



AMERICAN BOARD OF CRIMINALISTICS

FIELD TESTING OF THE NEW BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE SCREENING EXAM FORENSIC DNA EXAM

Starting at the 2020 AAFS Meeting in Anaheim, CA, the ABC will begin the process of field testing two new Certification Exams: the Biological Evidence Screening Exam and the Forensic DNA Exam.

Biological Evidence Screening Exam

Qualifications:

The Applicant must possess a minimum of an earned baccalaureate degree, or equivalent, in a natural science (e.g. chemical, physical, or biological science) or forensic science from an accredited institution. Accredited institutions are those approved by regional accrediting commissions recognized by the U.S. Office of Education or foreign equivalent, and other institutions approved by the American Board of Criminalistics Board of Directors.

Experience:

Applicant must be currently working for a FSSP* (Forensic Science Service Provider) performing biological evidence screening.

Applicant must have been authorized to perform forensic casework in the field of biological evidence screening. Authorization must be obtained from a FSSP. Applicant must have a minimum of one year, full-time or equivalent, experience performing independent casework for a FSSP in biological evidence screening. Experience must be obtained after being authorized to perform forensic casework in the field of biological evidence screening.

*A FSSP, as defined by the National Commission on Forensic Sciences, is a forensic science service provider having at least one full-time analyst (however named) who examines physical evidence in criminal and/or investigative matters and provides reports or opinion testimony with respect to such evidence in United States courts of law. Forensic science service provider is used interchangeably with forensic laboratory.



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Forensic DNA Exam

Qualifications:

The Applicant must possess a minimum of an earned baccalaureate degree, or equivalent, in a natural science (e.g. chemical, physical, or biological science) or forensic science from an accredited institution. Accredited institutions are those approved by regional accrediting commissions recognized by the U.S. Office of Education or foreign equivalent, and other institutions approved by the American Board of Criminalistics Board of Directors.

Experience:

Applicant must be currently working for a FSSP (Forensic Science Service Provider) performing DNA analysis and interpretation.

Applicant must have been authorized to perform forensic casework in the field of DNA analysis, including interpretation. Authorization must be obtained from a FSSP.

Applicant must have a minimum of one year, full-time or equivalent, experience performing independent casework for a FSSP in DNA analysis and interpretation. Experience must be obtained after being authorized to perform forensic casework in the field of DNA analysis and interpretation.

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The Process

This will be an extensive process, as the ABC is following ISO/IEC 17024 for validating these certification exams. The ISO/IEC 17024 process requires a minimum number of test takers that is equal to the number of questions on each exam. Once that minimum has been achieved, the certification exams will be analyzed using psychometrics (the science of measuring mental capacities and processes - dictionary.com), and cut scores determined.



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The ABC plans to continue to field test these two new certification exams at regional meetings and forensic biology meetings over the upcoming year until the required number of exam test takers is achieved, at which time the evaluation described above will start. Therefore, it will be some time before you are notified about your results of the exams.

At this point, the ABC plans to continue field testing:

- California Association of Criminalists meeting in late April/early May 2020.
- Mid-Atlantic Association of Forensic Scientists meeting in May 2020
- STAY TUNED FOR OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

Application

If you are interested in sitting for one or both of these field test certification exams at the AAFS meeting, please complete and submit an [application](#) by US Mail to the ABC Registrar. Applications for the AAFS sitting (February 19, 2020 in Anaheim, California) must be received by January 15, 2020. **The \$250 sitting fee is waived for participation in the field tests.** Once other testing sites and dates are identified, this website will be updated with new application deadlines. Generally, the application deadline will be approximately 30 days prior to the date of the sitting.

Outcome

If you are notified you passed one or both of the field test certification exams, you will have to pay the \$50 application fee to become certified. You will then be certified if you successfully complete the credentialing process ([certification eligibility](#)).

If you are notified that you did not successfully completed a field test certification exam, no personal identifying information will be retained to indicate that you sat for that ABC field test.



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Certification Scheme

The final certification schemes for each exam are in the processing of being finalized. Check the [ABC website](#) regularly for updates.

Study Guides

Links to the study guides for each of the field test certification exam are being finalized and will be posted on the [ABC website](#) soon. The study guides include the knowledge/skill areas for each exam associated with the tasks that use those knowledge skills and the references that should be studied for successful preparation.

If you have any additional questions, please contact the [ABC Registrar](#).