THE ABR EXAMINATIONS: WHAT TO EXPECT

The following is an overview of what happens on the days leading up to and including the exam day for various ABR examinations. Examinees may print this document and refer to it as they prepare to take an exam.

The ABR administers exams for each of the following specialties. Locations include Pearson VUE Test Centers; the ABR Tucson Exam Center; the ABR Chicago Exam Center; and the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Louisville Airport, for oral exams. For further information, please click on your exam location below.

**Initial Certification (primary and subspecialty)**
- **Primary Certification**
  - Diagnostic Radiology Computerized (“Written”) Exam (through 2013 only)
    - [Pearson VUE Test Centers](#)
  - Diagnostic Radiology Oral Exam (through 2014 only)
    - Crowne Plaza Hotel, Louisville Airport (information coming soon)
- **Diagnostic Radiology Core Exam (beginning in October 2013)**
  - [Chicago Exam Center](#)
  - [Tucson Exam Center](#)
- **Diagnostic Radiology Certifying Exam (beginning in 2015)**
  - [Chicago Exam Center](#)
  - [Tucson Exam Center](#)
- **Medical Physics, Part 1 and Part 2**
  - [Pearson VUE Test Centers](#)
- **Medical Physics, Part 3 (oral exam)**
  - Crowne Plaza Hotel, Louisville Airport (information coming soon)
- **Radiation Oncology Computerized (“Written”) Exam**
  - [Pearson VUE Test Centers](#)
- **Radiation Oncology Oral Exam**
  - Crowne Plaza Hotel, Louisville Airport (information coming soon)
- **Diagnostic Radiology Subspecialty Certification Exams**
  - Neuroradiology, Nuclear Radiology, and Pediatric Radiology
    - [Chicago Exam Center](#)
    - [Tucson Exam Center](#)
  - Vascular and Interventional Radiology (oral exam)
    - Crowne Plaza Hotel, Louisville Airport (information coming soon)
Maintenance of Certification (primary and subspecialty)
- Diagnostic Radiology and All Diagnostic Radiology Subspecialties
  Chicago Exam Center
  Tucson Exam Center
- Medical Physics
  Pearson VUE Test Centers
- Radiation Oncology
  Pearson VUE Test Centers

Other Exams
- RISE (Radioisotope Safety Exam)
  Pearson VUE Test Centers
- Hospice & Palliative Medicine (administered by ABIM)
  Pearson VUE Test Centers

FREQUENTLY-ASKED QUESTIONS
To view FAQs about all ABR exams, click here.

PEARSON VUE TEST CENTERS

The Pearson VUE-owned-and-operated test centers are designed from the ground up with a consistent layout. Each center offers a quiet, professional testing environment with a varying number of workstations. For additional information regarding the Pearson VUE test centers, please click here.

Exam Registration and Schedule

For exams administered in Pearson VUE centers, you will register for an appointment time directly with Pearson VUE. They will let you know when to arrive based on your appointment time. For detailed information regarding the schedule of a specific exam, please click on the table here.

