



ARRT[®] EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS FOR OBTAINING CERTIFICATION AND REGISTRATION

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Purpose:

This document serves as the ARRT governing document for Examination Requirements, which includes ARRT policies related to obtaining ARRT certification and registration. In addition to examination requirements, ARRT has education requirements and ethics requirements, and these are addressed in the [ARRT Standards of Ethics](#) and the [ARRT Education Requirements for Obtaining and Maintaining Certification and Registration](#). The [ARRT Rules and Regulations](#) provides additional information for the education, ethics, and examination requirements.

Scope:

This document includes policies and processes that address the responsibilities to comply with examination requirements by individuals seeking to obtain ARRT certification and registration.

Intended Audience:

Individuals seeking to obtain ARRT certification and registration (e.g., students, medical professionals, R.T.s seeking to obtain an additional ARRT credential).



ARTICLE 1. INTRODUCTION

Candidates for certification and registration who meet all education and ethics requirements, and any other requirements set by the ARRT Board of Trustees, must pass an examination developed and administered by the ARRT. Satisfaction of all these eligibility requirements is necessary to obtain ARRT certification and registration.

The examinations shall assess the knowledge and cognitive skills underlying the intelligent performance of the tasks typically required for practice within the respective disciplines at entry level. The examination requirement has been part of certification and registration since The American Registry of Radiologic Technologists® (ARRT®) was founded in the 1920s.

This document provides information on the examination requirements for obtaining certification and registration. Additional information is provided in the *Rules and Regulations*, the *Education Requirements for Obtaining and Maintaining Certification and Registration*, and the *Standards of Ethics*.

The examination requirement, together with the education and ethics requirements, serve the public good by providing a basis for reasonably inferring that a certified and registered person is capable of performing the designated role in a professional manner.

ARTICLE 2. EXAMINATION DEVELOPMENT

Section 2.01 Link to Professional Practice.

The examination shall be demonstrably linked to tasks that are required for the designated role. This connection is established by basing the examination on a comprehensive practice analysis.

Section 2.02 Practice Analysis.

A systematic practice analysis documents the role to be credentialed, the knowledge required to perform the role, and the relative emphasis of the areas to successful role performance. The role is defined by the essential job tasks and published in a *Task Inventory*. The knowledge areas and the weightings are published in *Content Specifications*. The *Content Specifications* consists of a *Content Outline*, which is a compilation of knowledge areas that underlie performance of the job responsibilities enumerated in the *Task Inventory*. The weights assigned to the major content categories are derived from judgments of relative importance by subject matter experts.

For documents detailing ARRT's examination content specifications for individual disciplines, please review [ARRT's Examination Content Specifications](#).

The practice analysis also establishes the basis of ARRT's continuing qualifications requirements as described in the *ARRT Education Requirements for Obtaining and Maintaining Certification and Registration*.

For more information about practice analyses, as well as more detailed reports for numerous recent practice analyses, please review [ARRT's Practice Analysis Reports](#).

Section 2.03 Item Writing.

ARRT examinations are objective examinations that use selected response item types (e.g., multiple choice). Items are written by subject matter experts to assess the knowledge areas captured by the Content Outline included in the Content Specifications.

Section 2.04 Examination Form Development.

Examination forms are assembled from items designed to assess the knowledge areas and their weights in the Content Specifications.

Section 2.05 Standard Setting.

Outcomes on examinations are judged according to a passing score indicating the performance level at which candidates for certification and registration may be considered qualified to perform the designated role at an entry level for their discipline. The standard (also known as a cutoff score) shall be recommended by a panel of subject matter experts for approval by the ARRT Board of Trustees and shall be periodically updated.

ARTICLE 3. EXAMINATION ADMINISTRATION

Section 3.01 Sequence of Satisfying Eligibility Requirements for Certification and Registration.

