

ABCC Examination for California Licensure Rules and Regulations

The American Board of Clinical Chemistry is a not-for-profit organization, incorporated in 1950, devoted to certification of individuals with doctoral level degrees in the practice of clinical chemistry, toxicological chemistry, and other clinical laboratory medicine disciplines. In purpose, function, and organization the ABCC is analogous to the certifying boards in various medical specialties. The aim of the Board is to serve the public interest and advance the science by establishing standards of competence for those who practice clinical laboratory medicine, and to certify as Diplomates those qualified specialists who comply with the requirements of the Board.

The following guidelines are for applicants wishing to take the ABCC examination for California licensure purposes. If you want information about requirements for ABCC certification, refer to the descriptions for clinical chemistry, toxicological chemistry, and molecular diagnostics at www.abclinchem.org.

General Qualifications

In December 2008, the California Department of Public Health Laboratory Field Services (LFS) [link: <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/lfs/Pages/default.aspx>] approved the following ABCC examinations for licensure purposes in California pursuant to California Code of Regulations Title 17 Section 1031.8. The initial approval is effective for persons taking the ABCC examinations from January 1, 2005—January 1, 2013.

- Clinical Chemistry, Part B
- Toxicological Chemistry, Part B

At the time of approval, the LFS indicated that “applicants for licensure in California shall apply to LFS and provide documentation that they meet education, training and experience requirement in state law. Those that meet these requirements will be issued a letter that they are qualified for licensure pending their successful passage of a state-approved certification examination and a state-administered oral examination.”

Application Procedure and Fees

Applicants for licensure in California shall apply to California Department of Public Health Laboratory Field Services (LFS) [link: <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/lfs/Pages/default.aspx>] and provide documentation that they meet education, training and experience requirement in state law. Those that meet these requirements will be issued a letter by LFS indicating that they are qualified to sit for a state-approved certification examination.

Upon receipt of letter from LFS, applicants may contact the ABCC office to obtain an application form and pay the application fee (\$250).

Applicants should apply to ABCC a minimum of four months prior to an anticipated examination date. Examinations are administered in February and July each year.

Examinations

When the Board or its committees are satisfied that the requirements for admission as a Candidate for examination have been met, the applicant is designated as a Candidate for examination and will be notified at least 45 days prior to an assigned examination date that:

- Upon receipt of confirmation to take the exam on an assigned examination date and payment of an examination fee (\$100) per exam part, the Candidate will be admitted to a comprehensive written examination.
- The examination must be passed within three years after the date of the first examination for which the applicant is eligible. Failure to take or pass the examination within this time will result in termination of the application for forfeiture of all fees.
- The examination may be repeated one time only without reapplication during the three-year eligibility period by notifying the ABCC office of such intent at least 45 days prior to any scheduled examination.
- Candidates will receive a letter designating their performance on the exam as either pass or fail.

Coordination with the California Department of Public Health Laboratory Field Services

- Upon passing the exam, the Candidate should present the ABCC letter to the California Department of Health Laboratory Field Services. ABCC will provide LFS an electronic verification of only those passing the exam.

ABCC Examination for California Licensure

Exam Description

Individuals applying to take an ABCC exam for California licensure may take either the examination in clinical chemistry or toxicological chemistry. A description of these two exams is given below.

Exams

The following ABCC exams are approved for California licensure purposes.

Clinical Chemistry, Part B: analytical and clinical issues

- Patient preparation, specimen collection and handling
- Analysis
- Interpretation
- Laboratory management

Toxicology Chemistry, Part B: analytical, toxicological, and therapeutic drug monitoring issues

- Analytical techniques
- Physiology
- Pathophysiology
- Management

Item taxonomy and format

Exams test the candidate's skills in recall interpretation, and problem solving.

All questions are in multiple-choice format.

Exam Descriptions and Sample Questions

Clinical Chemistry, Part B (3.5 hours)

- Principles, characteristics and limitations of instrumentation and technologies used in a clinical chemistry laboratory, such as spectrophotometry and chromatography
- Interpretation of clinical findings and laboratory data, including basic TDM and toxicology
- Basic pathophysiology
- Quality control and accounting principles
- Laboratory safety procedures
- Sample handling and preparation
- Interferences

For clinical chemistry Part B sample questions click [here](#).

For suggested study resources for clinical chemistry click [here](#).

Toxicological Chemistry, Part B (3.0 hours)

- Principles, characteristics and limitations of instrumentation and technologies used in a clinical or forensic toxicology or therapeutic drug monitoring laboratory, e.g. spectrometry, immunoassays, chromatography.
- Interpretation of clinical and forensic findings and laboratory data
- Basic pathophysiology and forensic requirements

For toxicological chemistry Part B sample questions click [here](#).

For suggested study resources for toxicological chemistry click [here](#).