Day of the Exam
When you arrive at a Pearson VUE test center, you will need to present current primary and secondary identification.
- You will not be allowed to take your exam with an expired ID.
  - Your Primary ID: A current government-issued form of ID that contains a recent photograph of you and your signature. A valid driver's license, passport, or state identification card is acceptable.
  - Your Secondary ID: A form of ID that includes your signature, but not necessarily a photograph. For example, a Social Security card, valid credit card, or ATM card is acceptable.
  - Candidates without both valid primary and secondary IDs will not be admitted to the exam. The name that appears on your IDs must be the same as the name that the ABR has on record for you.
- After you present your IDs, a proctor will direct you to your seat.
  - You will want to note your seat number so you can return to the correct seat if you need to leave the exam center at any time during the exam.
- After you have been seated, you may begin the exam immediately by following the on-screen instructions.
- At the start of the exam, you will see several screens reviewing instructions about taking the exam and about exam security.
  - You will be asked to sign a non-disclosure agreement affirming that you will follow the ABR rules.
- You must remain in your seat during the exam session, unless you are on a scheduled break or are authorized to leave by a test center administrator. Raise your hand to notify the administrator if you:
  - Have a problem with your computer. In the event of a computer issue or other technical problem, the computer system will ensure that no testing time is lost and all your answer choices are saved. The proctor will follow established procedures to resolve the problem. Any time lost during such events will be reinstated.
  - Need a clean notebook.
  - Need to leave the testing area for any reason, including to use the restroom.
  - Have inadvertently brought any personal belongings into the testing area.
  - Need earplugs.
  - Need assistance for any other reason.
- Leaving the testing area during an exam session
  - Please note that unless you are on a scheduled break (see below), no extra time will be given for the time you are out of the testing area.
  - The clock will continue to count down the time remaining.
  - You should exit the testing area as quietly as possible.
  - You may not leave the immediate vicinity of the testing area or restrooms while an exam session is in progress.
  - You must provide an electronic fingerprint or palm vein scan each time you enter or exit the testing area.
- Scheduled breaks
  - At Pearson VUE test centers, scheduled breaks occur at the completion of each session. Taking scheduled breaks is optional, and the available time will appear on your screen.
  - You can decline a break and immediately begin the next exam session. You can also choose to use some or all of your break time.
  - Because you must be at your seat before the end of a scheduled break, allow sufficient time (as much as ten minutes) for checking back in and providing an electronic fingerprint or palm vein scan.
  - At the end of a scheduled break, the clock on the computer will automatically start the next exam session.
- Five-minute notification
  - A message box will appear on your computer screen as a reminder when five minutes remain in a session.
  - If you are still working at the end of an exam session, a message will state that your time has expired, and you will be logged out of the exam.
- After you have completed your exam, you may leave the exam enter.
  - Please collect all your belongings before leaving the center.
THE ABR TUCSON EXAM CENTER

The ABR’s Tucson Exam Center was designed from the ground up with a consistent layout and offers a quiet, professional testing environment. The Tucson Exam Center has a seating capacity of 187 (including four ADA rooms) and is located at 5441 E. Williams Circle, Tucson, AZ 85711.

Exam Registration and Schedule

For exams administered in the Tucson Exam Center, registration will occur through myABR at https://www.myabr.theabr.org. Upon successful registration, you will receive a confirmation letter providing you with your report time and practice profile where applicable (Diagnostic Radiology Certifying and MOC exams). For detailed information regarding the schedule of a specific exam, please click here.

Information regarding an online practice exam, which can be used by anyone preparing for a Diagnostic Radiology Core, Certifying, or MOC Exam, is available here. The practice exam uses the same software interface that is used in the ABR exam centers.

Recommended Hotels in Tucson

The following hotels are within walking distance of the Tucson Exam Center. Please leave your luggage and any electronic devices, including cell phones, at the hotel if at all possible because storage space at the exam center is very limited.

1. Residence Inn Tucson Williams Center
   5440 East Williams Circle, Tucson, AZ 85711
   520-790-6100
2. Marriott Courtyard Tucson Williams Center
   201 South Williams Blvd, Tucson, AZ 85711
   520-745-6000
3. Embassy Suites Tucson Williams Center
   5335 East Broadway Blvd, Tucson AZ 85711
   520-745-2700
4. Marriott TownPlace Suites Tucson Williams Centre
   384 South Williams Blvd, Tucson AZ, 85711
   520-747-0720

Day before the Exam

If you have any questions on the day before your exam, please feel free to stop by the ABR Office, which is located in the same building as the Tucson Exam Center. Simply come to the front desk on the first floor, east entrance to the building, and let the receptionist know that you have questions.

Day of the Exam

- At the Tucson Exam Center, you will register and check in using the palm vein system.
- Please be sure you have a current photo ID with you for the palm vein registration. You will not be allowed to take your exam with an expired ID.
How to use the palm vein scanner:
- Place your right hand flat on the scanner.
- Be sure your hand is touching the two prongs on the scanner.
- The system will ask you to place your hand on the scanner and remove it multiple times. This is to ensure that the scanner captures an accurate image.

After you have been checked in, an ABR check-in card will print.
- This card will have all the information necessary to start your exam.

