

2026 APPLIED Exam - February Registration Window Frequently Asked Questions

When is the February 2026 APPLIED Exam registration window?

The February registration window for the 2026 administration year will open Feb. 13 and remain open through Feb. 27. Candidates will be able to register for the exam via a link in their ABA GO dashboard and will have the entire two-week window to lock in their registration for the 2026 administration year.

How will I know if I am eligible to register?

To be eligible to register for the APPLIED Exam, you will need to receive a passing score on the ADVANCED Exam. Eligible candidates will receive direct email communications from the ABA regarding registration. If you have not received an email regarding 2026 APPLIED Exam registration, please contact us at coms@theaba.org to verify your candidate status.

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

Eligible candidates will have Feb. 13-27 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.

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

If I missed the September registration window, will there still be spots available in all 2026 exam weeks when I register in February?

The ABA will save sufficient slots during Weeks 3-6 of the 2026 APPLIED Exam. We will do our best to accommodate all eligible candidates.

I took the APPLIED Exam in the fall of 2025 and did not pass a portion of the exam. Am I eligible to register for a 2026 exam week during the February registration window?

Eligible candidates, including those who pass the January ADVANCED Exam and 2025 Week 5 and 6 candidates who did not pass one or both components, will be able to complete their registration during the February window for the 2026 APPLIED Exam administration year.

How will you prioritize exam week assignments based on rankings?

Registering candidates will be able to rank-order their preference for all available administration weeks. Registration timing will have no bearing on exam week assignments as this is not a first-come, first-served model.

Once the registration window closes Feb. 27, 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 mid-March. Your official exam date and time will be emailed to you approximately two months before your assigned 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 of \$1,750. All online payments are nonrefundable.

A candidate who cancels or misses a scheduled APPLIED Examination for reasons not related to an unavoidable or catastrophic event will be prioritized behind newly eligible candidates for rescheduling purposes and will be guaranteed a new exam date within two years of the date of the cancelled or missed appointment.

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](#).

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

Fellows have a one-time opportunity for a policy exemption to register for an ABA-administered subspecialty exam (ACA, CCM, PA, PM), take the exam and bank their score before taking the APPLIED Exam as long as they are registered in the same year and currently enrolled in an ACGME-accredited fellowship program.

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 our Policy Book.