



CBCCT

Certification and Recertification How to Apply Guide

Certification Board of Cardiovascular Computed Tomography

APCA.org/CBCCT
240-631-8151



CBCCT

Certification Board of
Cardiovascular Computed Tomography



APCA™

Alliance for Physician
Certification & Advancement

About This Guide

This guide walks you through the application process for taking the Certification Board of Cardiovascular Computed Tomography™ (CBCCT™) certification and recertification examinations. These examinations are developed, administered and managed by CBCCT Diplomates under the auspices of the Alliance for Physician Certification & Advancement™ (APCA™).

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The Alliance for Physician Certification & Advancement™ (APCA™) was created to meet the needs of physicians and advanced health care providers and is part of the nonprofit Inteleos™ family of Councils spun out of the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography® (ARDMS®).

APCA, already supporting more than 18,000 physicians worldwide, including over 2,500 CBCCT Diplomates from more than 50 countries, is dedicated to helping physicians and advanced care providers secure certification in medical imaging and other health care specialties, offering outstanding customer care, and guiding simple maintenance of existing certifications.

To continue the advancement of superior patient care, APCA also offers its constituents numerous volunteer opportunities. For information on how to volunteer, visit [APCA.org/Volunteer](https://www.apca.org/Volunteer).

For more information on APCA's other certifications please visit [APCA.org](https://www.apca.org).

Specialty Examination = Certification Earned



About the CBCCT Certification and Recertification Examinations

A fundamental goal of every professional or academic institution is to improve in areas of competence, quality and effectiveness. Credentialing facilitates achievement of this goal. Certification and recertification provide a mechanism to demonstrate training and/or experience and an established standard of knowledge in accordance with practice guidelines.

The CBCCT certification and recertification programs in cardiovascular computed tomography (CT) are developed, overseen and administered by CBCCT Diplomates under the auspices of APCA. The examinations validate expertise and knowledge in the field of cardiovascular CT. Medical licensure assures minimal competency to diagnose and treat; certification in cardiovascular CT indicates mastery of a defined body of knowledge. Still, given the time and cost, **why certify? Because certification matters.** It matters to patients whose care is provided by certified physicians and other professionals; to employers who staff hospitals, practices and facilities with qualified and experienced practitioners. It matters to referring physicians who understand what your certification represents, and it matters to peers who recognize the effort and knowledge required to achieve certification.

physician who attains certification you can be confident your skills have met the benchmark of quality and tangibly demonstrate your commitment to providing quality healthcare.

The CBCCT certification and recertification examination formats are computer-based and administered at Pearson VUE test centers located throughout the U.S. and abroad. The examinations are comprised of questions with four multiple choice options, all of which may be plausible, but only one of which is the correct or best answer. Approximately 35 to 40 percent of the questions include images and videos. Some questions are being pilot tested and will not be scored.

Examination content is based on a Job Task Analysis identifying tasks performed by physicians practicing cardiovascular CT and the knowledge required to perform these tasks. This process strives to ensure the examination content accurately reflects the current practice of cardiovascular CT. The examinations include questions from four domains:

- **Performing Pre-Exam Tasks [14%]**
- **Performing In-Suite Exam Functions [16%]**
- **Interpreting and Managing CT Findings [55%]**
- **Performing Post-Scan Tasks and Reporting Findings [15%]**

Most importantly, it matters to you. As a

Applying Online Is Fast, Easy and Secure

2024 Examination Dates: September 10 - October 10, 2024

Application Window Opens: April 2, 2024

Regular Application Deadline: June 18, 2024

Final Application Deadline: August 13, 2024

1. Check the CBCCT examination administration and application dates (listed above).

2. Before beginning the online application.

Review the CBCCT eligibility criteria (in this guide or at [APCA.org/CBCCT](https://www.apca.org/CBCCT)) to ensure you meet the requirements.

3. Visit [APCA.org/MYAPCA](https://www.apca.org/MYAPCA) beginning April 4th. Fill out, pay for and submit your application form with supporting documents.

As part of your application, you will be asked to acknowledge the APCA Confidentiality Agreement, Applicant Agreement and Compliance policies. Review the agreements and policies at [APCA.org/Compliance](https://www.apca.org/Compliance) and check the status of your application by logging on to [APCA.org/MYAPCA](https://www.apca.org/MYAPCA).

4. Review process and approval timeframe.

Applications are reviewed in the order in which they are received, as expeditiously as possible. CBCCT receives the bulk of applications on deadline dates so turnaround can take several weeks, depending on the number received and the completeness of the application and documentation.

5. APCA emails eligible Applicants an Examination Confirmation Letter (ECL) upon approval of the submitted application and all required supporting documentation.

ECLs may also be found by logging on to [APCA.org/MYAPCA](https://www.apca.org/MYAPCA). The letter indicates the examination for which you have been approved.

