

2026 ACVIM SMALL ANIMAL INTERNAL MEDICINE SPECIALTY EXAMINATION

Candidate Preparation Information

This information below is provided to help prepare for the Specialty Examination in Small Animal Internal Medicine. Information pertaining to the exam schedule, administration, use of translational dictionaries, and special accommodation requests can be located on the [Specialty Exams](#) page on the ACVIM website

Exam Structure and Scoring

The Small Animal Internal Medicine Specialty Examination is a single-section compensatory exam with 200 equally weighted items. Exam questions may be a combination of multiple-choice and other item types (i.e., fill in the blank, selecting from a list, etc.), along with open-response (short answer) items.

The pass point for the Small Animal Internal Medicine Specialty Exam is determined by either a standard setting process where SAIM 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.

Starting in 2025, ACVIM adopted a standardized scaled score range to report scores for all certification exams. Scaled scores provide a uniform frame of reference based on the standard adopted by ACVIM of the threshold at which a candidate demonstrates minimum competency. The scaled scores account for variation among forms, so candidates are held to the same standard regardless of which form they take. Scaled scores are determined by converting the total exam score out of 200 possible points to a scaled score that ranges from **200** to **800**. The raw pass point approved by ACVIM is set to equal a scaled score of 600. A candidate needs a scaled score of at least **600** to pass the examination.

Address

116 Inverness Drive E., Suite 375
Englewood, CO 80112

Contact

TF: 800.245.9081
F: 303.231.0880

Website

ACVIM.org
ACVIMForum.org