You will then proceed to the locker area and store any personal belongings you may have brought with you.
- No personal items are allowed in the testing area. This includes all electronic devices, wallets, purses, and bags of any sort. These items must be stored in a locker. If they do not fit in the locker, they must be checked in with ABR personnel. ABR staff will be checking for possession of these items before you enter the examination room.
- The ABR does not allow food of any type in the testing area. You are permitted to bring your own food and store it in a locker during the exam. Food brought to the exam center must:
  - fit in a gallon-sized, transparent, and sealable plastic bag;
  - be non-aromatic;
  - be consumable without refrigeration or heating; and
  - be stored in non-spillable containers.
- No other personal items may be accessed at any time during the examination.
- You may not leave the building at any time during the examination.

A proctor will then direct you to your seat.
- You will want to note your seat number so you can return to the correct seat if you need to leave the exam center at any time during the exam.
- After you have been seated, you may begin the exam immediately by following the on-screen instructions.

At the start of the exam, you will see several screens reviewing instructions about taking the exam and about exam security.
- You will be asked to sign a non-disclosure agreement affirming that you will follow the ABR rules.

During the exam, there are no scheduled breaks. You must remain in your seat during an exam session, unless authorized to leave by a test center administrator. Raise your hand to notify the administrator if you:
- Have a problem with your computer. In the event of a computer issue or other technical problem, the computer system will ensure that no testing time is lost and all your answer choices are saved. The proctor will follow established procedures to resolve the problem. Any time lost during such events will be reinstated.
- Need a clean notebook.
- Need to leave the testing room for any reason, including to use the restroom.
- Have inadvertently brought any personal belongings into the testing area.
- Need earplugs.
- Need assistance for any other reason.

Leaving the testing area during an exam session
- Please note that no extra time is given for the time you are out of the testing area.
- The clock will continue to count down the time remaining.
- You should exit the testing area as quietly as possible.
- You may not leave the immediate vicinity of the testing area or restrooms while an exam session is in progress.
- You may not leave the building for any reason.
- You must have your palm scanned each time you enter or exit the testing area.
- To account for breaks, additional time has been allocated to complete the exam.
- You may not converse with other examinees at any time during the exam, including break times.
  - Five-minute notification
    - A message box will appear on your computer screen as a reminder when five minutes remain in a session.
    - If you are still working at the end of an exam session, a message will state that your time has expired, and you will be logged out of the exam.
  - After you have completed your exam, you may leave the exam center.
    - Please collect all your belongings before leaving the center.
    - If you have checked your phone and/or luggage, please remember to return to the hotel to collect them.

THE ABR CHICAGO EXAM CENTER

The ABR’s Chicago Exam Center was designed from the ground up with a consistent layout and offers a quiet, professional testing environment. The Chicago Exam Center has a seating capacity of 560 (including two ADA rooms) and is located at 5440 N. Cumberland Ave., Suite 200, Chicago, IL 60656.

Exam Registration and Schedule

For exams administered in the Chicago Exam Center, registration will occur through myABR at https://myabr.theabr.org. Upon successful registration, you will receive a confirmation letter providing you with your report time and practice profile where applicable (Diagnostic Radiology Certifying and MOC exams). For detailed information regarding the schedule of a specific exam, please click here.

Information regarding an online practice exam, which can be used by anyone preparing for a Diagnostic Radiology Core, Certifying, or MOC Exam, is available here. The practice exam uses the same software interface that is used in the ABR exam centers.

Headquarters Hotel

For exams administered in Chicago, the ABR headquarters hotel is the Marriott Renaissance Chicago O’Hare Suites Hotel, located at 8500 West Bryn Mawr Avenue, Chicago, IL 60631. The ABR has negotiated discounted room rates for examinees. To see your room rate, please click on your exam date below.

March 4, 2013 Diagnostic Radiology and Subspecialty MOC Exam Administration
June 20-21 and 24-25 (link coming soon) Optional Core Pilot Exam

Other Hotels
Although you must report to the Renaissance Hotel at your assigned time on the day of the exam (see below), you may wish to stay at any of the area hotels listed below, or arrange other accommodations, such as with friends or family.