6. Prepare for the examination.

Review the full CBCCT content outline at [APCA.org/CBCCT](https://www.apca.org/CBCCT). Applicants may wish to consult the Society of Cardiovascular Computed Tomography (SCCT) list of guidelines and standards at [SCCT.org](https://www.scct.org). Go to [APCA.org/CBCCT](https://www.apca.org/CBCCT) and click on the prepare tab to access an examination tutorial video.

7. On examination day.

CBCCT examinations are administered on a computer in a secure Pearson VUE test center. Test center policies are strictly enforced so be sure to review them carefully prior to your examination appointment. Visit [pearsonvue.com/APCA](https://www.pearsonvue.com/APCA) for details.

8. After the examination.

Results and a full score report will be available approximately 60 days after the close of the examination administration. Once your score is available, an email will be sent to you with instructions on how to access your score report in MY APCA ([APCA.org/MYAPCA](https://www.apca.org/MYAPCA)). Your certification or recertification is valid for 10 years.

Within six weeks after your CBCCT certification or recertification has been awarded, you will be mailed your certificate and information related to maintenance of certification.

Diplomates are listed in the Directory of Certificants at [APCA.org/Directory](https://www.apca.org/Directory).



APPLY & MANAGE YOUR APPLICATION THROUGH [APCA.ORG/MYAPCA](https://www.apca.org/MYAPCA)



Prepare for your examination day

Test Center Admission and Identification

When you arrive at the test center, be prepared to:

- Check in with a test center administrator
- Present a valid photo ID
- Have your palm scanned
- Take a test-day photograph

Special Accommodations

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), APCA will provide reasonable testing accommodations for Candidates with professionally diagnosed disabilities as defined by the ADA. Visit [APCA.org/ADA](https://www.apca.org/ADA). Requests for ADA consideration must be made at the time of application submission.

APCA Compliance Policies and Required Review

During the online application process Applicants are required to attest to their compliance with all APCA Compliance Policies. Applicants who have legal or disciplinary matters in their past must be prepared to disclose these at the time of application submission and to submit a required Compliance Review fee of \$150. Please review the APCA Compliance Policies ([APCA.org/Compliance](https://www.apca.org/Compliance)) to learn how the policies apply to you.

Compliance Pre-application Review

APCA will conduct a “pre-application review” for a \$125 non-refundable fee for individuals who wish to determine the impact of a previous violation of APCA Compliance Policies on their eligibility to apply for CBCCT certification or recertification. For more information regarding the pre-application process, visit [APCA.org/Compliance](https://www.apca.org/Compliance).

Be Prepared!

VIEW PEARSON VUE'S WHAT TO EXPECT VIDEO AND A PEARSON VUE PROFESSIONAL CENTER TOUR.

CBCCT Certification Eligibility Criteria

Medical Licensure

MD or DO with a current, valid, unrestricted license to practice medicine in the U.S. or Canada.

Applicants with a training medical license may apply in a Testamur status under certain conditions. If you are applying under this circumstance, you must also submit a Letter of Good Standing from your program director.

Outside the U.S. and Canada, MD or DO degree equivalent with a current, valid unrestricted license to practice medicine as a physician in any country. Must include an English translation if not in English.

For details or documentation requirements, visit [APCA.org/CBCCT](https://www.apca.org/CBCCT).

Board Certification

At the time of application, Applicants must hold current certification in Cardiology, an ABIM Cardiology subspecialty, Nuclear Medicine or Radiology. Applicants whose board certification is from outside the U.S. or whose country does not have board certification in their specialty should visit [APCA.org/CBCCT](https://www.apca.org/CBCCT) for details on board certification requirements.

Fellows/Residents who have not yet taken their Cardiology, Nuclear Medicine or Radiology board may apply to sit for the CBCCT examination in a Testamur status under certain conditions.

For details or documentation requirements, visit [APCA.org/CBCCT](https://www.apca.org/CBCCT).

All eligibility requirements must be completed prior to submitting a CBCCT application. Incomplete or incorrect applications will incur a \$75 penalty fee. Documentation must be in English or accompanied by a translation.

Training/Experience in Cardiovascular Computed Tomography

Cardiology/Nuclear Medicine Applicants must have completed 250 contrast cardiovascular CT examinations; for 65 of these cases the Applicant must be physically present and involved in the acquisition and interpretation. These must also include an evaluation of 50 non-contrast cardiovascular CT examinations (may be the same 250 contrast cases with an initial non-contrast study). The 250 cases must have been completed within a 36-month timeframe.

