



Recertification FAQs

Q: When does my certificate expire?

A: All UCNS certificates are time-limited, and expire on December 31 following the tenth anniversary of the date of issuance.

Q: When do I have to recertify?

A: Ordinarily, you would sit for the recertification examination offered in the year your certificate expires. However, if no certification examination is offered in the year your certificate expires, you will need to take the examination offered in the year prior to avoid a lapse in certification.

Q: I have a lifetime certificate from an ABMS board. Do I still need to meet UCNS recertification requirements?

A: Yes. Even though you hold a lifetime ABMS certificate, you must still meet the UCNS recertification requirements to remain certified.

Q: What steps should I take to keep up with my recertification requirements?

A: All diplomates must maintain a current, active, valid, unrestricted, and unqualified license to practice medicine, continue to be a diplomate in good standing in the primary specialty of the ABMS member board or the RCPSC that was required for eligibility at the time of initial UCNS certification, and earn 300 *AMA PRA Category 1 CME™* during their 10-year certification cycle, 60 (20%) of which must be related to the diplomate's subspecialty. All CMEs must be earned in your 10-year certification cycle. Diplomates must also take and pass a UCNS recertification examination.

Q: I am enrolled in an ABMS member board's recertification program, which requires completion of CME. Can I use those CME hours towards meeting my UCNS CME requirements?

A: Yes; however, at least 20% of those CMEs must be specific to your UCNS subspecialty certification(s).

Q: I have to take my recertification exam early to avoid a lapse in certification. Do I need to meet the CME requirements at the time I apply or do I have until the expiration date of my certificate?

A: You are encouraged to submit all CMEs at the time of application however, it is not required. Please be aware that UCNS will not release your exam results to you until all CME requirements are met. All CMEs must be earned prior to the expiration of your current certification.

Q: I was certified prior to 2011. Do I need to submit 300 CMEs for recertification?

A: No. Diplomates certified prior to the implementation of the recertification policy on January 1, 2011, have prorated CME requirements. A phase-in timetable with the prorated CME requirements is posted on your subspecialty certification page on the UCNS website.

Q: How does a candidate apply for recertification?

A: Candidates who wish to sit for an examination must complete the online application, submit a report showing her/his CMEs, and pay the examination fee. A finalized application must be submitted and payment must be received no later than the application deadline date for an application to be reviewed.

Q: What are the fees for recertification?

A: The total fee for recertification is \$1500. This fee is comprised of a \$600 nonrefundable application fee and a \$900 examination fee. UCNS accepts Visa, MasterCard, American Express, checks, and money orders for payment. Fees are subject to change.

Q: What content is covered on the examination?

A: The content outline covered on the examination can be found on each subspecialty certification page of the UCNS website.

Q: How is the examination administered?

A: All examinations are taken on a computer at an approved Pearson VUE test center. Recertification examinations consist of 150 multiple-choice questions. All examinations must be completed within four hours with the exceptions of Neurocritical Care and Neuroimaging, which must be completed within five hours.

Q: How am I notified of my results?

A: All candidates will be notified of their results by mail only. Results are mailed out approximately eight to ten weeks after the exam. Results will not be given via phone, fax, or e-mail. All candidates will receive a detailed score report showing any areas of strength and weakness.

Q: Once I am recertified, when will my new certification expire?

A: After you have met the recertification requirements, which includes successfully passing the recertification examination, you will be issued a new certificate valid for ten years after the year of issuance.

Q: What if I fail my recertification examination? Will I still be certified?

A: You will only remain certified until December 31 in the year your certificate expires. After that, your certificate will no longer be valid. Please refer to the recertification reinstatement policy for details on reinstating your certification.

Q: I let my UCNS certification lapse. Can I still be recertified?

A: Yes. Different options are available depending on how much time has passed since the expiration of your certificate. If recertification is not completed within four years, your certification lapses permanently. Please refer to the reinstatement policy for more details.

For more information visit:
www.ucns.org

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