

Certification Examination for Research Administrators



Candidate Handbook 2022

Application Deadline*	Testing Window
April 13, 2022	May 14- May 28, 2022
October 5, 2022	November 5 – November 19, 2022

***Applications will not be accepted after 11:59pm Eastern on this date**

Administered by:



1350 Broadway, Suite 800 | New York, NY 10018

www.ptcny.com/contact

COVID-19 Precautions

Please note that due to guidelines regarding COVID19, all candidates will be required to bring and wear a face mask or face covering while they are in a Prometric test center at all times, or your exam will be terminated. Both medical masks or cloth face coverings are acceptable. Masks with exhale/one-way valves are prohibited to use at the testing center, due to the lack of viral particle filtration provided by these masks. Masks with wearable technology are also prohibited. Any test taker that comes to the test center without a mask will not be allowed to test, marked as a "no show", and will not be eligible for a free reschedule. **All policies are subject to change.**

For more information, please be sure to check Prometric's website or [reach out to PTC](#).

- [Prometric COVID-19 Updates page](#)
- [Prometric Test Center Policies page](#)
- [What to Expect at the Testing Center page](#)
- [Prometric FAQ Portal](#)

Be advised: candidates must comply with all federal, state, and local mandates and guidelines.

Note: if you fall into any of the following categories, you will not be permitted to test until you no longer fit the criteria:

- Have been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the past 14-days;
- Have been exposed to someone diagnosed with COVID-19 in the past 14-days;
- Are experiencing flu or cold-like symptoms; OR
- Have returned from travel to a highly infected area in the past 14-days.

Please contact PTC (www.ptcny.com/contact) if you fall into any of the above categories.

Effective September 1, 2021, if you are exposed to or diagnosed with COVID-19 or have any other health or medical condition, injury or illness such that you cannot test during your testing window, you will need to follow the transfer policies and fees as stated in the Handbook.

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This Handbook contains necessary information about the Certified Research Administrator® Examination. Please retain it for future reference. Candidates are responsible for reading these instructions carefully. This Handbook is subject to change.

CONTACT INFORMATION

<p>Professional Testing Corporation (PTC)</p> <p>www.ptcny.com</p> <p>(212) 356-0660</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply for examination • Obtain general application policy and procedure information • Obtain information about testing policies and procedures • Transfer to a new testing period • Request Special Accommodations • Request Hand Score/Duplicate Score Report • Question about score reports • Miscellaneous inquiries
<p>Prometric</p> <p>www.prometric.com/RACC</p> <p>(800) 741-0934</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schedule test appointment • Reschedule test appointment (within a testing period) • Cancel test appointment • Find directions to test site • Questions regarding testing sites and appointments
<p>Research Administrators Certification Council (RACC)</p> <p>www.racc-cert.org</p> <p>(303) 433-4446</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Body of Knowledge Review sessions • Eligibility Petition Form • Recertification Information

ATTENTION CANDIDATES

This handbook contains necessary information about the RACC Certified Research Administrator® Examination. It is required reading for those applying and taking the examination. All individuals applying for the examination must comply with the policies, procedures, and deadlines in this Handbook and attest to this by signing the Candidate Attestation found on the application. Please retain this handbook for future reference. This handbook is subject to change. See www.ptcny.com for handbook updates.

CERTIFICATION

The Research Administrators Certification Council (RACC) promotes the concept of voluntary certification by examination for all research and sponsored programs administrators. After passing this examination, an individual earns the Certified Administrator® (CRA®) designation. Certification is just one part of a process called “credentialing”. It focuses specifically on the individual and is one indication of current competence in this specialized field. Certification in research and sponsored programs administration is highly valued and provides formal recognition of basic knowledge in this field.