Radiology Applicants may complete Level 2 training, or complete the case requirements for cardiac CT as outlined in the American College of Radiology Practice Guidelines. Requirements include supervision and/or interpretation of a minimum of 50 contrast cardiac CT cases (excluding those performed exclusively for calcium scoring) and be completed no earlier than 12 months prior to application for the CBCCT examination; AND interpretation of 300 thoracic CT examinations in the past 36 months, if qualified in thoracic CT; OR interpretation of 500 CT examinations, including 50 thoracic CT examinations in the past 36 months if not qualified in thoracic CT in accordance with the *ACR Practice Guideline for the Performance and Interpretation of Cardiac CT* and the *ACR Practice Guideline for Performing and Interpreting Diagnostic CT*.

If these 300/500 (including the 50 contrast cardiac CT) cases were completed more than 12 months prior to application, CBCCT requires eligibility documentation of a minimum of 75 cardiac CT cases completed in the last 12 months.

Testamur Applicants in addition to having completed cardiovascular CT Level 2 or met the ACR Practice Guidelines for training in cardiovascular CT at time of application, must meet one of the following requirements: 1) be in your Cardiology, Nuclear Medicine, or Radiology training; OR 2) completed fellowship/residency training within 24 months of applying for the CBCCT examination; OR 3) you are currently in or will be starting an advanced cardiovascular imaging fellowship prior to the application deadline.

Documentation to Verify Training in Cardiovascular CT

One or more of the following documents verifying completion of training must be submitted with the application:

- A certificate from a Level 2 (or 3) training course showing the dates of training and the number of cases and manner in which they were performed. Multiple course certificates are acceptable; or
- A letter from a supervisor or program director, who must be Level 2 (or 3) or ACR qualified, attesting that the Applicant has completed cardiovascular CT training. CBCCT provides a [Training Verification letter](#) template which can be used to satisfy this requirement. This letter must be dated and printed on the author's organizational letterhead; or
- A letter from the Society of Cardiovascular Computed Tomography (SCCT) Verification of Cardiovascular CT Experience Program.

Visit [APCA.org/CBCCT](https://www.apca.org/CBCCT) for details.

Maintenance of Competency in Cardiovascular CT

If completion of Level 2 (or 3) training or the effective date of the SCCT Verification of Cardiovascular CT Experience Program letter was more than 36 months from the date of the application for the CBCCT examination, the Applicant must document 150 additional contrast cardiovascular CT cases completed within the last 36 months. The 150 cases will supplement the requirements for those of initial level 2 training, which must meet the ACC Task Force 4 2015 COCATS Guidelines for Training in Cardiovascular Computed Tomography (Level 2). All Level 2 (or 3) trained Applicants must document 150 contrast cardiovascular CT cases every 36 months. However, whether the Applicant completes 150 cases over the course of several weeks or over 36 months is at the discretion of the individual Applicant. See our [Level 2 Training table and descriptions](#) of case requirements.

Radiologists meeting the American College of Radiology (ACR) Cardiac CT Practice Guidelines must document 75 contrast cardiovascular CT cases, interpreted within the last 12 months, excluding those performed exclusively for calcium scoring.

Documentation to Verify Maintenance of Competency

One or more of the following documents verifying maintenance of competency must be submitted with the application:

For Applicants who completed Level 2 (or 3) OR whose SCCT Verification Program letter is dated more than 36 months prior to application:	For Radiologists who completed ACR Cardiac CT training more than 12 months prior to application:
<p>Certificate(s) from a course(s) showing the name of the course(s), dates of attendance and verification that the Applicant interpreted 150 contrast cardiovascular CT cases equivalent to initial Level 2 training in the last 36 months. Multiple course certificates are acceptable; OR</p> <p>A letter from a qualified supervisor* attesting that the Applicant interpreted 150 contrast cardiovascular CT cases equivalent to initial Level 2 training in the last 36 months.</p>	<p>Certificate(s) from a course(s) showing the name of the course(s), dates of attendance and verification that the Applicant interpreted 75 contrast cardiovascular CT cases (excluding those performed exclusively for calcium scoring) on a workstation in a supervised teaching environment in the last 12 months. Multiple course certificates are acceptable; OR</p> <p>A letter from a qualified supervisor* attesting that the Applicant interpreted 75 contrast cardiovascular CT cases (excluding those performed exclusively for calcium scoring) in a clinical environment or on a workstation in a supervised teaching environment in the last 12 months.</p>
<p>* A “qualified supervisor” may be Chief of Service, Program Director, CT Director, or for cases completed in a private practice clinical environment, CFO, CEO, or Billing Manager.</p>	

Continuing Medical Education

Level 2 (or 3) Applicants: 20 hours of Category 1 CME in general CT or cardiovascular CT in the 36 months prior to application for the CBCCT examination.

ACR Practice Guidelines Applicants: 30 hours of Category 1 CME in cardiac CT and/or cardiac anatomy and physiology in the 36 months prior to application for the CBCCT examination, if qualified in thoracic CT in accordance with the ACR Practice Guidelines. If not qualified in thoracic CT, 200 CME hours are required.