All educational eligibility requirements must be met prior to participation in the examination. Candidates participating in the examination prior to completion of the educational eligibility requirements will have the examination score permanently canceled and the examination attempt will be counted as one attempt. Fees will not be refunded for canceled scores.

Section 3.02 Scheduling of Examination Administration.

The ARRT shall examine candidates for certification and registration at such times and places as shall be designated by the Board of Trustees.

Section 3.03 Nondisclosure and Subversion.

Applicants must agree prior to the examination that they will not disclose examination questions in any form, or their examination administration will be terminated. Rejection of the nondisclosure agreement results in termination of the examination administration. Violation of the agreement after accepting it may result in sanctions up to and including revocation of all ARRT credentials held and/or revocation of eligibility to obtain ARRT credentials.

Behavioral misconduct or irregularity (e.g., photographing items, retrieving a cell phone) observed during the examination or after the examination (e.g., disclosing examination content with other candidates) may result in immediate termination, score holds, possible cancellation, and being barred from future exams. In addition, statistical analysis of test responses can serve as grounds for score cancellation for the current and any previous exam.

Section 3.04 ADA Accommodations.

ARRT complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Appropriate accommodations shall be offered for candidates who demonstrate evidence of a professionally diagnosed ADA-qualifying disability, and whose disability results in substantial functional limitations that affect daily life activities as compared to most people.

Section 3.05 Failure to Appear for Examination.

If a candidate fails to appear for examination as assigned by the ARRT, and no rescheduling of the same has been authorized by the ARRT, the candidate will be assigned to a subsequent examination date only at the request of the candidate and upon payment of an additional fee and provided that all requirements for re-examinations are met (Article 4).

ARTICLE 4. RE-EXAMINATION

Section 4.01 Re-Examinations.

A candidate who has failed an examination may be permitted to take a subsequent examination upon payment of an additional fee and at such time and place as the ARRT may specify.

Section 4.02 Three Attempts in Three Years.

All candidates, regardless of when the initial application for certification and registration was submitted, will be limited to three attempts to pass an examination for certification and registration. The three attempts must be completed within the three-year period that commences when the candidate is determined to have met all other qualifications based upon the application submitted by the candidate. Individuals failing the third attempt or not completing it within the three-year period will be deemed no longer eligible and may regain eligibility only by repeating the eligibility requirements described in the *ARRT Education Requirements for Obtaining and Maintaining Certification and Registration*.

The Limited Technician examination consists of one core module (Patient Care, Safety, and Image Production) and up to five procedure modules (Chest, Extremity, Skull, Spine, and Podiatry); each procedure module correlates with one of the Limited Technician certifications. Candidates will have separate three-year eligibility periods for each Limited Technician credential that commence when the candidate is determined to have met all other qualifications based on the application submitted for that credential.

In the special case of the newly developed RPA to R.R.A. pathway, the total number of attempts to pass an examination for certification and registration will be limited to three attempts. The total number of attempts includes any previous attempts made by the RPA candidate prior to entering into the newly established RPA to R.R.A. pathway. Once eligibility is established through the newly established RPA to R.R.A. pathway, the candidate has three years to complete their remaining attempts and pass the R.R.A. certification exam.

The three-year rule to establish eligibility following completion of an RA educational program has been waived for RPA candidates in this special case. Individuals failing the third attempt will be deemed no longer eligible and may regain eligibility only by repeating the eligibility requirements described in the *ARRT Education Requirements for Obtaining and Maintaining Certification and Registration*.

ARTICLE 5. SCORING AND REPORTING

Section 5.01 Scaled Scores.

ARRT converts number right scores (i.e., raw scores) in all disciplines to a common scale such that a given scaled score on one form of the examination has the same meaning as that same score earned on any other form of examination for that discipline.

Section 5.02 Passing Score Criteria.

Examinees must obtain a scaled score of 75 or higher to pass.

