

ASCP CERTIFICATION

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ASCP BOC

Formerly known as ASCP Board of Registry, the American Society of Clinical Pathology (ASCP) Board of Certification (BOC) has been considered the preeminent leader in the certification of medical laboratory professionals since 1928.

Why get certified?

- ▣ It is a requirement in some laboratories
- ▣ Better job prospects
- ▣ Higher salaries
- ▣ Respect of colleagues

How to get
certified?

How to get certified

- ▣ Education
- ▣ Clinical lab experience
- ▣ Application of examination
- ▣ Successful completion of certification exam

Two Routes to get HT certified

Route 1

- ▣ Successful completion of a National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS) accredited Histotechnician program within the last five years prior to the date of application for the examination.

HT Route 2

- ▣ Must have at least 60 semester hours (90 quarter hours) of academic credit from an accredited college/university, with a combination of 12 semester hours (18 quarter hours) of biology and chemistry or an associate degree from an accredited college/university, with a combination of 12 semester (18) quarter hours) of biology and chemistry.
- ▣ One year of full time acceptable experience in a histopathology laboratory within the last 10 years

HTL eligibility

Route 1

- Must have Baccalaureate degree from an accredited college/university with a combination of 30 semester hours (45 quarter hours) of biology and chemistry AND successful completion of NAACLS accredited Histotechnician or Histotechnology program within the last five years.

HTL Route 2

- ▣ Baccalaureate degree from an accredited college/university with a combination of 30 semester hours (45 quarter hours) of biology and chemistry
- ▣ One year of full time acceptable experience in a histopathology laboratory within the last 10 years

New Changes are coming

- ▣ Effective January 1, 2017, the HT/HTL Route 2 eligibility requirement will be changed.
- ▣ Must have required academic credits and one year of full time clinical lab experience within the last 5 instead of 10 years.
- ▣ Must have clinical lab experience in all the following areas within the last 5 years:
Fixation, processing, embedding/microtomy and staining

State License

- ▣ Currently there are 3 states that require license
- ▣ California
- ▣ Florida
- ▣ New York
- ▣ In New York state, only HT, not HTL certification exam is accepted for state licensure.

- ▣ In my case, I did HT Route 2, sent in transcript and had my employer verify that I had one year of clinical experience.
- ▣ Make sure you have met the eligibility requirements before applying
- ▣ Complete application form from ASCP BOC website.
- ▣ Wait to hear from them whether you are eligible to take the exam. They will send you eligibility letter once approved

- ▣ Receive eligibility letter
- ▣ Have to take exam within three months
- ▣ Schedule your exam with a Pearson test center

Preparation for exam

- ▣ The key is to study and practice. Be prepared to study a few hours each day.
- ▣ I suggest to get the Freida Carson's books.
- ▣ Both HT/HTL online practice tests are available for purchase on NSH website. These tests can be taken an unlimited number of times over the 90-day subscription period.

BOOKS

- ▣ Carson, F. & Hladik, C. (2015).
Histotechnology: A Self-Instructional Text
(4th ed.) Chicago: ASCP Press
- ▣ Carson, F. (2014) A Self-Assessment Workbook
(3rd edition) Chicago: ASCP Press.
- ▣ Carson, F. & Hood, G. (2013). BOC Study
Guide Histotechnology Certification
Examinations (3rd ed.) Chicago: ASCP Press

Books

- ▣ William Ovalle, Patrick Nahimey (2013). Netter's Essential Histology, 2nd ed.
- ▣ Barbara Young, Phillip Woodford & Geraldine O'Dowd (2013). Wheater's Functional Histology, 6th ed.

Exam contents

<u>Topics</u>	<u>Percentages</u>
▣ Fixation	15-25%
▣ Processing	10-20%
▣ Embedding/Microtomy	15-25%
▣ Staining	30-40%
▣ Laboratory Operations	10-15%

THE EXAM

- ▣ There are 100 questions on the exam and you have two and a half hours to complete.
- ▣ All questions are multiple choices
- ▣ 4 main topics cover on the exam
- ▣ The exam is in Computer Adaptive Testing format

Exam Day

- ▣ Report to Pearson Testing Center half an hour before scheduled exam
- ▣ Bring valid govt. issued photo I.D.
- ▣ Do not bring books
- ▣ You will be photographed and palm imaged, i.e. fingerprinted before taking the exam

Tips on taking the exam

- ▣ Answer every question. Do not skip any question. This is a Computer Adaptive Testing format .
- ▣ Pace yourself. Do not spend too much time on any one question
- ▣ Expect questions on identification of tissue, organisms, artifacts on slides
- ▣ Know your special stains and fixatives well
- ▣ Memorization is one thing. Must be able to interpret and analyze

PASS/FAIL

Minimum passing score is 400 out of
maximum of 999

Certification Maintenance

- ▣ The Credential Maintenance Program is required for all individuals who are ASCP certified beginning January 1, 2004
- ▣ Certification is required to be renewed every three years by ASCP
- ▣ Need 12 CEUs/year plus 1 CEU on lab/fire safety
- ▣ The initial “CM” in superscript must be used after your certification initials, HT(ASCP)^{CM}

Additional information on certification available on:

- ▣ <http://www.ascp.org/board-of-certification>
- ▣ <http://www.nsh.org>



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Questions,
Comments
or
Suggestions

