

Vascular Access Certification Corporation

Certification Marketing Toolkit

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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.

Eligibility Requirements

Practice in the area of vascular access is required for initial certification. Current practice in vascular access must use the knowledge and skills described in the [content outline](#). The examination measures the basic knowledge, skills and abilities expected of professionals working in vascular access. Each candidate should assess their own body of knowledge, skills and understanding of the specialty in deciding when to sit for the exam.

The Vascular Access Board Certification (VA-BC™) is designed for 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, that actively work in the field of vascular access. Having a thorough and sound foundation of the knowledge and skills required for competent practice in vascular access is essential. Knowledge can be obtained through work experiences and independent learning, as well as through formal educational programs. These components afford the candidate exposure and professional development and education in the vascular access specialty.

All candidates must:

- Have a minimum of a post-secondary education (e.g.: LPN, nursing diploma, associate's degree, bachelor's degree, PhD, MD).
- Have a minimum of 1 year of professional experience. Practice in the area of vascular access is required for initial certification.
- Attest they meet one of the following criteria:
 - Health care professional in the field of vascular access involved in assessing, planning, implementing, and evaluating the care and needs of patients and clients who require vascular access in the course of their care.
 - Professional working in a field that complements Vascular Access, such as educators, administrators, infection control professionals, nutrition support professionals.

In addition, current clinical practice must include at least two (2) of the following activities:

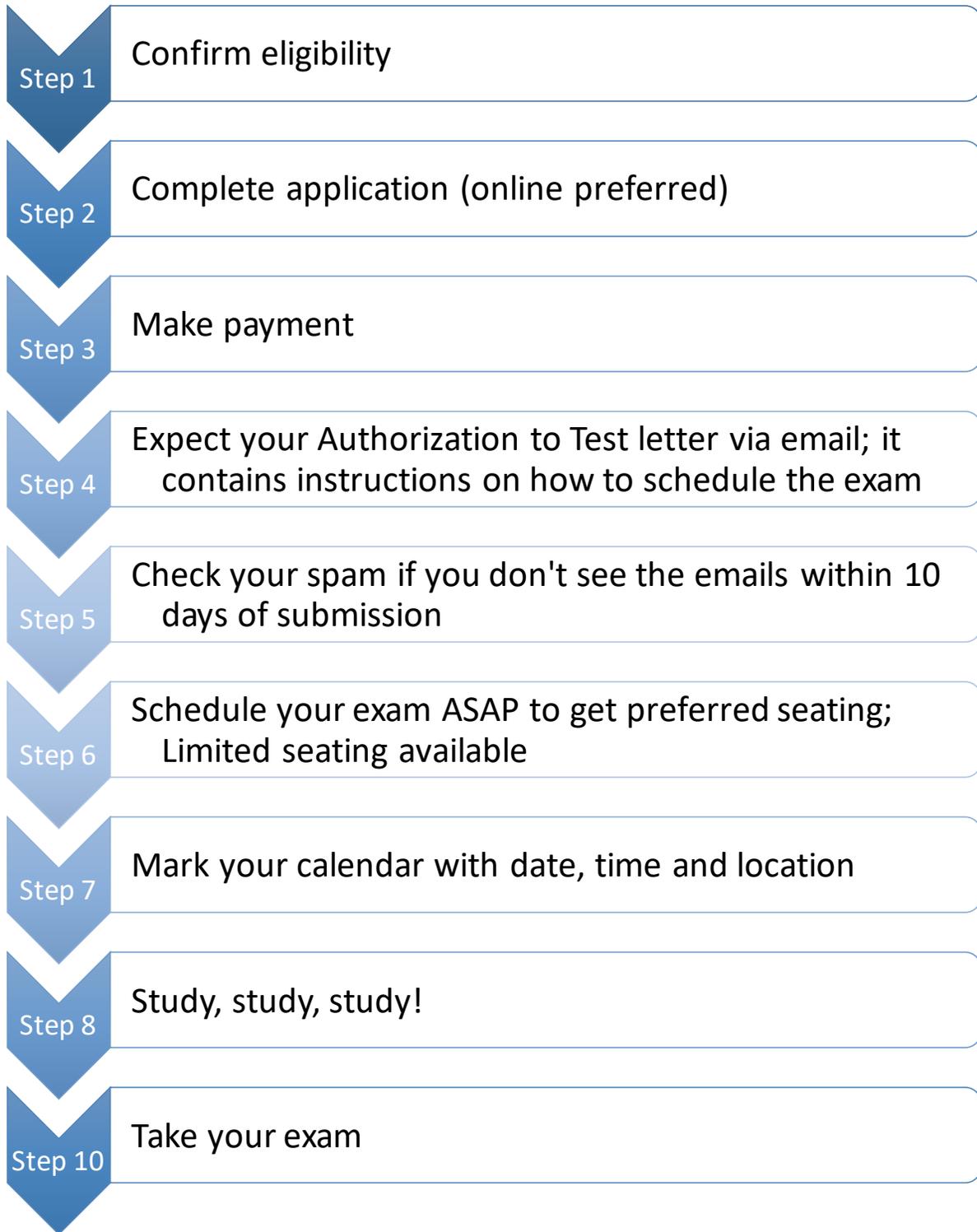
1. Assessing, planning, implementing, and evaluating the care and needs of patients and clients who require vascular access in the course of their care
2. Education of individuals in best practice as it pertains to vascular access
3. Development and revision of vascular access policies and procedures
4. Management of vascular access activities
5. Provision of consultation of vascular access activities

