

2025 ACVIM NUTRITION SPECIALTY EXAMINATION

Candidate Preparation Information

The information below is provided to help prepare for the Specialty Examination in Nutrition. Information pertaining to the exam schedule, administration, use of translational dictionaries, and special accommodation requests can be located on the Nutrition Candidate landing page on the ACVIM website: https://www.acvim.org/resources-for/candidates/nutrition

Exam Structure and Scoring

The Nutrition Specialty Examination is a conjunctive exam consisting of two sections scored separately. Exam questions may be a combination of multiple-choice questions and other item types (i.e., fill in the blank, selecting from a list, etc.), along with open-response (short answer) items.

- Section 1: General Principles of Nutrition and Practical and Clinical Nutrition: 100 points
- Section 2: Clinical Cases Management: 300 points

The pass points for the Nutrition Specialty Exam are recommended based on the minimal level of competence as determined by Nutrition Diplomates after rating the examination through the standard-setting process. The pass point is approved by the ACVIM Certification Council.

To become Board-certified, candidates must pass both sections of the Nutrition Specialty Examination. First-time candidates must take both sections, while those who do not pass both sections are only required to retake the section they did not pass. All candidates, whether taking the exam for the first time or retaking it, will complete the newly designed two-section examination. Candidates who first took the exam in 2024 only need to retake the sections they did not pass, whereas those who last took the exam in 2023 or earlier, and have therefore not yet taken the redesigned format, must complete both sections.

ACVIM has adopted a standardized scoring range for all certification exams. This change ensures greater consistency and transparency in score reporting.

The pass point for the Nutrition Specialty Examination is determined by a standard setting process where Nutrition Diplomates rate the examination based on the definition of the minimal level of competence or a statistical procedure called equating which is





used to adjust for any differences in the level of difficulty across examination forms. The pass point is approved by the ACVIM Certification Council.

For more information on scaled scoring, visit ACVIM Exam Scaled Scoring Information



