

American Board of Emergency Medicine

2021 Qualifying Examination Scores

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

- 1. What is the passing rate on the examination?** The passing rate for all candidates who took the 2021 Qualifying Examination is 90%. The passing rate for all candidates who completed an approved Emergency Medicine residency program and are first-time takers of the examination is 92%.
- 2. How was my score and pass or fail outcome determined?** Your final score was determined by first adding together the number of scored questions you answered correctly. (Field tests questions and questions that do not meet ABEM quality standards are not used in determining candidates' final scores.) Because ABEM uses multiple versions of its exams, this number correct is then statistically equated to all other versions of the test and transformed to a scaled score from 0 to 100. This score is not a percent correct. Any candidate receiving a final score of 77 or greater passes the examination. This entire process is fully and independently replicated. As such, ABEM does not provide a hand score or rescore service for a fee since, in the interests of fairness to all test takers, it has already been performed.

The Qualifying Examination is a criterion-referenced examination which means ABEM uses a predetermined standard, against which all candidates are judged. All candidates meeting the standard pass the examination. Quotas or required percentages of candidates passing are not used to determine the passing score.

- 3. What is my percentile rank among all candidates who took the examination?** The Qualifying Examination is a criterion-referenced examination, meaning that all candidates are judged against a predetermined standard, which is reflected in the passing score. The relative standing of an individual candidate is not relevant. Therefore, percentile rankings are not calculated and are not available.
- 4. Can results be obtained by phone or via fax?** No. Examination results will not be reported or confirmed by phone or fax. This Board policy is intended to assure the confidentiality of all candidate scores.
- 5. If I failed the exam, what are my next steps to become certified?** Options vary based on your board eligibility status. You may have additional requirements that must be met before you can register for a future examination. You can review your board eligibility status and future examination options by logging into the ABEM portal with your User ID and password.
- 6. How can I improve my performance?** ABEM cannot endorse any specific preparation course as this would be a conflict of interest for the Board. Successful candidates meet the Board's standards for practice as exemplified in the EM Model and ABEM's KSAs (<https://www.abem.org/public/resources/>). The Board recommends continued clinical practice, staying up to date with changes in the field, and ensuring familiarity with the examination process and delivery platform. For more information on the Qualifying Examination please visit: <https://www.abem.org/public/become-certified/qualifying-exam>.

If you have a question about your examination results after reading this document, please contact the ABEM office:

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Email: qualify@abem.org
Telephone: (517) 332-4800
Monday-Friday: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. ET

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