6. Self-employed individuals must meet the same practice criteria as above

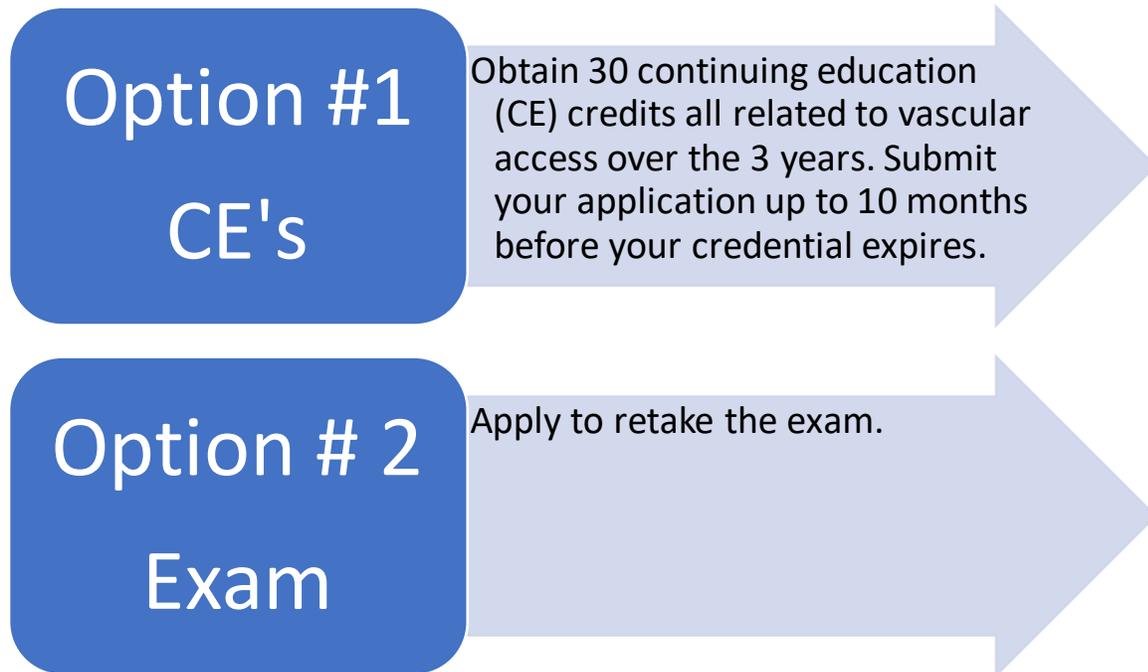
Certification is open to all qualified candidates.