1. **Chicago Marriott O'Hare**  
   8535 West Higgins Road, Chicago, IL 60631  
   773-693-4444
2. **Holiday Inn Chicago O'Hare**  
   5615 North Cumberland Avenue, Chicago, IL 60631  
   773-693-5800
3. **Embassy Suites Chicago – O'Hare/Rosemont**  
   5500 North River Road, Rosemont, IL 60018  
   847-928-7659
4. **Dolleytree by Hilton Rosemont**  
   5460 North River Road, Rosemont, IL 60018  
   847-292-9100
5. **Spring Hill Suites Chicago O'Hare by Marriott**  
   8101 West Higgins Road, Chicago, IL 60631  
   773-867-0000
6. **Chicago O’Hare Garden Hotel**  
   8201 West Higgins Road, Chicago, IL 60631  
   877-784-8071 or 773-693-2323
7. **Hilton Rosemont/Chicago O’Hare**  
   5550 N. River Road, Rosemont, IL 60018  
   847-678-4488
8. **Crowne Plaza Hotel Chicago O’Hare**  
   5440 North River Road, Rosemont, IL 60018  
   847-292-9100 or 866-242-1055
9. **Sheraton Chicago O'Hare Airpport**  
   6501 North Manheim Road, Chicago, IL 60018  
   847-699-0391
10. **Westin O’Hare**  
    6100 North River Road, Chicago, IL 60018  
    847-698-6000
11. **Hyatt Regency O’Hare**  
    9300 Bryn Mawr Avenue, Rosemont, IL 60018  
    847-696-1234
12. **InterContinental Chicago O’Hare**  
    5300 North River Road, Rosemont, IL 60018  
    847-544-5300

**Day before the Exam**

On the day before your exam, a help desk will be set up at the Renaissance Hotel, and staff will be available to answer any questions you may have. Please check your confirmation letter for the hours the help desk will be open.
Day of the Exam

Registration at the Renaissance Hotel

- You will report to the Renaissance Hotel at your assigned time.
  - Check your confirmation letter for your assigned time.
- When you enter the lobby, follow the signs to the registration area.
- Drop off your luggage and any electronic devices, including your cell phone, in the secure storage area.
  - An ABR staff member will stay with the luggage for the duration of the exam.
- You will be transported from the Renaissance Hotel to the ABR Exam Center by shuttle bus.
- When you exit the bus, enter the building and an ABR staff member will guide you to the ABR Exam Center.
  - The ABR Exam Center is on the second floor in Suite 200.

At the Chicago Exam Center

- At the Chicago Exam Center, you will register and check in using the palm vein system.
- Please be sure you have a current photo ID with you for the palm vein registration. You will not be allowed to take your exam with an expired ID.
  - How to use the palm vein scanner:
    - Place your right hand flat on the scanner.
    - Be sure your hand is touching the two prongs on the scanner.
    - The system will ask you to place your hand on the scanner and remove it multiple times. This is to ensure that the scanner captures an accurate image.
- After you have been checked in, you will proceed to the printers to pick up your check-in card.
  - This card will have all the information necessary to start your exam.
- You will then proceed to the locker area and store any personal belongings you may have brought with you.
  - No personal items are allowed in the testing area. This includes all electronic devices, wallets, purses, and bags of any sort. These items must be stored in a locker. If they do not fit in the locker, they must be checked in with ABR personnel. ABR staff will be checking for possession of these items before you enter the testing area.
  - The ABR does not allow food of any type in the testing area. You are permitted to bring your own food and store it in a locker during the exam. Food brought to the exam center must:
    - fit in a gallon-sized, transparent, and sealable plastic bag;
    - be non-aromatic;
    - be consumable without refrigeration or heating; and
    - be stored in non-spillable containers.
  - No other personal items may be accessed at any time during the examination.
  - You may not leave the building at any time.
- You will then proceed to the testing area, where a proctor will direct you to your seat.
  - You will want to note your seat number so you can return to the correct seat if you need to leave the testing area at any time during the exam.
  - After you have been seated, you may begin the exam immediately by following the on-screen instructions.
• At the start of the exam, you will see several screens reviewing instructions about taking the exam and about exam security.
  ○ You will be asked to sign a non-disclosure agreement affirming that you will follow the ABR rules.
• During the exam, there are no scheduled breaks. You must remain in your seat during an exam session, unless authorized to leave by a test center administrator. Raise your hand to notify the administrator if you:
  ○ Have a problem with your computer. In the event of a computer issue or other technical problem, the computer system will ensure that no testing time is lost and all your answer choices are saved. The proctor will follow established procedures to resolve the problem. Any time lost during such events will be reinstated.
  ○ Need a clean notebook.
  ○ Need to leave the testing area for any reason, including to use the restroom.
  ○ Have inadvertently brought any personal belongings into the testing area.
  ○ Need earplugs.
  ○ Need assistance for any other reason.
• Leaving the testing area during an exam session
  ○ Please note that no extra time is given for the time you are out of the testing area.
  ○ The clock will continue to count down the time remaining.
  ○ You should exit the testing area as quietly as possible.
  ○ You may not leave the immediate vicinity of the testing area or restrooms while an exam session is in progress.
  ○ You must have your palm scanned each time you enter or exit the testing area.
  ○ To account for breaks, additional time has been allocated for the exam.
  ○ You may not converse with other examinees at any time during the exam, including break times.
• Five-minute notification
  ○ A message box will appear on your computer screen as a reminder when five minutes remain in a session.
  ○ If you are still working at the end of an exam session, a message will state that your time has expired, and you will be logged out of the exam.
• After you have completed your exam, you may leave the exam enter.
  ○ Please collect all your belongings before leaving the center.
  ○ The ABR will provide transportation back to the Renaissance Hotel. The shuttle bus will depart the center every 20 minutes.
  ○ You are not required to return to the hotel via the shuttle bus.
  ○ If you have checked your phone and/or luggage, please remember to return to the hotel to collect them.