Fellow/Resident Applicants: The CME requirement is waived if an ACGME-accredited training program was completed up to 36 months prior to the date of application for the CBCCT examination.

Non-U.S. Applicants: 20 education or lecture hours in general CT or cardiovascular CT in the 36 months prior to application for the CBCCT examination.

Proof of Additional Training for Candidates Who Have Not Passed the Examination after Three Attempts

Candidates unsuccessful in passing the CBCCT examination after three (3) attempts are required to repeat Cardiovascular CT Level 2 training and to provide documentation of 20 hours of Category 1 CME in general CT or cardiovascular CT in particular, or of recompleting the requirements for cardiac CT training according to the ACR Cardiac CT Guidelines. The Level 2 training and CME must have been completed within 18 months of application for the CBCCT examination.

For details or documentation requirements, visit APCA.org/CBCCT.

Note: APCA, in its discretion, may request from you or others information concerning matters that may be relevant to eligibility for certification and certification status.



CBCCT Recertification Eligibility Criteria

All eligibility requirements must be completed prior to submitting a CBCCT application. Incomplete or incorrect applications will incur a \$75 penalty fee. Documentation must be in English or accompanied by a translation.

Medical Licensure

Applicants must **at the time of application** hold a current, unconditional, unrestricted license to practice medicine in the U.S. or their country of residence.

Applicants may use any of the following to document their medical license: a photocopy of your medical license wallet card; a photocopy of your wall mounted license; or a printout from your state medical board website. At a minimum, the documentation must include the Applicant's name, issuing state/country, status (e.g., unrestricted; training, etc.) and expiration date (if issued in the U.S.).

Continuing Medical Education

Twenty-four (24) hours of AMA PRA Category 1 Continuing Medical Education (CME) on Cardiovascular CT topics and completed no more than 36 months prior to application submission. Visit [APCA.org/CBCCT](https://www.apca.org/CBCCT) for details or documentation requirements.

Cardiovascular CT Case Maintenance of Competency

Documentation of having **performed and interpreted** 150 clinical cardiovascular CT (contrast) cases in the last 36 months prior to application submission

OR

Documentation of having met a minimum of 150 contrast cardiovascular CT cases **performed and interpreted** within the prior 36 months. The cases must be Category A (minimum of 50) or A1 (maximum of 100).

For Category A the Applicant is attesting that he or she:

- was physically present while scanning took place and during image reconstruction; scan acquisition personally witnessed; and
- reviewed the contrast CT angiographic images and contrast morphology using a CT workstation; scan data independently manipulated and interpreted; and
- arrived at a diagnosis and performed a complete interpretation.

For Category A1 the Applicant is attesting that he or she:

- Reviewed the contrast CT angiographic images and contrast morphology on video using a CT workstation; and
- Witnessed scan acquisition via a recording (digital media, online) which includes patient preparation and CT planning, acquisition and reconstruction.

For details or documentation requirements, visit [APCA.org/CBCCT](https://www.apca.org/CBCCT).

Reinstatement Fee for Lapsed Diplomates: Former diplomates whose certification status has lapsed may apply for recertification by meeting the eligibility requirements. Upon passing the examination, a one-time fee of \$250 will be assessed in order to be reinstated.

Fees and Online Resources

Visit [APCA.org/CBCCT](https://www.apca.org/CBCCT) for information on submitting documentation and payments.

Examination Fees	Cert	Recert
Regular Fee	\$1,050	\$800
Late Application Fee	\$1,250	\$1,000
Refund Amount (by 8/30/24)	\$750	\$525
Multimodality discount if certified by CBCMR or CBNC.	\$50	\$50
Incomplete/Incorrect Application Fee	\$75	\$75

Apply Early!
You'll Improve Your Chances of Obtaining Your Preferred Test Center Location and Appointment Time.

APCA and the CBCCT do not discriminate against any person on the basis of age, gender, sexual orientation, race, religion, national origin, medical condition, physical disability or marital status.

Additional Resources

Visit and bookmark [APCA.org/CBCCT](https://www.apca.org/CBCCT) to find the following:

- **Apply for an Examination**
- **Prepare for an Examination**
- **Schedule an Examination**
- **Examination Content Outlines**
- **CBCCT Tutorial and Resources**
- **Scoring Information**
- **Rules and Policies**
- **Eligibility Details and Documentation Templates**
- **Compliance and Legal Information**



APCA and the CBCCT reserve the right to make changes in policies and procedures from year to year, including eligibility requirements and fees.

Information in this "How to Apply Guide" supersedes the information in any prior edition or Candidate Bulletin. Earlier versions of this publication may contain outdated information.

Learn more at

[APCA.org/CBCCT](https://www.apca.org/CBCCT) • 240-631-8151 • CBCCT@inteleos.org

