



CERTIFICATION TOOLKIT

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ABOUT THE VASCULAR ACCESS BOARD CERTIFICATION (VA-BC™) EXAM

The VA-BC™ exam is the standardized measure of the basic knowledge, skills and abilities expected of professionals working in vascular access. The certification exam is offered two times per year at testing centers throughout the United States (to include U.S. Territories), Canada, and select international sites. It may also be offered during the Association for Vascular Access Annual Scientific Meeting for international attendees from outside the USA and Canada. 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 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 and
3. Formally recognizing professionals in vascular access who fulfill the requirements for certification and recertification.

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; MDs, PAs, NPs, RNs, LPN/LVNs, RTs, RRTs, Infection Control, Educators, and 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, and industry. Vascular Access Specialists are also university faculty, administrators, or educators.

The certification exam is an objective, multiple-choice examination consisting of 150 questions (125 of these questions are used in computing the score) and takes 2.5 hours.

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.

All Candidates must:

1. Have a minimum of a post-secondary education (e.g.: LPN, nursing diploma, associates, bachelors)
2. Have a minimum of 1 year of professional experience. Practice in the area of vascular access is required for initial certification.
3. Attest they meet one of the following criteria
 - a) 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.
 - b) 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.

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

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



CANDIDATE CHECKLIST

- Submit your [application](#) with payment by April 15 (for June testing window) or October 15 (for December testing window)
 - Late applications will require a late fee, though seating may be limited. Please visit our [Dates and Fees page](#) for more information.
- Check your inbox for your Authorization to Test (ATT) letter within 5 business days of submitting your application.
 - If you do not see it in your email inbox, check your junk folders and contact our offices to resend it. *You will not be able to schedule your exam without this letter.*
- [Schedule your exam](#) on our testing vendor Prometric’s site. Follow the instructions on your ATT letter for further instructions.
- Mark your scheduled test date on your calendar!
 - Applicants can only transfer to the next testing window or cancel their exam for a refund up to 5 days before their examination date.
- [Study, study, study!](#)
- Take your exam — Good luck!

If you have any questions, please ask our staff by contacting us at info@vacert.org or 414-231-8222. We’re happy to help you succeed.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do I know if my application was accepted?

Once your application is accepted, you will receive to your email an Authorization to Test (ATT) letter. This letter will include instructions on how to schedule your exam. If you do not see this letter in your email within 5 business days of submitting your application, please check your junk mail and contact our offices. We will reach out directly if your application was not accepted.

Does VACC offer study materials?

VACC offers several study materials on our [How to Study page](#). There are several other study materials offered by outside organizations online and elsewhere. Please use discretion when selecting courses that claim or imply direct knowledge of specific VACC examination content.

How do I schedule my exam?

Once you have received your ATT letter which includes your Eligibility/Certification Number, go to Prometric's site: www.prometric.com/vacc. There, select "Schedule" on the left side of the page, then enter your Eligibility/Certification Number when prompted.

I'm supposed to be taking my remotely proctored exam right now, but I'm having technology issues.

Contact Prometric at 1-800-899-3985 (additional links: <https://www.prometric.com/contact-us> or <https://ehelp.prometric.com/proproctor>) and make sure your computer has [these settings](#) as required by Prometric.

My testing date doesn't work for me anymore. Can I cancel my exam or transfer my application it to the next window?

We understand that life events can interrupt scheduled appointments. If that is the case, we offer candidates the chance to either [receive a refund](#) for their exam or [transfer their application](#) to the next testing window. Please keep in mind that for either choice, you must cancel any existing exam appointments with Prometric and notify VACC's offices of your intent to refund/transfer your exam **at least 5 calendar days** before your scheduled test appointment.

See pages 12-14 of the [Candidate Handbook](#) for complete details on these processes.

Prometric emailed me my test results, but it would be nice to know what my score was. Can I see the questions I missed?

Unfortunately, for test security, we do not give out test answers or scores.

* If you have additional questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to [contact our staff](#) at (414) 231-8222 or info@vacert.org. You can also visit our [complete FAQ page](#) to find the specific question you're looking for.



RECERTIFICATION INFORMATION

Upon passing the VA-BC™ exam, certificants are certified for three years starting the month following the examination (July 1 or January 1).

Those who pass a December VACC examination can begin using the designation VA-BC™ on January 1. The certification period is January 1 through midnight December 31 (3 years later). Those who pass a June VACC examination can begin using the designation VA-BC on July 1. The certification period is July 1 through midnight June 30 (3 years later).

Certificants have two options for recertifying:

1. **Retake the exam.** Because exam forms and knowledge change over time candidates may choose to promote their continued dedication to vascular access by taking the exam.
2. **Recertify by Continuing Education Credits.** 30 CE credits must be earned throughout the certification cycle, at minimum beyond a single calendar year. Additionally, credits must come from more than one source (i.e., all credits cannot come from one conference, course, etc.). *All Continuing Education Credits must be related to vascular access.*
 - a. Ideas for CE credits, as well as a list of the acceptable sources, can be found on our [Continuing Education Resources](#) page.

Additionally, upon passing, certificants gain access to the [Certificant Portal](#).

In addition to using the Portal to log CE credits for recertification, the Portal is a useful resource to connect to others in the VA-BC™ community. The Certificant Directory contains a list of other certified individuals with their contact information, when opted into the Directory.



JUSTIFICATION LETTER TO EMPLOYER

Dear [Supervisor Name],

I am seeking out certification to promote my skills and knowledgebase in vascular access care. I believe that the Vascular Access Certification Corporation's (VACC) Vascular Access Board Certification™ (VA-BC™) exam would promote my professional growth and also give [institution name] a competitive edge in safe patient care.

The VA-BC™ exam is an accredited certification by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies. The exam is the standardized measure of the basic knowledge, skills and abilities expected of professionals working in vascular access. It is multidisciplinary in scope and includes the broad range of health care professionals and clinicians actively engaged in the practice of vascular access, which includes (but is not limited to) MDs, PAs, NPs, RNs, LPN/LVNs, RTs, Infection Control, Educators, and EMS professionals.

The exam is offered twice a year, in June and December. In order to attain this credential, I will need to:

1. Apply to take the examination by [April 15 for June exam or October 15 for December exam].
2. Schedule my examination upon acceptance of application at a Prometric testing facility.
3. Take the in-person, computer-based examination, which can take up to 2.5 hours.

The VA-BC™ examination will test my knowledge in the following domains:

1. Clinical Knowledge and Application
2. Interpersonal and Communication Skills
3. Professional Development
4. Legal and Ethical Considerations

The cost to take the examination is [see [Dates and Fees](#) page to determine your price]. Once I pass, I will retain the nationally recognized VA-BC™ credential for 3 years, at which point I will qualify for recertification.

In 2020, the pass rate was 77%, demonstrating that passing test takers had an excellent understanding of safe and responsible vascular access. The VA-BC™ credential not only implies skill in vascular access, but it can also give the patients that we care for each day a sense of trust and confidence in their caregiver's abilities.

Over 4,000 vascular access specialists hold the VA-BC™ credential. I believe I can join these credentialed individuals to promote [institution name] as an institution that not only cares for its patients' safety but also its employees' continual learning. I hope that you will consider helping me begin the road to certification. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]



CONTACT US

We hope this Toolkit has been informational and prepares you for the VA-BC™ certification! If you should have additional questions or concerns, please do contact our staff. Best of luck in your certification endeavors!

Telephone: 414-231-8222

Fax: 414-276-3349

E-Mail: info@vacert.org

Office Hours: Monday thru Friday 9:00 am – 5:00 pm ET

