

American Board of Emergency Medicine  
**2025 Qualifying Examination Scores**  
**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)**

1. **What is the pass rate on the examination?** The pass rate for all candidates who completed an approved Emergency Medicine residency program and are first-time takers of the examination is 83%. The pass rate for all candidates who took the 2025 Qualifying Examination is 80%.
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 test questions and questions that do not meet ABEM quality standards are not used in determining final scores. Because ABEM uses multiple versions of the 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 will pass the examination. The entire process is fully and independently replicated for each version of the exam. 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 that all candidates must meet. 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 assessed 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 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 passed, what are my next steps to become certified?** In January 2026, you will be emailed a link to provide your preferences for a Certifying Exam administration in 2026. Your preferences do not guarantee scheduling for a specific exam administration, but assist ABEM in the assignment process. ABEM uses a process to randomly assign you to one of the 2026 Certifying Examination administrations. You will be notified via email of your assigned Certifying Examination week, and then provided a link to register for an exam day and time available within that exam week.

6. **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 in your MyABEM portal with your User ID and password.
7. **How can I improve my performance?** ABEM cannot endorse any specific preparation course as this would be a conflict of interest. Successful candidates meet the Board's standards for practice as exemplified in the EM Model and ABEM's KSAs. 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, the EM Model, and the KSAs, please visit ABEM's website: <https://www.abem.org>.
8. **Who do I contact if I have questions?** ABEM seeks to answer questions and provide support on the next steps for all physicians in the certification process. For questions, please contact ABEM.

American Board of Emergency Medicine  
Email: [qualify@abem.org](mailto:qualify@abem.org)  
Telephone: (517) 332-4800 Option 1  
Monday- Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. ET

**December 2025**