REASONS FOR CERTIFICATION

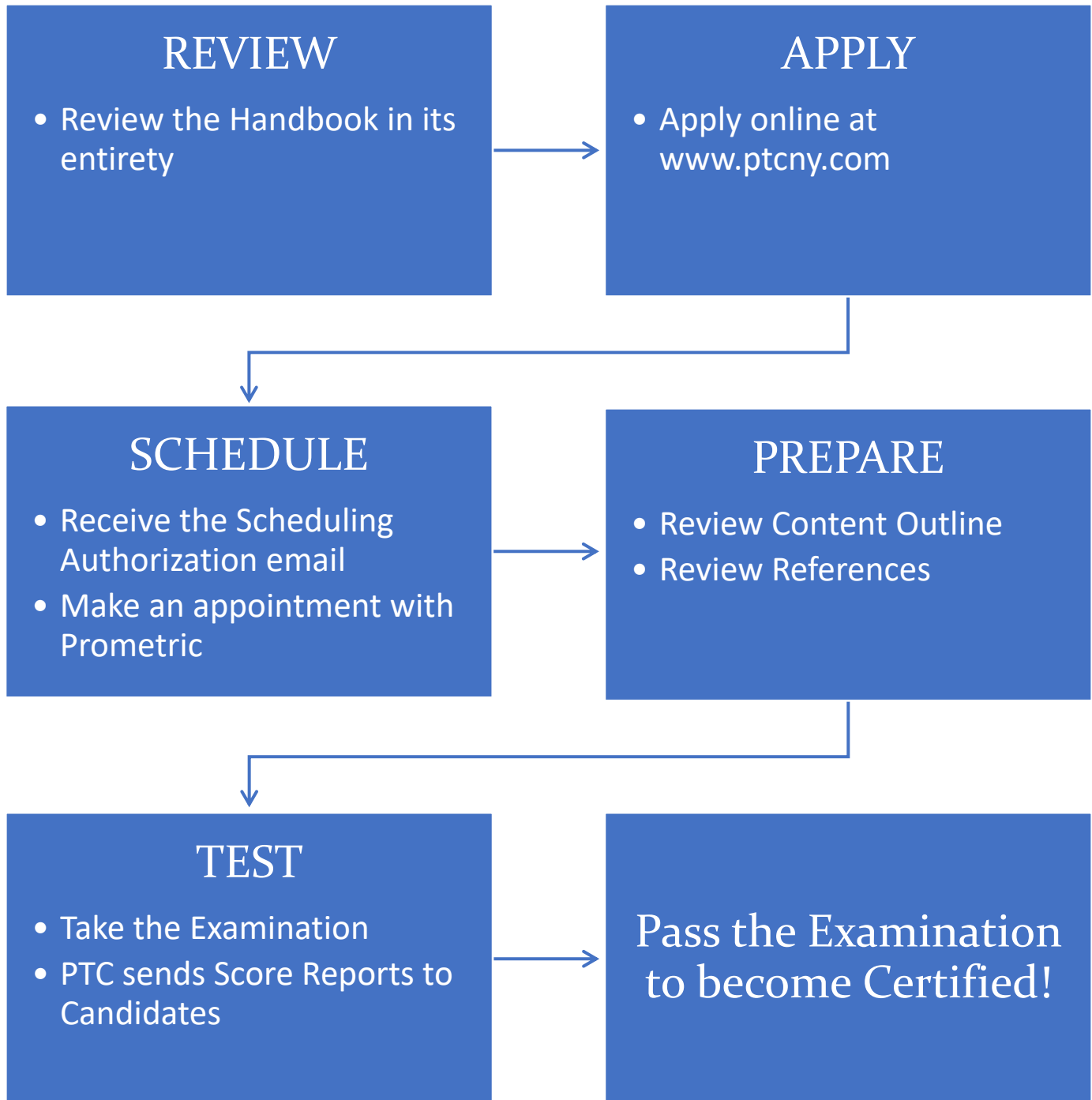
1. To provide documented evidence to a current or potential employer that an individual has been examined by an independent professional certifying organization and found to possess a certain level of basic knowledge of research and sponsored programs administration.
2. To provide personal and professional satisfaction of achievement of meeting established criteria indicating the attainment of a level of basic knowledge that is customary to be a professional in the field of research and sponsored programs administration.
3. To demonstrate commitment to the profession and to one's peers that an individual has taken the time and effort, beyond job experience, to learn the Body of Knowledge, thus exhibiting a significant responsibility to working in the profession of pre-award research or sponsored programs administration.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

1. Bachelor's or advanced degree and three (3) years of professional experience in research administration or sponsored programs administration either in a sponsoring or recipient organization or the equivalent in a self-funded organization;
OR
2. An Associate's degree and five (5) years of professional experience in research administration or sponsored programs administration either in a sponsoring or recipient organization or the equivalent in a self-funded organization;
OR
3. No degree and six (6) years of professional experience in the research administration or sponsored programs administration either in a sponsoring or recipient organization or the equivalent in a self-funded organization. *