Note: This certification is NOT intended for sales, marketing, or other non-clinical industry professionals, and all candidates must attest that they meet education and practice requirements, which is subject to verification by the Vascular Access Certification Corporation. For industry professionals interested in furthering their knowledge of Vascular Access, please review the [Vascular Access Industry Partner™ Program](#) .

The Certification Application Process



Recertification Options



You've either passed or recertified. Now what?

- The credential is valid for 3 years
- [Claim your digital badge](#) to gain access to these benefits:
 - Printable and downloadable certificate and wallet card
 - Advertise your credential on all social media platforms, email, etc.
 - Set up reminders to prevent a lapse in your recertification
- Start earning the 30 required continuing education (CE) credits
- Stay updated on the latest in Vascular Access Certification news by following us on social media.
 - Facebook: [@VACCcert](#)
 - LinkedIn: [VABCCertification](#)
 - Twitter: [@VACCcert](#)
 - Hashtag: #getVABC
- Make info@vacert.org a friendly sender in your email to assure that needed updates and information don't get forwarded to spam. Failure to reapply on time will result in additional late fees.
- Visit our [online store](#). We have pins, certificates with raised gold seals, certificate frames and much more. Looking for something we don't have? Let us know! We are here to help you get the most of your certification.

Frequently Asked Questions

How much does it cost to take the exam?

Pricing subject to time of submission and potential discounts. Details can be found on the [VACC website](#).

What if I do not pass the exam?

You may retake the exam during the next regularly scheduled exam cycle by submitting a new application. There is no limit on the number of times a candidate may take the VACC examination, however, if you do not pass the examination after three attempts in a row you must wait a minimum of one year before retaking the examination.

Can I cancel my exam?

Yes. If you have scheduled your exam with Prometric, you must first cancel with them at least **five (5) calendar days before** your scheduled appointment date prior to canceling with VACC (fees may apply). Fill out the online [“Request a Refund” form](#) before the last day of the test administration window (either June 30 or December 31) and VACC will refund all but the administrative fee of \$100. If you do not cancel with Prometric within the 5-calendar day time frame you will forfeit ALL fees.

Can I transfer my exam date to a different test administration window?

Yes, you may only transfer to the next available window. If you have scheduled your exam with Prometric, you must first cancel with them at least **five (5) calendar days BEFORE** your scheduled appointment date prior to transferring with VACC (fees may apply). Fill out the online [“Request a Transfer” form](#) and pay the \$50 transfer fee on or before the last day of the examination administration window. If you fail to cancel with Prometric within the 5-calendar day time frame you will forfeit all fees. You may only transfer one time. If you do not take the exam after transferring you will forfeit all fees.

Where do I take the exam?

You can take the examination at many of the hundreds of test sites that our testing partner, Prometric, operates. [Find a site](#) that works for you.

How should I study for the exam?

First review the [content outline](#) to familiarize yourself with the subject areas that will be on the test. Focus your studies by identifying your strengths and weaknesses. Review the list of references available in the [Candidate Handbook](#). Many of these references were used to write the exam questions. VACC does not endorse any method of study or education.

How is the exam structured?

The exam consists of up to 150 multiple choice questions. Of these questions, 125 are scored and the remainder are non-scored. The [content outline](#) provides information about what is on the exam. You have two and one half (2.5) hours to complete the examination. The computer has a clock to monitor your time. The 2.5-hour clock will begin as soon as you complete the pretest tutorial. The clock will count down the time remaining.

VA-BC™ Testimonials

How has the VA-BC™ Certification benefited you?

"It has assisted in broadening my knowledge that has impacted change in my practice and facility policies and procedures."

- Matthew H. BSN, RN, VA-BC™

"If I am called to give advice on vascular access, my opinion is valued."

- Helen M. RN, VA-BC™

"I am more aware of my responsibility to patient and staff."

- Barbara B. RN, VA-BC™

"I am much more knowledgeable and credible."

- Jayle C. RN, CNT, CRNI, VA-BC™

"It has advanced my knowledge of vascular access."

- Christopher F. RN, BSN, CRNI, VA-BC™