

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 \(LFS\)](#) 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 \(LFS\)](#) 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.

Applicants must contact the ABCC office to obtain an application form and pay the current application fee.

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 the current examination fee, the Candidate will be admitted to a comprehensive written examination.
- Candidates will receive a letter designating their performance on the exam as either pass or fail.
- Candidates for the ABCC California licensure exam will remain eligible for examination as long as they continue to be deemed eligible by the state of California. ABCC does not impose a limit on the number of sittings a Candidate may make for the California licensure examination.

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.