



Corner

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ABHP Exam Requirements

Thomas Buhl, CHP
Secretary, ABHP

At the ABHP Board Meeting held in San Francisco on 25-26 June, the Board took two actions regarding admission to the ABHP Certification Exam. First, the Board clarified the use of certification by the National Registry of Radiation Protection Technologists (NRRPT) toward fulfilling the admission requirements of the ABHP exam. Credit is awarded for this certification, but an accredited college or university must first have granted credit to the candidate for having NRRPT Certification. The actual amount of credit that was given by the college or university to the candidate will be awarded by the Board as partially fulfilling the academic requirements for admission to the ABHP exam.

Second, effective with the 1997 exam process, an appropriate B.S. degree from an accredited institution will be required of candidates. Candidates will still be admitted to exams prior to 1997 without a college degree if they can demonstrate that they fulfill the academic requirements (60 semester credit hours in physical or biological science, engineering or mathematics, of which 20 must be in physical sciences, engineering or mathematics) and the other requirements concerning professional experience, references and a written report. Beginning with applications received for the 1997 exam, a B.S. degree will be required. The requirement does not apply to those candidates who:

1. have already passed one part of the exam prior to 1997 and are still within their 7-year period of eligibility, or
2. have applied and were accepted for the 1996 exam (applications are valid for a two-year period). These candidates, however, must pass at least one part of the exam in 1997, or they must reapply to take the exam under the new requirement.

This policy change was approved by the American Academy of Health Physics Executive Committee at its San Francisco meeting.

Please contact Nancy Johnson, AAHP Secretariat, at 703-790-1745 to answer any questions.

Part I Questions Needed

Morgan Cox, CHP
Chair, ABHP Part I Panel

The American Board of Health Physics is soliciting new ABHP Part I questions from the entire membership of the Health Physics Society. New and contemporary questions are the lifeblood of the Part I exam. This is the first such request to the membership.

Each question should contain a premise consisting of a sentence to a short paragraph. The subject matter should be timely, relevant and consistent with good health physics practice. The premise should be written in question form, with five possible and plausible answers. There should be one correct answer and four distractor-type answers, all possibly and plausibly correct. Computational questions are acceptable provided that each can reasonably be computed in two-three minutes. Questions based on important concepts are preferred over simple factual types requiring a tremendous memory. Graphical questions on contemporary concepts and practices are most welcome, while tabular questions must be simple and quickly readable by candidates taking the exam. All reasonable questions will be considered and converted into the format required by the ABHP Part I Panel for evaluation at the fall meeting each year. There are five subject areas covered in the exam: 01 Measurements, 02 Regulations and Standards, 03 Facilities and Equipment, 04 Operations and Procedures and 05 Education and Training. In general, subject areas 02 Regulations and Standards and 04 Operations and Procedures need serious infusions of new questions. In addition, specific sub-sections of these subject areas need new questions: 0102 Presentation of Data and Reports, 0202 Maintenance of Licenses, 0306 Warning & Access Control Systems, 0308 Equipment for Remote Handling and 0502 Education & Public Information.

The current exam bank for Part I contains about 700 questions. We would like to increase this to 1000 questions.

Please submit your questions, the correct answer to each and proper references and/or rationale in determining the correct answer to Morgan Cox, CHP, 2501 W. Zia Rd., Suite 3-102, Santa Fe, NM 87505; Phone: 505-471-1370. He has volunteered to accept these questions and convert each into the desired format for evaluation by the Part I Panel in the near future. ■