

2025 ACVIM NEUROLOGY SPECIALTY EXAMINATION

Candidate Preparation Information

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

Exam Structure and Scoring

The Neurology Specialty Examination is a conjunctive exam consisting of three sections scored separately Exam questions may be a combination of multiple-choice questions and other machine scorable item types (i.e., fill in the blank, selecting from a list, hotspot, etc.).

General Knowledge: 50 points

Radiology: 55 points

Clinical Cases: 145 points

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

To become Board-certified, candidates must pass all three sections of the Neurology Specialty Examination. First-time candidates must take all three sections, while those who do not pass all sections are only required to retake the sections they did not pass. All candidates, whether taking the exam for the first time or retaking it, will complete the newly designed three-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 all three 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 Neurology Specialty Examination is determined by a standard setting process where Neurology 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



