

**FAQs
ABVO Certifying Examination**

How are the Multiple Choice (MC) and Image Recognition (IR) parts of the exam administered?

Dr. Rob Malinowski administers the MC and IR through Exemplify, an assessment program developed and licensed by Examsoft®. Detailed instructions on how to use the software will be provided well in advance of the examination. You will be required to take a short practice examination to familiarize yourself with the program. The practice examination is designed to provide experience with the software, not to be representative of exam content.

How long is the MC part of the exam?

Approximately 7 (seven) hours; 3.5 (three and one half) hours for each of the two sections. Whether given in-person or remotely, the MC will begin and conclude at the same time for all candidates.

Is there a break between the two MC sections?

Yes. There is a one-hour break between the two sections; you are free to leave the exam room during the break.

Is there more than one correct answer for MC questions?

No. There is only one correct answer for each question and in addition to the correct answer, there are three distractors. Candidates will not be asked to pick the answer that is 'false' or to select 'all the above'.

How long is the IR part of the exam?

Seven and half (7 1/2) hours total; two and one half (2 1/2) hours to complete each of the three sections. The IR part of the exam will begin and conclude at the same time for all candidates whether given in-person or remotely.

Is there a break between the IR sections?

Yes. There is a 30 min break between sections one and two, and a one-hour break between sections two and three. You are free to leave the exam room during the break.

Am I allowed scrap paper and pencil/pen?

Yes. Candidates will be provided with scrap paper; the paper will be collected by the proctor at the end of each examination section. You must provide your own pen/pencil.

May I leave my belongings in the testing room or surgery procedure rooms?

Yes, there will be a space in the room for back packs etc.

What if I need the restroom before the break?

You may leave the testing room at any time to take a restroom break. You must leave your laptop, any scratch paper, and backpack in the exam room. After any unscheduled break you will not be allowed to navigate back to questions that you have already viewed or answered; if you do, they will be marked incorrect.

What happens if I have a technical issue with my laptop or the exam software?

Dr. Malinowski will be available in person or by phone to address any issues relating to exam software or computer hardware.

What happens if I have a question pertaining to the exam content?

You may direct comments about any MC or IR question to the ABVO Exam Committee through the 'notes' function in Examssoft®; you will have been taught how to use this function during the practice exam. Any comments you enter will not be read until after the exam is completed. The proctor cannot answer questions relating to examination content.

May I have my smart watch with me during the exam?

No. Cell phones and smart watches must be turned off and stowed away.

Can I wear earplugs/headphone?

You may wear your own earplugs but they cannot be WiFi enabled (i.e., no AirPods or similar devices).

Am I allowed to bring food and water into the exam room?

You may bring a beverage (e.g., water bottle or travel mug) but not food. You will need to make your own arrangements for food during breaks.

Am I able to leave the testing room once I have finished an exam section?

Yes.

Do I need to wear scrubs and/or a mask for the surgical part of the exam?

You should wear comfortable clothing, masks are optional. Surgical gloves are required but not provided.

Does the chair provided for the surgical part of the exam have arm rests?

There will be either an adjustable chair or stool provided. If a chair is provided it will not necessarily have arm rests.

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PO Box 1311 Meridian, ID 83680
Ph: 208.466.7624 | F: 208.895.7872 | www.ABVO.us



Will the cadaver eyes for surgery have eyelids?

The eyes provided for the extraocular procedure will have skin/eyelids; the eyes for the intra-ocular procedure will not.

Will the cadaver eye be correctly placed for me for each procedure?

The eye will be pinned on a Styrofoam board. Before the start of the exam, you may reposition the eye under the microscope however you choose.

Will there be somewhere to clean my instruments between the two surgeries?

Yes. There is also an area where you can organize your surgical instruments for the procedure.

Are trays provided to organize my instruments?

No. A mayo stand, or table is provided next to the microscope to lay out your instruments for surgery.

Is there a video of how to perform the surgeries required on the ABVO exam?

No. There are nuances to all surgical procedures and no 'one way' to perform a particular surgery. The surgery part of the exam assesses a candidate's knowledge of the components of the procedures and surgical technique.

EC Committee Chairs, 2024