



CBRPA

CANDIDATE HANDBOOK

History:

The CBRPA was established in 1998 to promote and improve the professional development of advanced practice radiographers, Radiology Practitioner Assistants

(RPA), to identify a body of knowledge and skills necessary for a mid-level practitioner in radiology and to recognize those individuals who demonstrate a level of excellence through a certification examination.



The advanced practice level in radiography was initiated in the 1993-1994 with a meeting between the Weber State University Department of Radiologic Sciences and representatives from the U.S. Department of Defense at Madigan Army Medical Center in Tacoma, Washington. The meeting resulted in the establishment of a curriculum and a list of clinical procedures and activities in which competency was to be determined.

The first class of RPA students was admitted into the program in 1996 and the graduates sat for the CBRPA examination in July 1998.

Eligibility Requirements

A primary purpose of CBRPA is to assure individuals have gained additional education and clinical experience in order to function as a physician extender in radiology.



Those applying for the CBRPA Certification Examination must meet and/or agree to:

1. Respond to all requests for information from CBRPA;
2. Be an ARRT registered radiographer with an *active* status with ARRT;
3. Have five years of experience as a radiographer;
4. Be a graduate from a CBRPA recognized educational program, meeting all didactic requirements and evaluation of clinical competency by a radiologist;
5. Complete and maintain an ACLS certification;
6. Accurately represent previous education and credentials;
7. Maintain a positive, professional image and increase public understanding of the profession;
8. Act in compliance of all state and federal laws, rules and regulations and adhere to the professional Code of Ethics.

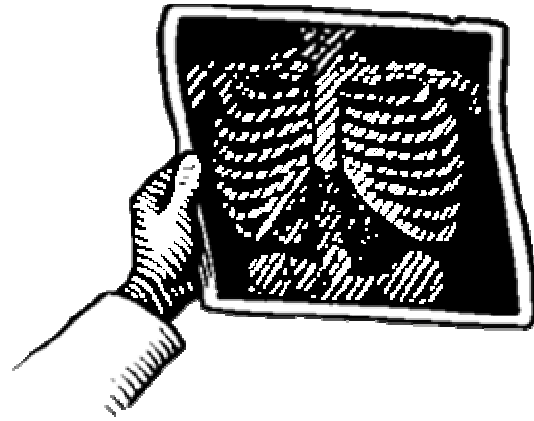
Credentialing Process:

Upon completion of all educational requirements of a program recognized by CBRPA, the applicant must:



1. Complete all sections of the application and submit the application by the due date.
2. Submit applications with a postmark on or before the yearly due dates of February 1, May 1 and September 1.
3. Understand that incomplete applications will be returned to the applicant.
4. Acknowledge that CBRPA administers the examination on the last Friday in February, the third Friday in May and the last Friday in September of each year.
5. Understand that scores will be sent to the candidates within two weeks following the examination.
6. Know that scores will be released *only* to the candidate, and not to family members or employers.

Getting Ready for the Examination:



1. Use the content specifications located on the CBRPA web site as a study guide. A copy will also be sent to you.
2. Upon submission of the application, a practice examination will be sent to the candidate.
3. A review session will be held the day prior to the examination at the test site.
4. Focus on disease processes and the routine, characteristic findings of certain diseases that an RPA should know--think horses, not zebras.
5. Review the educational course notes you made throughout the program.
6. The examination format will consist of multiple choice questions. Nine actual cases will be used with a short history and multiple choice questions asked for each case.
7. Get a good night's sleep the night before the test!!

Taking the Test...

1. The examination will be administered under strict security.
2. Any irregularities observed while the test is being administered will result in the candidate being asked to leave the area immediately resulting in an automatic failure.
3. Arrive at the designated testing location prior to the examination start time. Once the exam has begun, no one will be admitted to the room.
4. Food is not allowed in the test room.
5. Visitors are not allowed in the test room.
6. No materials are allowed in the testing room, including, devices with memory capabilities, audible beepers, cellular phones or unapproved books or papers.
7. CBRPA reserves the right to investigate any irregularity of misconduct, either by suspicion or by subsequent statistical analysis of answer sheets which could result in negating a test score(s)
8. CBRPA must receive prior notification of any disabilities related to completing the exam.



Credentialing...

1. A certificate plaque and identification card will be mailed to the registrant with a congratulatory letter.
2. The purpose of credentialing is to:
 - Establish the body of knowledge and skills of RPAs;
 - Encourage professional growth;
 - Assure the employers and public of quality patient care;
 - Recognize individuals who have achieved a higher level of performance.
 - Employer confidence of possessing an established body of knowledge.
3. Revocation of the CBRPA credential may occur under the following circumstances.
 - Conviction of a felony
 - Submission of false or misleading information
 - Conviction of a criminal offense involving federal or state health care laws;
 - Violation of CBRPA Scope of Practice, Standards of Practice, policies or procedures.



