



ACVIM

As far as you want to go.

Examination Scoring Process Summary

Candidates frequently ask their mentors or ACVIM officers about how the pass point for the examination is determined, how the examination is reviewed and why it takes several weeks after the examination to get their final results. To answer those questions for you, we have put together this brief summary.

In the ACVIM examination process, both test development and test validation (rating) is guided by a psychometric firm that specializes in test development and evaluation for certification of professionals. The rating committee, which is separate from the examination committee, reviews and rates the examination prior to the examination's administration. This firm provides professional item writing training & Angoff rating (e.g. Criterion-Referenced cut score determination) training to the Examination and Rating committees, respectively. Once the examination is completed, this firm works with the Examination Committee and, using feedback from candidates, raters, and examination statistics, they correct questionable items from the examination prior to setting the pass point for those sections without fixed pass points, e.g. all multiple choice questions. The ratings from each Rating committee are then incorporated in setting the final pass point, based on the corrected scoring for all multiple choice examinations and other examination sections without set pass points.

Each examination committee meets by conference call with our psychometric firm in order to prepare their report for the Board of Regents, which presents the examination results, the statistical evaluation of the examination and the formal recommendation for a pass point. Those reports are then submitted to the ACVIM Board of Regents for review and approval. All ACVIM examinations undergo this rigorous review process each year, which typically takes 5 - 6 weeks.

We hope this helps to answer your questions about the process and why it takes several weeks for you to get your results.