Local Transit

The Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) provides a variety of methods for traveling around the city. You can access brochures by clicking here or visiting www.transitchicago.com. Additional links include:

• CTA Fare Info
• CTA Schedules
• CTA MAPS
Local Dining

Chicago offers a wide array of choices for dining. Below are a few links that you may find helpful when searching for places to eat:

The Restaurant Directory: A listing of restaurants located in the Rosemont area close to the exam center

Yelp: Search for all types of restaurants in the Chicago Exam Center ZIP Code (60656).

Mapquest: A map showing the location of 10 area restaurants

Local Shopping

Harlem Irving Plaza
4104 North Harlem Ave
Norridge, IL 60706
773-625-3036 or 708-453-7800
Directions

Golf Mill
239 Golf Mill Center
Niles, IL 60714
847-699-1070
Directions

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why do I have to go to Chicago or Tucson instead of a local testing center?

With the transition to a more image-rich exam with advanced item types, the ABR has built two exam centers in Chicago and Tucson to administer all diagnostic radiology exams. At this time, commercial test centers do not have the technology or means available to support these kinds of exams.

When should I arrive? What if I arrive late?

Your confirmation letter will state your report time. In order to maintain an efficient process, we ask that you arrive according to your assigned report time. The ABR recommends planning your travel arrangements so that you arrive in the destination city several hours or even the day before your exam. This will help mitigate the chance of missing your exam due to unexpected travel delays.

If you are running late and arrive after your designated time, do not worry. The ABR will do all that is possible to accommodate everyone who was scheduled for the exam. If your delay is significant and we are unable to seat you during your original assigned time, you will be given an opportunity to take the exam in a designated emergency session. Depending on the severity of the delay and the timing of your exam, you may be required to come back to the center at a later date.
What is not permitted in a testing area?

To ensure exam security, the following items are prohibited:

- All electronic devices, including cell phones, cameras, recording devices, calculators, personal digital assistants, pagers, and beepers.
- Watches with computing functionality. The time of day will be displayed on a clock in the testing room, and the time remaining in the exam session will be displayed on your computer screen.
- Study materials, books, notes, scratch paper, etc.
- Pens, pencils, highlighters, and other writing instruments. The test administrator will provide noteboards that will be replaced as needed. Noteboards may not be removed from the testing room and must be turned in to the test administrator when you complete each exam session.
- Bags of any kind are not allowed in the testing areas. This includes all suitcases, briefcases, purses, wallets, and backpacks.
- Tobacco products.
- No food items or external drinks are allowed in the testing areas. The ABR will provide bottled water in the Tucson and Chicago exam centers. The ABR will also provide lockers for you to store any food items you wish to bring. The locker size is 12” x 12” x 18”, which is large enough to store a small tote or larger purse. If your bag does not fit in this locker, it must be checked in, which would require you to return to the Renaissance Hotel if you are at the Chicago Exam Center. Food brought to the exam center must:
  - fit in a gallon-sized, transparent, and sealable plastic bag;
  - be non-aromatic;
  - be consumable without refrigeration or heating; and
  - be stored in non-spillable containers.
- You may bring your own bottled water to store in your assigned locker in the Pearson VUE testing centers.

