ASCP BOC INFORMATION REGARDING COVID-19

The ASCP BOC takes the health and wellness of our constituents very seriously. We understand that you may be concerned about how this ongoing health crisis may impact your program, eligibility, application, or exam date. Please know that the ASCP BOC is working to ensure that appropriate processes are in place. We thank you for your patience as we work to best support all constituents throughout this time. Please check this page often for updates.

Pearson VUE Testing Sites:
- Pearson VUE sites
- Scheduling an Exam at a Pearson VUE site
- Valid ID – Exceptions

Applicants:
- I have already scheduled my exam
- I have been made eligible but not yet scheduled an exam date
- I have submitted an application, but have not yet submitted documentation
- I need to request accommodations for a disability
- I have taken and failed the exam. When can I schedule my re-take?

General Concerns:
- Certification Requirements Remain Unchanged
- No Remote Proctoring of Exams at this Time

Students and Program Directors

PEARSON VUE SITES
Pearson VUE has re-opened testing locations within the U.S., Canada, and many international locations where there are no restrictions prohibiting operation. They have received recognition as offering an essential service by delivering examinations for essential services personnel. The ASCP BOC has worked with Pearson VUE to ensure that all ASCP BOC examinations are recognized as essential services. See the Pearson Vue FAQs around Testing for Essential Services for complete information. Make sure to view Country Specific testing information as well.

Please be aware that while examinations are only being offered for essential services, testing locations are typically operating at 50% capacity due to social distancing requirements. In addition, testing centers are following all federal, state, and local guidelines around COVID-19.

As of May 12, 2020, all candidates are required to wear a face mask or facial covering for the duration of their examination at a Pearson VUE testing location. It is the candidate’s responsibility to bring a face mask or facial covering that fully covers the nose and mouth. If a candidate appears at the test center without a mask, they may be denied testing and will need to reapply and submit a new application fee to test at a later date. Review the latest health and safety requirements at Pearson VUE test centers regularly.

SCHEDULING AN EXAM AT A PEARSON VUE SITE
Please note that Pearson VUE closed all U.S., Canadian, and many international testing centers from March 17th – April 30th. Therefore, there will be a high volume of exam candidates looking for testing availability at this time. The ASCP BOC has extended eligibility windows for all candidates for several months in order to accommodate the current situation, and to allow for candidates to test at a time when they are able to do so safely. All applications will remain active and valid through the extended eligibility window.

The status of Pearson VUE global test delivery is changing rapidly due to the spread of COVID-19. Please check this page, as well as the Pearson COVID-19 page, often for updates.
VALID IDENTIFICATION – SHORT TERM EXCEPTIONS
Candidates may have an expired ID as they are unable to renew their government issued IDs because facilities are closed due to COVID-19. The BOC and Pearson VUE will accept expired IDs from candidates at this time and until further notice. Check this page often for updates.

I HAVE ALREADY SCHEDULED MY EXAM
Check https://home.pearsonvue.com/coronavirus-update for current information. If your Pearson VUE testing center will be closed, they will automatically cancel your appointment. If the Pearson VUE testing location remains open and you are unable to test, you must cancel your appointment. If you do not cancel your appointment, you may be responsible for a no show fee.

I HAVE BEEN MADE ELIGIBLE BUT HAVE NOT YET SCHEDULED AN EXAM DATE:
Your application will remain active and valid through your eligibility window. Due to the ongoing health crisis, the ASCP BOC is allowing for an extended eligibility window. Your Admission Notification will show your dates of eligibility.

I HAVE SUBMITTED AN APPLICATION BUT HAVE NOT YET SUBMITTED DOCUMENTATION:
The ASCP BOC is temporarily requesting that all documentation be submitted electronically. Please send completed documentations and letters of authenticity to the email address indicated below based on your category of application.
- All documentation forms and letters of authenticity must contain original, handwritten signatures.
- All official transcripts must be sent directly from your academic institution.

Transcripts.boc@ascp.org – Official transcripts for all U.S. categories
ascpinternational@ascp.org - Documentation and transcripts for all ASCPi categories

The email addresses below are for documentation forms and letters of authenticity for U.S. categories of application.

  DocumentationAN.boc@ascp.org – MLT
  DocumentationJG.boc@ascp.org – MLS
  DocumentationSB.boc@ascp.org – PBT, BB, SBB, C, SC, H, SH, M, SM, DLM
  DocumentationSC.boc@ascp.org – CG, CT, DPT, HT, HTL, MB, MLA, PA, SCYM, SMB, QBRS, QIA, QIHIC, QLS

If you have already submitted documentation to the ASCP BOC by mail, please note that there will be a delay in the processing of your application. You may re-submit documentation by email as noted above. If you are unable to submit documents electronically, please mail them to the address below. Please note that there will be a delay in processing documents submitted through the mail.