Understanding Your Score

Your performance on the test will be measured against a predetermined standard of knowledge. This standard represents the basic level of knowledge that can be reasonably be expected of individuals with the clinical competence of a RPA. You are NOT measured against performance of other individuals taking the test.



The passing score is set by a panel of experts, who are selected as representative of the RPA profession. These experts review each question, evaluate the difficulty of the subject material and make a judgment as to the determination if the material is essential for an RPA to know in order to perform competently. The responses are then analyzed to determine the *cut* score or passing score of the examination.

Although the underlying content of the exams are virtually identical and the questions are drawn from the same test bank, some tests may be slightly more or less difficult than other exams. To equate the exams, a process of obtaining a scaled score is used. By comparing tests, specific levels of difficulty are determined and the scoring is adjusted to take the differences into account. The scaled score of 75 is required to pass the examination and this score requires correct answers on 63% - 68% of the questions. The passing score is based on the scaled score.

Information About My Score



The examination is designed only to distinguish those who possess the basic level of knowledge from those who do not. There is no evidence that someone who receives a very high score on the exam will perform significantly better in clinical practice than someone whose score falls exactly at the passing point. Therefore, everyone who successfully passes the exam has been demonstrated the possession of basic competency knowledge and skills.

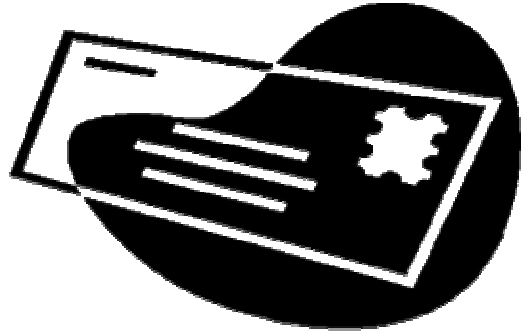
Therefore, if you pass the test, you will be provided with the percentile of your raw score and your scaled score. The passing score is based on the scaled score. Exam results are confidential and will not be released unless permission is given from the certificant.

If you fail the test, you will be notified of your score and the minimum score required to pass. An analysis of your performance in each content area will also be provided to assist you in deciding if you wish to retake the test and to help you plan your study efforts.

You will receive the results of the examination as soon as possible, but within two weeks of completing the exam. No test scores will be given over the phone. The results will only be provided to the examinee.

Annual Renewal

After earning the RPA(CBRPA) credential, one must continue to improve and build upon the educational foundation provided in the educational program. To maintain the RPA(CBRPA) credential, one must:



1. Maintain and *active* status with the RT (ARRT) credential;
2. Complete 24 hours of continuing education every two years;
3. Maintain a current ACLS certification status;
4. Pay the annual registration fee.

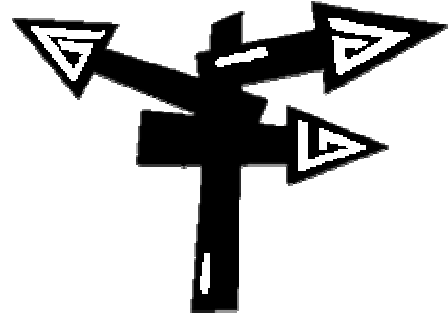
Failure to meet these conditions will result in the revocation of the credential and reinstatement will require retaking the examination.

Renewal notices will be mailed thirty days prior to the birth month with the due date the last day of the birth month.

Upon receipt of the fee and verification of the *active* ARRT status and a current ACLS certification, a new identification card will be mailed to the registrant.

Retesting...

If a candidate fails the examination, he/she may retake the examination at the next offering. The candidate will have three opportunities to pass the examination, but after the third failure, remedial education must be pursued.



The candidate must reapply each time to take the exam by the due date and pay the application fee of \$150.00.

Alternate Eligibility

1. Individuals who are graduates of the Radiology Assistant programs conducted in the 1970s and who have been functioning in an advanced capacity, may qualify to take the exam upon verification of program completion and of their clinical capabilities and verified by their radiologist.
2. Individuals who have completed an RA program can apply for advanced standing in an RPA program, complete the courses where deficiencies exist and have their supervising radiologist verify their clinical competency to qualify for the exam.
3. Applications must be submitted by the due dates and the application fees paid.

For additional information or clarification on the role, responsibilities and support of the CBRPA, please contact:

CBRPA, Inc.
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Lander, WY or
Send an email message to:
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Visit the CBRPA web site at

www.CBRPA.org