*Petitions for approval of this option are available on the RACC website at: <https://racc-cert.org/cra-petition/>

THE CERTIFICATION PROCESS



COMPLETION OF APPLICATION

Step 1 – Complete Application

Go to <http://www.ptcny.com/test-sponsors/RACC> to view examination testing periods, application deadlines, and link to the online application. You must complete the examination application in full, using your name exactly as it appears on your current government issued photo ID such as a driver's license or a passport. Applications are not considered complete until all information and payment has been provided. The completed application can be submitted and paid for online. Retain the link to the application and your login information.

Please note, for new applications you will be asked to create a PIN number. This PIN will be used if you need to log back into your existing application.

Step 2 – Submit Examination Fee and Application for Review

Receive email from PTC stating that your payment and application has been received.

Step 3 – Receive Scheduling Authorization and Schedule Testing Appointment

Within eleven (11) weeks prior to the start of the testing period, candidates will receive a Scheduling Authorization from PTC via email from notices@ptcny.com. The Scheduling Authorization includes a PTC Candidate ID number and information on how to set up your examination location, date, and time through Prometric. Retain this document.

You must present your current driver's license, passport, or U.S. Military ID at the testing center at the time of your examination appointment or you will be refused admission. The name on the ID must exactly match the name on the Scheduling Authorization.

Applicants who are not approved to sit for the examination or whose applications are incomplete 21 days prior to the first day of the testing window will receive a refund of their application fee minus the \$75 administrative fee. Refunds will be processed approximately 30 days after the end of the testing period.

EXAMINATION ADMINISTRATION AND SCHEDULING

The Certified Research Administrator® Examination is administered during an established two-week testing window daily, excluding holidays, at computer-based testing facilities managed by Prometric.

Scheduling Authorization

PTC will send approved candidates an email called the Scheduling Authorization. These emails are sent out about 11 weeks before the first day of the testing window. The emails come from notices@ptcny.com. Candidates cannot make an appointment until they receive a scheduling authorization. If you don't receive your email 3 weeks before the start of your testing window contact PTC.

Scheduling Examination Appointments

The Scheduling Authorization will indicate how to schedule your examination appointment with Prometric as well as the dates during which testing is available. Appointment times are first-come, first-served, so schedule your appointment as soon as you receive your Scheduling Authorization in order to maximize your chance of testing at your preferred location and on your preferred date. **Candidates who wait until**

the last minute run the risk of missing out on their preferred date, time, and testing center. Candidates unable to schedule an appointment will forfeit their fees.

After you make your test appointment, Prometric will send you a confirmation email with the date, time, and location of your exam. Please check this confirmation carefully for the correct date, time, and location. Contact Prometric at (800) 741-0934 if you do not receive this email confirmation or if there is a mistake with your appointment.

Note: International candidates may also schedule, reschedule, or cancel an appointment online at www.prometric.com/RACC.

IMPORTANT!

You **MUST** present your current driver's license, passport, or U.S. military ID at the test center. Expired, temporary, or paper driver's licenses will **NOT** be accepted.

The first and last name on your Scheduling Authorization **MUST** exactly match the first and last name on your photo ID.

Fees will not be refunded for exams missed because of invalid ID.

Rescheduling Examination Appointments within a Testing Period

Candidates are able to reschedule their examination appointments within the same testing period as long as the request is submitted within the timeframe described below. Reschedule within the permitted time frame by calling or going to the Prometric website: www.prometric.com/RACC.

Time Frame	Reschedule Permitted?	Stipulations
Requests submitted 30 days or more before the original appointment	Yes	None
Requests submitted 5 to 29 days before the original appointment	Yes	Candidate must pay Prometric a rescheduling fee of \$50.
Requests submitted less than 5 days before the original appointment	No	Candidates who do not arrive to test for their appointment will be considered a no-show and all their examinations fees will be forfeited. Candidates will need to reapply and pay full examination fees for a future testing period.

Transferring to a New Testing Period

Candidates unable to take the examination during their scheduled testing period may request a **ONE-TIME** transfer to a future testing period. **There is a transfer fee of \$245.00.** After you have transferred once by paying the \$245.00 fee, you will need to pay the full examination fee in order to transfer a second time; so, ***please plan carefully.***

Please note: requests to transfer to a new testing period must be received within 30 days of your originally scheduled testing period.

