



Certification FAQs

Q: What certification examinations does UCNS offer?

A: UCNS currently offers certification examinations in the subspecialties of Autonomic Disorders, Behavioral Neurology & Neuropsychiatry, Clinical Neuromuscular Pathology, Geriatric Neurology, Headache Medicine, Neural Repair and Rehabilitation, Neurocritical Care, Neuroimaging, and Neuro-oncology.

Q: Why should I pursue UCNS certification in my subspecialty area?

A: UCNS certification is the measure of expertise in your chosen subspecialty. Certification demonstrates to your peers, employers, and patients that you have fulfilled a set of standards and requirements that sets you apart as a leader in your field. Through certification, you have proven a commitment to your profession and to maintaining the knowledge necessary to provide quality patient care.

Q: How is UCNS certification different from ABMS subspecialty certification?

A: The UCNS provides certification for emerging neurologic subspecialties that are too small to meet the subspecialty recognition requirements of the ABMS. Recognizing that a certifiable measure of competence and knowledge of physicians in a subspecialty area is no less important for growing subspecialties, the UCNS was created in 2003 as a nonprofit organization that can provide a means for these subspecialties to develop the standards and certify the expertise of physicians practicing in these areas of medicine.

Q: What are the examination eligibility requirements to become UCNS-certified?

A: All applicants must be a diplomate in good standing of their primary ABMS specialty or have equivalent certification by the RCPC as defined in the subspecialty's general eligibility criteria. Applicant must hold a current, active, valid, unrestricted, and unqualified license to practice medicine in at least one jurisdiction in the United States, its territories, or Canada. An applicant must meet specific eligibility pathways as outlined in the "Eligibility Criteria and Information for Applicants" document that can be found on each subspecialty's certification page on the UCNS website.

Q: What are the fees for initial certification?

A: The total fee for initial certification is \$1700. This fee is comprised of a \$680 nonrefundable application fee and a \$1020 examination fee. UCNS accepts Visa, MasterCard, American Express, checks, and money orders for payment. Fees are subject to change.

Q: Where do I find the certification examination schedule?

A: All UCNS subspecialty [certification examination schedules](#) are available on the UCNS website.

Q: How does a candidate apply to sit for an examination?

A: Candidates who wish to sit for an examination must [request logon information](#) to complete the online application. A finalized application must be submitted and payment received no later than the application deadline date for an application to be reviewed.

Q: How are applications approved?

A: An internal review is first conducted by staff to ensure the application is complete. Applications are then reviewed by the UCNS [Certification Council](#) to verify the eligibility of each applicant. All applicants will receive an email notification confirming whether their application has been approved or denied. Those who are approved will also receive Pearson VUE examination registration instructions included with their notification email. Incomplete applications or applications without payment will not be forwarded to the Certification Council for review.

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. Initial examinations consist of 200 multiple-choice questions. All examinations must be completed within four hours with the exceptions of Clinical Neuromuscular Pathology, 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 areas of strength and weakness.

Q: What if I fail my exam?

A: Applicants who fail their initial examination may repeat the examination up to two additional times. All reexamination attempts must occur within six years of the initial examination attempt. All reexamination applicants must submit a new application and supporting documents, which includes copies of all medical licenses and letters of support, and pay the reexamination fee.

Q: Does certification expire?

A: All UCNS certificates are time-limited, and expire on December 31 following the tenth anniversary of the date of issuance. Criteria for recertification are outlined in the [UCNS Recertification Policies](#).

Q: How can I verify if someone is certified?

A: A list of all [UCNS diplomates](#) can be found on the UCNS website. Please contact UCNS at 612-928-6399 or applications@ucns.org if written verification is required.

For more information visit:
www.ucns.org

UCNS Staff Contacts:

Todd Bulson, Senior Manager, Certification, (612) 928-6067, tbulson@ucns.org
Becky Swanson, Executive Assistant, (612) 928-6050, bswanson@ucns.org