Cytometry Certification: Changes are Underway

Over the past year, representatives from the International Clinical Cytometry Society (ICCS) and the International Society for Advancement of Cytometry (ISAC) have been working with the American Society for Clinical Pathology Board of Certification (ASCP BOC) to create a new credential that will replace both the CCy certification as well as the ASCP BOC Qualification in Cytometry, QCYM.

The following are frequently asked questions and answers about the new cytometry certification and what will happen in 2017.

What is the title of the new certification?
The title of the exam is Specialist in Cytometry and the credential will be SCYM(ASCP)\textsuperscript{CM} or SCYM(ASCP)\textsuperscript{iCM}.

What is the timeline for the transition to the SCYM(ASCP) certification?
- June 30, 2017: Last day to take the current ICCE or QCYM examinations.
- July 1, 2017: First day that applications will be accepted by the ASCP BOC for the SCYM certification.
- October 1, 2017: First date for eligible candidates to take the ASCP BOC SCYM certification examination.

What is the difference between the SCYM(ASCP) and SCYM(ASCP)\textsuperscript{i}?
All examinees are tested with the same examination content and are provided the same content guideline and reading list. The differences between the (ASCP) and (ASCP)\textsuperscript{i} credential lie in the specific eligibility requirements that must be met. All applicants must meet similar standards for education, experience, and training.

Important Note: The application and recertification processes are the same for both U.S. and International applicants. To determine if you should apply for U.S. or International certification, review the eligibility routes below to determine which route applies to you. For complete U.S information, click here. For complete International information, click here.

What are the eligibility requirements for the SCYM certification?
The requirements will include a number of ways to satisfy the education and cytometry experience necessary for eligibility. Please see the eligibility requirements for the U.S. SCYM(ASCP) or International SCYM(ASCP)\textsuperscript{i}.
How do I become eligible for the SCYM examination?
Be sure that you meet all requirements below when submitting your online exam application and application fee.
- Meet the current eligibility requirements. Please see the eligibility requirements for the [U.S. SCYM(ASCP)] or [International SCYM(ASCP)].
- Choose the SCYM exam and route under which you are eligible on the online application.
- Have all required documentation completed.
  - You will submit all documentation after completion of the online exam application, including payment.

What will the content of the new examination cover?
The new exam will include both clinical and research application questions. The overall content of the exam will cover the following categories:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTENT AREAS</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>EXAM PERCENTAGES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INSTRUMENTATION</td>
<td>Principles of fluidic, optical, and electronic instrumentation</td>
<td>15 – 20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PANEL/EXPERIMENT DESIGN</td>
<td>Sample Source, Sample Integrity, Sample Preparation and Staining, Target, Sample State, Probe Types, Fluorochrome Selection, Spectral Overlap and Compensation, Assay Controls, and Assay Optimization</td>
<td>25 – 30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APPLICATIONS</td>
<td>Immunophenotyping, Functional Assays, Multiplex Bead Assays, Solid Organ Transplant, Stem Cell Analysis, Cell Cycle/DNA Ploidy, Rare Event Analysis, Microparticle Analysis, Fetal Hemoglobin Assay, Cell Sorting, and Imaging Cytometry</td>
<td>25 – 30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DATA</td>
<td>Data Standards, Signal Processing, Data Display, Gating, Statistical Methods, Common Data Modeling Techniques, Quantitative Cytometry</td>
<td>15 – 20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LABORATORY OPERATIONS</td>
<td>Quality Control, Assay Validation, Safety, and Laboratory Administration</td>
<td>10 – 15%</td>
</tr>
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The full content guideline will be available by July 1, 2017, on the ASCP BOC website.

Where do I go if I want more information about the SCYM certification?
Specific information about the SCYM certification will be available on the [ASCP BOC website] by July 1, 2017, when the application becomes available. You will be able to find all necessary documentation forms, a suggested reading list, and a content guideline. Please see the eligibility requirements for the [U.S. SCYM(ASCP)] or [International SCYM(ASCP)]. The first date to take the exam is October 1, 2017.

How will I apply for the SCYM examination?
You will be able to apply for the SCYM examination beginning July 1, 2017. In order to apply for the SCYM exam, you will first need to create an ASCP account. If you already have an ASCP account, please do not create a new one; log in with your current login information. Please note that creating an account and/or applying for an exam does not require membership in ASCP, it merely creates a record to which your application can be connected.

To create an online account, go to www.ascp.org/login and choose “Create New Account with ASCP.”

Once you have created an ASCP account:
1. Log in using your ASCP Customer User ID (8 digit number) & password.
   a. For login assistance please contact ASCP Customer Service at 1-800-267-2727
2. Scroll down to the BOC Activities box.
3. Choose Apply for Certification/Licensure/Qualification under BOC Products & Services
4. Click on U.S. Certification or International Certification depending upon your eligibility.
5. Follow the instructions to complete the online application. Make sure that you choose the correct route under which you are eligible.

Once I have applied, how will I get notifications about the status of my exam application?
All communication from the ASCP BOC will be sent to the email provided on the online application. Anytime the status of your exam application has changed (i.e. is determined Eligible, Deficient, etc.) you will receive an email notification with directions to login to your ASCP account and View Your Status.

Please note that it is your responsibility to keep your email address current. You can update your email address by logging in to your ASCP account and clicking on Profiles & Settings.

What is the application processing time?
Applications will be processed within 45 business days of receipt.

Where do I go if I want more information about the ASCP BOC testing process?
Detailed information about the application process and what to expect the day of the test can be accessed through the BOC website.

Where can I take the SCYM examination?
Visit the Pearson site for ASCP exams to identify a location that is convenient for you.

How do I schedule my examination?
Once your application and eligibility documentation have been approved by the BOC, you’ll receive an email notification to login to your ASCP account to view your Admission Notification. Verify all information on your Admission Notification for accuracy. This notice admits you to the exam within a three-month eligibility period. Then, follow the instructions to contact Pearson Vue to make your appointment within your three month examination period.
What if I do not pass the examination on the first try?
If you do not pass the exam on the first attempt you will need to reapply to retake the exam. This requires the submission of an online application and a new application fee.

How many times can I take the examination?
An exam can be taken five (5) times under one route for each certification category. A new application fee is required each time the exam is taken.

What will be required to renew the new SCYM(ASCP)\textsuperscript{CM} or SCYM(ASCP\textsuperscript{P})\textsuperscript{CM} credential?
To maintain the new credential, you will be required to participate in the ASCP Credential Maintenance Program, (CMP) every three years. This program requires the completion of 36 continuing education credits. Details and instructions for completing the CMP can be found at this link on the ASCP website: www.ascp.org/cmp

Where should I go if I have additional questions?
For the most current information about ASCP BOC processes, please visit www.ascp.org/content/board-of-certification.

More information will be shared as the process continues. Updates will be posted on the ASCP BOC, ICCS, and ISAC websites.
ASCP BOC https://www.ascp.org/content/board-of-certification
ICCS http://www.cytometry.org/web/index.php
ISAC http://isac-net.org/