based and reflective of U.S. clinical practice.

The certification exam is an objective, multiple-choice examination consisting of 150 questions (125 of these questions are used in computing the score). The VA-BC™ exam test specifications ([content outline](#)) are based on a Role Delineation Study, also known as a Job Task Analysis. This type of study is done every 4-5 years to assure that the examination content remains relevant and current to the specialty. VACC conducted the most recent job task analysis in 2015.

VACC is responsible for determining the examination content outline, specifications, maintaining an item bank of approved examination questions, approving the individual examination for administration, and setting the passing score for successful achievement.

Individual eligibility for admission to the examination is based on criteria set by VACC. Our testing company [Prometric](#) is responsible for the computerized testing sites, examination security, examination administration, scoring and statistical analysis of the examination.

The VA-BC™ examination is accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA). NCCA accreditation signifies that the highest standards for establishing a valid, reliable, and secure certification process have been fulfilled.

Upon successful completion of the exam, the VA-BC™ credential is awarded for a three-year period.