

The American College of Cardiology In-Training Exam (ACC-ITE)

ACC-ITE

The ACC In-Training Exam has been developed, in conjunction with the National Board of Medical Examiners, to assist cardiovascular fellows-in-training and their program directors. It is designed to:

- Provide an objective assessment instrument for the medical knowledge competency of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME)
- Give Fellows-in-Training an opportunity for self-assessment and to identify knowledge gaps.
- Give Program Directors the opportunity to evaluate their program.
- Assist in preparing fellows for board certification examinations.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

How is the ACC-ITE Developed?

The ACC-ITE is written by a committee of 11 expert physician-authors, most of whom are training program directors and Fellows of the American College of Cardiology. The committee creates the content blueprint for the exam and writes multiple-choice questions according to well-established principles of examination construction. The 150 questions are subjected to several rigorous rounds of review and revision.

What is the Blueprint for the ACC-ITE?

The blueprint for the ACC-ITE is modeled after the blueprint for the American Board of Internal Medicine's certification examination in cardiovascular medicine, and the topics covered are shown

Medical Content Category	Relative Percentage
Arrhythmias	12.0
Coronary artery disease	12.5
Acute coronary syndromes/Acute myocardial infarction	12.0
Valvular disorders	12.0
Congenital disorders	7.0
Pericardial disease	3.0
Aorta/Peripheral vascular disease	9.0
Hypertension/Pulmonary disorders	7.0
Pharmacology	5.0
Congestive heart failure	13.0
Physiology/Biochemistry	6.0
Miscellaneous	1.5
Total	100%

below.

What is the Purpose of the ACC-ITE?

Fellows-in-Training may use the results of the exam to identify areas of deficiency that require further learning, and to compare their performance with that of their peers in training programs throughout the country. Program directors may use the results to provide educational counseling, develop curricula, and validate the need for planned curricular changes.

Can the ACC-ITE Be Used for Advancement?

The ACC-ITE is neither a qualifying nor a certifying instrument. It should not be used for determining who should be promoted or who should be eligible to take the American Board of Internal Medicine certifying examination in Cardiovascular Disease. It is designed only as an assessment tool.

Who Should Take the ACC-ITE?

The examination is designed for first, second and third year cardiology fellows in a training program. All fellows-in-training are encouraged to participate. Each training program director decides who will take the examination at his/her facility. The American College of Cardiology imposes no requirements, and the test is open to all training programs.

Should Fellows Study for the ACC-ITE?

The goal of the ACC-ITE is to gauge progress in training, not to achieve a certain level of performance. Examinees, therefore, are advised not to study for the examination. Studying may result in an inaccurate self-assessment of the training experiences and an inability to plan appropriately for correcting deficiencies. For those about to take the ABIM certification exam, the ACC offers a variety of self-assessment products and programs to assist you in improving on those areas where you had deficiencies. [Click here to learn about those programs.](#)

When will the ACC-ITE be administered?

The initial ACC-ITE will be administered October 18 to 20, 2011. Each training program should select the day or days, within this period, that would be most convenient for them.

Where will the ACC-ITE be administered?

The ACC-ITE will be offered across the country at institutions that register their training program as a testing center for their fellows-in-training. The exam will be online, will take approximately 46 hours and 15 minutes to complete, and will take place under proctored conditions. Instructions for exam participants to access an exam tutorial and practice test will be provided in advance of the test date in order to view the test delivery screens and practice answering test questions.

Are Chief Proctors required to have a computer in the test room?

Proctors will require a workstation in the test room to start the exam session, monitor the progress of the exam, end the testing session and submit a test administration report. A Chief Proctor's Manual and Video Tutorial will be provided prior to test day to familiarize proctors with the process.

What are the System Requirements to administer the exam?

The system requirements are outlined below. To assure computers are configured appropriately for the exam, training programs will be required to complete an Exam Compatibility Check prior to the test date on each fixed workstation or institutional laptop. Examinee using their personal laptops will also be required to complete this check prior to test day.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS	
Windows	Mac OS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PC with Intel Pentium 3 1GHz processor or higher ▪ Windows 7, Windows Vista, Windows XP, or Windows 2000 ▪ 512MB of memory or higher ▪ 17" or larger color monitor recommended ▪ 1024x768 display with 32 bit color setting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PowerPC or Intel Mac ▪ Mac OS X 10.3.9 or higher ▪ 512MB of memory or higher ▪ 17" or larger color monitor recommended ▪ 1024x768 display with 32 bit color setting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Microsoft Internet Explorer 6.0 higher; do not use beta versions. Other browsers are not supported. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Safari 1.3.2 or higher; do not use beta versions. Other browsers are not supported.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Browser Settings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - JavaScript Enabled - Cookies Enabled - CSS Enabled 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Browser Settings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - JavaScript Enabled - Cookies Enabled - CSS Enabled
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Broadband Internet connection (DSL, Cable or T1) ▪ Network bandwidth of 256Kbps or higher per workstation (including Internet access) ▪ Disable Adware/Spyware programs if possible to prevent slowness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Broadband Internet connection (DSL, Cable or T1) ▪ Network Bandwidth of 256Kbps or higher per workstation (including Internet access)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wireless connection – not supported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wireless connection – not supported
Dedicated technical support staff is required prior to and on test day(s)	

• **When Are the Results of the ACC-ITE Made Available?**

A score report is made available about four to six weeks after the examination. The program director receives the score feedback and then distributes the score reports to the examinees. The American College of Cardiology considers the results to be confidential and does not release them to any agency, organization, or person other than the program director.

Each examinee receives feedback that shows:

- The individual’s total scaled score and percent score and percentile rank for each of the major content areas tested.

- A separate report that lists the educational objective associated with each of the questions that the examinee responded to incorrectly
- A norm table and guidelines for interpreting the data for use in comparing his or her score with the scores of different fellowship year groups.

The program director receives:

- A score report and report that lists the educational objective associated with questions missed for each fellow.
- An overall program performance report.
- Mean percent correct scores and percentile ranks for each of the major content areas tested, grouped by fellowship year for all programs.
- The norm table with guidelines for interpreting the data.

How Do You Register for the ACC-ITE?

You can register your program by going online in early 2011. Registration costs will be \$250 per examinee.