NOTE: Certain essential medical items (e.g. nitroglycerin, asthma inhalers, and diabetic supplies) may be brought into the testing area with prior ABR approval. Please submit your request to the ABR by using the Contact feature on the ABR website.

Friends or relatives who accompany you to the exam center will not be permitted to wait inside the testing area and cannot contact you while you are taking the exam.

Note: Candidates who fail to adhere to these policies are subject to disciplinary action, which could lead to dismissal from the exam, invalidation of the exam, disqualification from future exams, or other sanctions deemed appropriate by the ABR.

If I have an emergency phone call (e.g., my expectant wife is giving birth), how will I receive it?

FOR THE ABR EXAM CENTERS ONLY: ABR staff will deliver emergency messages if needed. Please provide the exam services emergency phone number listed below to anyone you feel may need it, but please understand that this number should be used for emergencies only. If there is no emergency, the message will be held until after the exam.

- Chicago Exam Center – (708) 320-8378
- Tucson Exam Center – (520) 369-3926
What are examples of irregular behavior that would be a reported to the ABR if displayed during an exam?

All ABR examinations are administered in secure testing centers by test administrators who are responsible for maintaining the integrity and security of the certification process. Test administrators are required to report to the ABR any irregular or improper behavior by an examinee, such as copying or sharing answers, using notes, or otherwise giving or obtaining unauthorized information or aid. Any such behavior will constitute grounds for the invalidation of the examination and may lead to an examinee being judged unacceptable for certification.

Irregular or improper behavior during examinations that is observed, made apparent by data forensics, revealed through statistical analysis, or uncovered by other means will be considered a subversion of the certification process and will constitute grounds for invalidation of a candidate’s examination. In addition, the ABR may at its discretion suspend or revoke certification; exclude candidates from future examinations; and inform program director(s), licensing bodies, impaired physicians advocacy groups, or law enforcement agencies of the ABR’s actions.

If you see cheating or other inappropriate behavior before, during, or after an examination, please contact ABR’s Exam Integrity Hotline at 520-750-2720 or send an e-mail to examintegrity@theabr.org.

Note: the Exam Integrity Hotline should be used ONLY to report irregular behavior; other exam-related inquiries cannot be answered by personnel answering this line.

What is ABR’s Copyright and Non-Disclosure Policy?

The ABR has a responsibility to protect the integrity of its examination material from unauthorized use. All ABR exams are considered intellectual property. Hence, the ABR copyrights all published examination forms on an annual basis.

All American Board of Radiology (ABR) materials are protected by the federal Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C § 101, et seq. Access to all such materials, as further detailed below, is strictly conditioned upon agreement to abide by ABR’s rights under the Copyright Act and to maintain examination confidentiality. Copyright infringement need not be intentional and can be defined as the use of ABR exam content without explicit consent from the ABR.

Infringement is defined as:
1. Deliberately selling copyrighted ABR examination materials
2. Attempting to gain materially in any way from copyrighted ABR examination materials
3. Memorizing and sharing copyrighted ABR examination materials

How long are the exams?

ABR exams vary in length and number of questions. Please refer to Pearson VUE exam table or the Chicago and Tucson exam table for specific information regarding your exam. The time remaining for each session will appear in the upper right-hand corner of the computer screen.
When and how will I get my exam results?

The time needed to prepare your results varies according to the exam taken. The ABR will notify you by email when your results have been posted on myABR.

What about lodging and travel?

You are responsible for making your own travel and hotel reservations. For more information regarding local hotels and restaurants in Tucson or Chicago, please see the appropriate section above.

How do I contact the ABR with questions regarding the exam day?

Call 520-790-2900, Mon.–Fri., 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Mountain Standard Time (year-round, or send us an email).