

## Academy Reports on 2016 Examination Performance

A total of 1,671 applicants applied to the Academy of Clinical Research Professionals (the Academy) for certification as a clinical research coordinator, clinical research associate, or a physician investigator in 2016. Of that number, 1,596 were found eligible to test, 1,489 individuals tested at numerous computer-based testing (CBT) locations in more than 25 countries. During 2016, a total of 1,039 individuals were granted initial certification bringing the total number of individuals currently certified by the Academy to 13,170, and to 32,538 certified over the past 24 years.

The following statistics are for each Certification programs administered in 2016:

### **Certified Clinical Research Coordinator (CCRC)**

Total Number of applicants: 1087

Total Number of eligible candidates: 1047 *(not all eligible candidates actually test)*

Total Number of test takers: 985

<b>2016 Certified Clinical Research Coordinator (CCRC) Program</b>		
<b>Form Number</b>	<b>8730031501</b>	<b>8730031601</b>
<b>Total # Candidates Tested on Form</b>	530	462
<b>% of Candidates Passing</b>	77.2	79.2
<b>Total Scored Items on Exam</b>	100	100
<b>Total Scaled Score Possible</b>	800	800
<b>Scaled Passing Point</b>	600	600
<b>Passing Point</b>	72	70
<b>Average Scores</b>	78.96	78.09
<b>KR-20 Reliability Coefficient</b>	.89	.90
<b>Standard Error of Measurement</b>	3.73	3.74

**Certified Clinical Research Associate (CCRA)**

Total Number of applicants: 481

Total Number of eligible candidates: 444 *(not all eligible candidates actually test)*

Total Number of test takers: 413

<b>2016 Certified Clinical Research Associate (CCRA) Program</b>		
<b>Form Number</b>	8730061501	8730061601
<b>Total # Candidates Tested on Form</b>	196	187
<b>% of Candidates Passing</b>	46.4	47.96
<b>Total Scored Items on Exam</b>	100	100
<b>Total Scaled Score Possible</b>	800	800
<b>Scaled Score Passing Point</b>	600	600
<b>Passing Point</b>	74	75
<b>Average Scores</b>	70.11	72.38
<b>KR-20 Reliability Coefficient</b>	.86	.84
<b>Standard Error or Measurement</b>	4.20	4.10

**Certified Physician Investigator (CPI)**

Total Number of applicants: 113

Total Number of eligible candidates: 105 *(not all eligible candidates actually test)*

Total Number of test takers: 91

<b>2016 Certified Physician Investigator (CPI) Program</b>	
<b>Form Number</b>	873009901
<b>Total #Candidates Tested on Form</b>	87
<b>% of Candidates Passing</b>	73.6
<b>Total Scored Items on Exam</b>	100
<b>Total Scaled Score Possible</b>	800
<b>Scaled Passing Point</b>	600
<b>Passing Point</b>	76
<b>Average Scores</b>	79.30
<b>KR-20 Reliability Coefficient</b>	.85
<b>Standard Error or Measurement</b>	3.74

## 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) 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 Chapter. 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(R1), 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.