



American College of Veterinary Pathologists

Certifying Examination

Candidate Handbook

The mission of the ACVP is to promote excellence in veterinary pathology through our members as they protect and improve animal, human and environmental health to benefit society

Questions may be addressed to exam@ACVP.org

determination of candidate scores. Microscopic and case essays are graded using grading keys. All responses to a given case are assigned to one individual to ensure uniformity of grading.

During the entire examination process, candidates are identified only by number. Scoring calculations are checked at least twice before they are accepted as final. Individuals grading the examination never learn the names of candidates that correspond to candidate numbers.

The passing point (cut score) was established by ACVP Diplomates in consultation with a psychometrician via a Standard Setting Study in July 2017 using the Angoff method for multiple choice questions, and the Extended Angoff method for written responses (glass slide descriptions and essays). For both methods, a panel of ACVP Diplomates reviewed every test and estimated the percentage of minimally acceptable candidates that will answer the question correctly (Angoff method) or the number of points a minimally acceptable candidate will earn for each description or essay (Extended Angoff method). These estimates, made independently by each expert, were then combined across all experts and questions to produce the minimally acceptable score.

To pass an examination, a score of equal to or greater than the cut score must be achieved. The cut score will remain the same for all future examinations until a new standard setting study is conducted.

In order to ensure that examinations are of comparable difficulty, regardless of the year in which they were administered, an equating process is used to compare the difficulty of examinations given in different years and to adjust scores to reflect any differences in difficulty. These adjusted scores are used to determine if candidates pass or fail the examination based on the pre-established cut score.

Additional information regarding establishment of the cut score and the equating process are available on the ACVP website.

[Cut Scores and Equating](#)

Maintenance of Certification (MOC)

All veterinary specialties recognized by the AVMA, including the ACVP, are required to implement a mandatory program for maintenance of certification (MOC). The MOC program for ACVP Diplomates certified in 2016 and thereafter have time-stamped certificates which expire every 10 years. Regular documentation of defined continuing education and scholarly activities, maintenance of professional proficiency, and efforts in professional organizations are required for renewal. The MOC web-based portal is designed to efficiently facilitate ACVP members in maintaining their certification. The interface, accessible through the ACVP website, allows members to clearly communicate, track, and report MOC credit activities according to the basic guidelines delineated by the AVMA.

Updated 0 /12/2019