

2026 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 [Specialty Exams](#) page on the ACVIM website.

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 equally weighted items.
- Radiology: 55 equally weighted items.
- Clinical Cases: 145 equally weighted items.

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.

The pass point for the Neurology Specialty Exam is determined by either a standard setting process where 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 50, 55, and 145 possible points, respectively, 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 each section of 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