Candidates wishing to transfer to a new testing period need to follow the steps below.

1. Go to <http://secure.ptcny.com/apply>.
2. Click “Start New Application.”
3. Choose RACC-CRA in the first drop-down menu; then choose the new examination period in the second drop down menu and fill out the rest of the information on the page.
4. Fill out the application making sure you answer yes to the question asking if you are transferring.
5. When you have finished the application, click “Submit Transfer Request.”
6. PTC Support will send you an email letting you know your transfer application was approved and that you can log back into your application and pay the one-time \$245.00 transfer fee.

Call 212-356-0660 if you have any questions regarding the transfer process.

If candidates are unable to attend the examination on the date for which they registered and elect not to transfer to another testing period the application will be closed and all fees will be forfeited. There will be no refund of fees.

The transfer fee is based on costs and is not punitive in nature. The transfer fee must be paid at the time the request is approved. The candidate is responsible for contacting Prometric and canceling the original examination appointment, if one was made.

Exams may only be transferred to a new testing period once; please plan carefully.

Please note: Transferring your Examination only refers to instances when a candidate is unable to take their exam during a testing period for which they have already applied. Candidates who did not pass their examination and are retaking the examination need to pay the full Examination Fee.

Failing to Report for an Examination



If you fail to report for an examination, you will forfeit all fees paid to take the examination. A completed application form and examination fee are required to reapply for the examination.

EXAMINATION FEES

Fee Type	Amount	Details
Application Fee	US \$395.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-refundable¹ Non-transferable Includes testing center fees Includes non-refundable \$75 administrative fee
Transfer Fee (Moving to a new testing window; see page 7)	US \$245.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applies to candidates who need to move to a new testing period Must submit new application & fee to PTC
Rescheduling Fee (29-5 days prior to scheduled appointment; see page 6)	US \$50.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applies to candidates who need to move their appointment within their current testing period Payable directly to Prometric Reschedule with Prometric online or over the phone



- There will be no refund of fees unless applicants are ineligible for the examination.**
- Ineligible candidates will be refunded their fees minus an administrative fee.**
- No refunds will be issued for applying for the incorrect examination or testing period, for failing to make an examination appointment, or for failing to appear at your scheduled appointment.**

Please be advised: Prometric does not have the authority to grant transfers to another testing period or refunds.

TEST ACCOMMODATIONS

RACC and PTC support the intent of and comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). PTC will take steps reasonably necessary to make certification accessible to persons with disabilities covered under the ADA. According to the ADA, an individual with a disability is a person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity (such as seeing, hearing, learning, reading, concentrating, walking) or a major bodily function (such as neurological, endocrine, or digestive system). The information you provide and any documentation regarding your disability and test accommodations will be held in strict confidence.

¹ Applicants who are ineligible to take the examination or whose applications are incomplete by the application deadline will have their examination fees returned minus an administrative fee.

All approved testing accommodations must maintain the psychometric nature and security of the examination. Accommodations that fundamentally alter the nature or security of the exam will not be granted. Testing arrangements may be made upon receipt of the Application, examination fee, and a completed and signed Request for Test Accommodations Form, available from www.ptcny.com or by calling PTC at (212) 356-0660.

This Form must be uploaded with the online application no later than 8 weeks prior to the start of your chosen testing period. Candidates who do not submit their Test Accommodations Form with their application may not be able to test during their chosen testing period and therefore be subject to rescheduling or transfer fees.

Only those requests made and received on the official Request for Test Accommodations Form will be reviewed. Letters from doctors and other healthcare professionals must be accompanied by the official Form and will not be accepted without the Form. All requests must be made at the time of application. Accommodations cannot be added to an existing exam appointment.

