ACADEMY
OF CLINICAL RESEARCH PROFESSIONALS

Academy Reports on 2018 Examination Performance

A total of 2,027 applicants applied to the Academy of Clinical Research Professionals (the Academy) for certification as a clinical research coordinator, clinical research associate, principal investigator, certified professional and project manager in 2018. Of that number, 1,860 were found eligible to test, 1,772 individuals tested at numerous computer-based testing (CBT) locations in more than 25 countries. During 2018, a total of 1,136 individuals were granted initial certification bringing the total number of individuals currently certified by the Academy to 13,370, and to 34,796 certified over the past 28 years.

The ACRP-PM (Project Manager) was launched in the Fall of 2018. At the end of the testing window, 135 already ACRP certified individuals obtained the PM. This certification is considered a sub-specialty. In order to take this exam, an individual must already hold one of ACRP's premiere certifications: CCRA, CCRC, CPI and/or ACRP-CP.

The following statistics are for each Certification programs administered in 2018:

Certified Clinical Research Coordinator (CCRC)
Total Number of applicants: 1090
Total Number of eligible candidates: 1026 *(not all eligible candidates actually test)*
Total Number of test takers: 974

2018 Certified Clinical Research Coordinator (CCRC) Program		
Form Number	8730031811	8730031821
Total # Candidates Tested on Form	441	533
% of Candidates Passing	73.7%	76.0%
Total Scored Items on Exam	100	100
Total Scaled Score Possible	800	800
Scaled Passing Point	600	600
Passing Point	71	71
Average Scores	76.68	77.06
KR-20 Reliability Coefficient	0.90	0.85
Standard Error or Measurement	3.86	3.89

Certified Clinical Research Associate (CCRA)

Total Number of applicants: 388

Total Number of eligible candidates: 373 *(not all eligible candidates actually test)*

Total Number of test takers: 336

2018 Certified Clinical Research Associate (CCRA) Program		
Form Number	8730061811	8730061821
Total # Candidates Tested on Form	154	182
% of Candidates Passing	43.5%	43.4%
Total Scored Items on Exam	100	100
Total Scaled Score Possible	800	800
Scaled Score Passing Point	600	600
Passing Point	73	75
Average Scores	43.5	43.4
KR-20 Reliability Coefficient	0.89	0.89
Standard Error or Measurement	4.22	4.17

Certified Principal Investigator (CPI)

Total Number of applicants: 42

Total Number of eligible candidates: 40 *(not all eligible candidates actually test)*

Total Number of test takers: 27

2018 Certified Physician Investigator (CPI) Program	
Form Number	8730091811
Total #Candidates Tested on Form	27
% of Candidates Passing	85.2%
Total Scored Items on Exam	100
Total Scaled Score Possible	800
Scaled Passing Point	600
Passing Point	72
Average Scores	80.04
KR-20 Reliability Coefficient	0.75
Standard Error or Measurement	3.62

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Certified Professional (ACRP-CP)

Total Number of applicants: 346

Total Number of eligible candidates: 57 *(not all eligible candidates actually test)*

Total Number of test takers: 289

2018 Certified Professional (ACRP-CP) Program		
Form Number	8730011811	8730011821
Total # Candidates Tested on Form	116	173
% of Candidates Passing	79.3%	76.9%
Total Scored Items on Exam	100	100
Total Scaled Score Possible	800	800
Scaled Score Passing Point	600	600
Passing Point	71	71
Average Scores	76.07	76.23
KR-20 Reliability Coefficient	0.84	0.85
Standard Error or Measurement	3.86	3.83

Program Manager (ACRP-PM)

Total Number of applicants: 146

Total Number of eligible candidates: 146 *(not all eligible candidates actually test)*

Total Number of test takers: 146

2018 Project Manager (ACRP-PM) Program	
Form Number	8730101801
Total #Candidates Tested on Form	146
% of Candidates Passing	92.5%
Total Scored Items on Exam	50
Total Scaled Score Possible	800
Scaled Passing Point	600
Passing Point	33
Average Scores	37.66
KR-20 Reliability Coefficient	0.51
Standard Error or Measurement	2.74

Explanation of Terms

Total Scored Items on Exam: the current examination length is 125 questions. However, 25 of those are pre-test questions. The pre-test questions are being evaluated for possible inclusion in an exam at a later date. Information on how candidates perform on those questions is being collected without the question affecting a candidate's score.

Total Scaled Score Possible: This is the highest score possible and represents a perfect score. The Academy uses a scaled score. Scaled scoring is a common practice among certification programs with multiple forms of the exam.

Scaled Passing Point: This is the score a candidate must receive in order to pass the examination. The passing score is a scaled score of 600. The score of 600 correlates to the number of questions a candidate must answer correctly, based on which form of the exam the candidate is taking. That number can differ from form to form. The number of questions that must be answered correctly is determined by evaluating the overall difficulty level of the exam. The more difficult the exam, the fewer questions a candidate would have to answer correctly in order to be assessed as having mastered the content. The Academy uses the Modified Angoff method to establish the passing point. The exam is not scored on a "curve" and there is not predetermined number or percentage of candidate that will pass.

KR-20 Reliability Coefficient: This is one of the most important program statistics. It indicates the reliability and consistency of the exam, or how well the exam distinguishes between candidates who have mastered the content and those who have not yet mastered the content covered. Professional certification programs strive for KR-20 results of 0.80 or higher. The statistics for the Academy's exams indicate a high level of reliability and mean that the exam is quite dependable for assessing a candidate's mastery of the information tested.

Standard Error of Measurement: The standard error of measurement yields an estimate of the average amount of error associated with a test score received on an Academy exam. A large standard of error indicates a significant amount of error can exist in the score received. The small standard of error for the Academy exams suggest that the Academy exams are a precise measure of the knowledge and skill required to carry out the role-specific duties of a clinical research coordinator, a clinical research associate and a physician investigator.

General Information about Exam Development

Each certification program is overseen by a Global Exam Committee made up of currently certified clinical research professionals who work with a professional testing agency, Prometric, to develop each exam. The exams for each program (CCRC, CCRA, CPI and ACRP-CP) go through several review steps by each Global Exam Committee before being released for test delivery. In addition, the passing standard is set by a diverse panel of currently certified clinical research professionals.

Currently, there are 180 active Subject Matter Experts (SMEs). SMEs are Academy certificants who participate in special training in how to write multiple choice test questions or participate in the Exam Committee for each program. In-person training is offered each year at ACRP's Global Conference and if possible, at a local chapter or virtually.

Every draft test question must be linked to a topic area found on the Detailed Content Outline (DCO) for a specific designation, as the Outlines are specific to each job role. Each question must also be referenced directly to a specific section of the ICH Guidelines E2A, E6(R2), E8, E9, E11, and the Declaration of Helsinki. References provide supporting evidence for the correct answer.

Pre-test items are used to collect data on the item before it impacts a candidate's score. Each exam includes 25 pre-test questions out of the 125 items on the exam. The Academy has set minimum performance standards for pre-test items which help determine whether the item advances to be included as a scored item on a future exam, must be revised and then pre-tested again, or archived.