

2026 APPLIED Exam Registration - Frequently Asked Questions

When does the designated APPLIED Exam registration window close?

The designated registration window will open Aug. 27 and remain open through Sept. 24. Candidates will be able to register for the exam via a link in their ABA GO dashboard.

How will I know if I am eligible to register?

Eligible candidates will receive direct email communications from the ABA regarding registration and will be able to register via a link in their ABA GO dashboard Aug. 27-Sept. 24, 2025. To be eligible, you will need a passing ADVANCED Exam score. If you have not received an email regarding 2026 APPLIED Exam registration, please contact us at coms@theaba.org to verify your candidate status.

Why has the ABA converted from a continuous registration model to a designated registration window?

Switching to a designated registration window mirrors standard ABA protocol for all other exams and allows a fair registration process for all eligible candidates.

What if I'm not able to get online as soon as registration opens?

Switching to a designated registration window gives candidates a full month-long opportunity to have equal access to all exam weeks. Eligible candidates will have Aug. 27-Sept. 24, 2025, to lock in their registration for the 2026 administration year, and there is no need to register as soon as registration opens. Registration timing will have no bearing on exam week assignments as this is not a first-come, first-served model.

What if I miss the registration window?

All eligible candidates who complete their registration during the Aug. 27-Sept. 24 window will be guaranteed an exam appointment in the 2026 administration year. A second registration window will be open in early 2026 to allow eligible candidates, including those who pass the January 2026 ADVANCED Exam and 2025 Week 5 and 6 candidates who do not pass one or both components, an opportunity to register.

How will you prioritize exam week assignments based on rankings?

Registering candidates will be able to rank-order their preference for all six administration weeks. Once the registration window closes Sept. 24, 2025, we will sort candidates' rankings into a system and exam week assignments will be randomized according to this data. While we will do our best to accommodate preferences, we cannot guarantee a candidate's top choices.

I'm registered. What's next?

Once your registration has been received, your submission is unable to be changed, edited or resubmitted. You can view your week rankings at any time in your ABA GO portal dashboard by clicking 'view' beside your APPLIED Exam registration and then 'Ranked Choice Selection.'

Exam week assignments will be emailed to registered candidates in late November. Your official exam date and time will be emailed to you approximately two months before your exam week.

Can I change my exam week once it's been assigned to me?

If you have a medical or military reason and can provide independent documentation to be approved by APPLIED Exam staff, you may request one exam week change, free of charge, pending availability. To request an exam week change, please email APPLIEDExam@theaba.org.

If you do not have a medical or military reason and cannot provide independent documentation, you will be required to pay the full exam cancellation fee. All electronic payments are nonrefundable.

I'm a fellow. Will I be given priority on the spring dates so I can take my subspecialty exam?

We now offer an exception for candidates seeking ABA initial certification who are enrolled in an ACGME-accredited fellowship program and who are scheduled to take the APPLIED Exam in the year in which they are registering to take an ABA-administered (ACA, CCM, PA, PM) subspecialty certification examination. The results of a subspecialty certification examination taken under this policy exception will only be validated if the candidate is awarded ABA certification in the specialty of anesthesiology prior to their duration of candidate status expiring. For more information about this policy exception, click [here](#) to review section 5.10A of our Policy Book.

How do I request the use of medical devices, medicine or mobility devices during my exam?

If you are requesting the use of medical devices, medicine, or mobility devices (i.e. insulin pump, nitro glycerin pills, inhaler, hearing aids, medical bracelet, canes, wheelchairs, etc.), you will need to email APPLIEDExam@theaba.org at least two weeks prior to the first day of your assigned exam week with the specific medical device, medicine, or mobility device you will need during your exam.

I'm a nursing mother. How do I request accommodations?

If you are a nursing mother, you may request an additional 45 minutes of break time be added to the standard 15-minute break between components. This policy applies only to candidates who are taking both components of the APPLIED Exam.

If you need nursing mother accommodations, you will submit your nursing mother request between 90 and 120 days prior to the first day of your assigned exam week. You can view all nursing mother request deadlines on [our website](#).