ASCP BOC
Attention: Jackie Sanders
33 W. Monroe St, Suite 1600
Chicago, IL 60603

We appreciate your patience throughout the application process. ASCP BOC staff receive a very high volume of documents and transcripts, especially between May and August. All documents are continuously processed as received. It typically takes up to 10 business days for the BOC office to retrieve documents and transcripts after being emailed, and then up to 10 business days after receipt to review these items in order to determine eligibility, identify deficiencies, or release score results. You will receive an email notification any time the status of your application is updated. Please do not send a follow-up email before this timeline has elapsed as it delays the processing of all applications.
DOCUMENTATION FOR APPLICANTS WITH A DISABILITY:
Applicants requesting a modification in the examination environment due to a disability must notify the ASCP Board of Certification in writing before submitting an application and provide a letter of diagnosis from an appropriate professional specifying the needed modification. Requests are considered on a case-by-case basis.

The ASCP BOC is temporarily accepting requests and documentation electronically. Please send to the email address referenced in the section above, based on your US category of application or to the email indicated for ASCP documentation.

I TOOK AND FAILED THE EXAM. WHEN CAN I SCHEDULE MY RE-TAKE?
We understand that eligibility windows have been extended due to COVID-19. You do not need to wait until after your current eligibility window ends to re-apply; you may re-apply immediately after you receive your score report. Upon processing your application, the evaluator will determine the appropriate start date of your new eligibility window. Candidates are not permitted to sit for the same examination more than once within a 90 day period.

CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS REMAIN UNCHANGED:
The BOC is committed to upholding the standards of certification; no changes to eligibility requirements are being made at this time. Applicants must be able to verify completion of all eligibility requirements as written and submit appropriate documentation. For students completing accredited programs, please note that the program itself determines what constitutes acceptable completion of this program; clinical hours are not determined by the ASCP BOC or most accrediting agencies. The ASCP BOC will work with individuals on a case by case basis as needed to ensure that we are doing everything we can to manage the ongoing and rapidly evolving situation.

NO REMOTE PROCTORING OF EXAMS AT THIS TIME:
The ASCP BOC has no intention of moving any certification examinations to remote proctoring at this time. Maintaining the security of exam content and continued ANSI accreditation require any changes to exam delivery to be made only after thorough investigation and selection of an appropriate vendor. The time required to thoroughly vet vendors, review security procedures, and receive ANSI accreditation would only allow us to begin the QA and testing required to republish exams. The ASCP BOC recognizes that this solution would appear to many to be the best solution. Please be assured that the ASCP BOC has thought carefully about this option.

FOR STUDENTS AND PROGRAM DIRECTORS OF ABHES/CAAHEP/NAACLS ACCREDITED PROGRAMS:

STUDENTS:
The ASCP BOC has always encouraged students to not apply more than six weeks before program completion. If a student is uncertain about when they will be able to complete all components of the program, they should hold off on applying until they have a more clear timeframe.

PROGRAM DIRECTORS:
We understand there is a lot of uncertainty at this time concerning the impact of COVID-19 and the ability for students to finish the didactic and/or clinical requirements of their program. Unfortunately, many programs are faced with this challenge with no clear-cut resolution. We recommend you join the BOC Program Director’s Facebook group as a place to share ideas with other Program Directors who are dealing with similar situations. For specific questions regarding programs, please reach out to your accrediting agency. (www.abhes.org; www.caahep.org; www.naacls.org)
STUDENTS’ ELIGIBILITY:
The ASCP BOC has always encouraged Program Directors to not sign off on a student’s eligibility until they are certain they will meet all components of the program, including clinicals and final exams, by the date indicated on the student’s application.

If a student’s program end date has been pushed back due to COVID-19, please do not mark them as “Ineligible” on the EEV. Send a comment from the EEV with the updated end date and a brief explanation of the circumstances. During this time, applications will remain active and valid to accommodate necessary changes.

EXAM SCHEDULING:
We understand that you would like your students to test as soon as possible after program completion. All ASCP BOC examinations are being offered at Pearson VUE testing locations, but please be aware that, due to previous closures and capacity regulations, testing dates may be delayed. We recognize your graduates are essential personnel during this time and are doing all we can to ensure they can test as soon as possible. Please see complete information above.

PASS/FAIL:
We understand that some institutions are investigating the use of Pass/Fail grades during this time. Note that the ASCP BOC accepts the use of “Pass” on an official transcript in lieu of a passing grade, provided the quarter or semester hour credits assigned to the course is also indicated.

THE ASCP BOC WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE ONGOING HEALTH SITUATION. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS NOT ADDRESSED HERE, PLEASE EMAIL PDINFO@ASCP.ORG