In the special case of the sonography examination, candidates need an overall scaled score of 75 or higher, but also need a scaled score of 7.5 or higher in the abdominal procedures section and a scaled score of 7.5 or higher in the obstetrical and gynecological procedures section.

In the special case of the Limited Technician examination, candidates need to pass the core and at least one procedure module at the same examination event to earn their first credential. Once the core module is passed candidates only need to pass the procedure modules to earn additional credentials. Candidates need an overall scaled score of 75 or higher to pass each module of the Limited Technician examination.

In the special case of the Imaging Assistant, Magnetic Resonance examination, candidates need an overall scaled score of 75 or higher but also need a scaled score of 7.5 or higher in the MRI Screening and Safety Section to pass.

Section 5.03 Cancellation of Scores.

Scores for candidates for certification and registration that are cancelled for any of the reasons noted herein will not be available for later reporting. Fees will not be refunded for cancelled scores, and participation in the examination shall count toward the three examination attempts in three-year limit.

Section 5.04 Score Holds.

In cases where there is insufficient information as to whether a candidate was eligible at the time of completed examination administration, a hold shall be placed on the score until final eligibility determination is made. A finding of ineligibility shall result in score cancellation and the examination shall count toward the three examination attempts in three-year limit. A finding of eligibility shall result in release of the examination score to the candidate.

Section 5.05 Rescoring.

Candidates may request a rescore of their examinations upon appeal and payment of an additional fee.

ARTICLE 6. STATE LICENSING

Section 6.01 Licensing versus Certification and Registration.

ARRT certification and registration is not the same as state licensure, nor is state licensure the same as ARRT certification and registration. Eligibility for state examinations is determined solely by the state.

Applicants for state licensing are required to verify with the state entity in the state where they plan to work to make sure they meet their eligibility requirements.

Examinees meeting the passing criteria on a state examination are not eligible for ARRT certification and registration. Certification and registration is granted only to individuals who apply directly to ARRT and who meet ARRT's education, ethics, and examination requirements.

Section 6.02 Examination for State Licensing.

ARRT develops and/or administers certain examinations to candidates for state licensure under contractual agreement with the states. Through this contract, states notify ARRT when a candidate meets state eligibility requirements. After receipt of the testing fee, ARRT issues a Candidate Status Report, an ARRT-assigned ID number and dates of the examination window which are needed to schedule the test.

Section 6.03 State Licensing and Eligibility for ARRT Certification and Registration.

Passing an examination for state licensing purposes or being licensed by a state does not establish eligibility for ARRT certification and registration. An ARRT credential does not necessarily establish eligibility to work in a particular state.

Section 6.04 Re-Examination for State Licensing.

If a candidate fails the examination, does not appear as scheduled, answers no or does not respond to the non-disclosure agreement, or allows the 90-day examination window to expire or was turned away from the test center due to invalid IDs, they must contact their state entity for information on their re-examination process. Once the state has determined they are eligible for re-examination, they will notify ARRT.

Section 6.05 State Licensing Score Reporting.

Score reporting and passing criteria for examinations administered for state licensing purposes are determined by the state entity, not by ARRT.

Section 6.06 State Licensing Score Cancellation.

ARRT may withhold or cancel scores if there is evidence that the security of the examination has been compromised. Such action may be necessary even in the absence of evidence indicating that a candidate was knowingly involved in the compromising activities. ARRT expects candidates to cooperate in any investigation. Once scores are canceled, they are not available for reporting at a later date.

Section 6.07 State Licensing Rescoring.

ARRT permits rescoring for state licensure candidates who complete the Eligibility Appeal Request form located at <https://state.arrt.org>, with payment of a rescoring fee.

Section 6.08 State Licensing Examination Impact on ARRT Three-Attempt Limit.

Candidates for certification and registration who have previously been or who are currently state licensing candidates in that same discipline (e.g., radiography) will have the number of examination attempts as a state licensing candidate completed on or after January 1, 2010, counted toward the three-attempt limit.