PREPARING FOR THE EXAMINATION

- Check your government issued photo ID (driver's license, passport or U.S. Military ID) when you make your examination appointment. Is it expired? Does the first and last name on your ID match the first and last name on your Scheduling Authorization email? Proctors at the Prometric testing center will refuse admission to candidates with expired IDs, IDs with names that do not match their records, and temporary paper IDs. Candidates will be marked as no-shows and will forfeit their exam fees.
- Check your PTC Scheduling Authorization email and Appointment Confirmation email from Prometric to make sure everything is accurate (i.e. your name, exam name, appointment date, time and location).
- Make yourself familiar with the location of your chosen testing site and any requirements they may have for parking and check the weather and traffic conditions before you leave for the testing center. Make sure you give yourself plenty of time to arrive as late arrival may prevent you from testing.
- In the event of inclement weather, check the Prometric website for site closures: <https://www.prometric.com/closures>.
- Prometric's website provides information on what you can expect on your test day, including a walkthrough of check in and security procedures: <https://www.prometric.com/test-center-security>.
- This Handbook provides the Content Outline for the Examination (see appendix). Use these to help you start studying for the examination.
- Review the Rules for the Examination before your appointment.

WHAT TO EXPECT AT THE TESTING CENTER

PTC has partnered with Prometric Testing Centers to deliver examinations to candidates. Here is what you can expect when you arrive at your Prometric Testing Center.

- Candidate Check-In
 - Candidates will be asked to present their IDs
 - Candidates will be asked to empty and turn out their pockets
 - Candidates will be “wanded” or asked to walk through a metal detector
 - Inspection of eyeglasses, jewelry, and other accessories will be conducted. Jewelry other than wedding and engagement rings is prohibited.
 - Religious headwear may be worn into the testing room; however, it may be subject to inspection by a testing center administrator before entry into the testing room is permitted.
 - Prometric provides lockers for candidates to store their purses, mobile phones, jackets, food, drinks and medical supplies.

- During the Exam
 - No breaks are scheduled during the exam. Candidates who must leave the testing room to take a break will not be given extra time on the exam
 - Candidates who take an unscheduled break are subject to additional security screenings before being permitted to reenter the testing room
 - Accessing mobile phones or study materials during the examination is prohibited
 - Smoking is prohibited at the testing center
 - All examinations are monitored and may be recorded in both audio and video format

Please keep in mind: other exams will be administered at the same time as your examination. Therefore, examinees may hear ambient noises such as typing, coughing, or people entering and exiting the testing room that cannot be avoided. Prometric is unable to provide a completely noise-free environment. However, headphones may be requested to minimize impact.

Please see [Prometric’s website](#) for more information about what to expect on testing day.

RULES FOR THE EXAMINATION

Please read the information below carefully. You are responsible for adhering to the examination rules while at the testing center.

- ⇒ You must present your current driver's license, passport, or US Military ID at the testing center. Candidates without valid ID will NOT be permitted to test. Temporary or paper copies of your ID will not be accepted.
- ⇒ No Electronic devices that can be used to record, transmit, receive, or play back audio, photographic, text, or video content, including but not limited to, cell phones, laptop computers, tablets, Bluetooth devices; wearable technology (e.g., fitness/smart watches), media players, pagers, cameras, and voice recorders are permitted to be used and cannot be taken in the examination room. Prometric provides lockers for your personal items.
- ⇒ No papers, books, or reference materials may be taken into or removed from the testing room.
- ⇒ No questions concerning content of the examination may be asked during the examination session. The candidate should read carefully the directions that are provided on screen at the beginning of the examination session.
- ⇒ Candidates are prohibited from leaving the testing room while their examination is in session, with the sole exception of going to the restroom.
- ⇒ Bulky clothing, such as sweatshirts (hoodies), jackets, coats, and hats (except hats worn for religious reasons), and most types of jewelry may not be worn while taking the examination. Proctors will ask you to remove such items and place them in your locker. Please see [Prometric's statement on Test Center Security](#) for more information.
- ⇒ All watches, including fitness/smart watches and similar devices, cannot be worn during the examination.
- ⇒ No food/beverages are permitted inside the testing room. Leave these items in your assigned locker.



Contact PTC at (212) 356-0660 or www.ptcny.com/contact with any questions about the Examination Rules.

Violation of any of the rules listed above may lead to forfeiture of fees, dismissal from the testing room, and cancellation of your test scores.

TESTING CONDITIONS OR EXAMINATION FEEDBACK

Any candidate who feels that the examination effort was negatively impacted by the test center conditions should notify the proctor immediately. The situation should also be reported to PTC at www.ptcny.com/contact within 3 business days of the test appointment. Any comments about the test itself should also be reported to PTC at www.ptcny.com/contact within 3 business days of the test appointment.

REPORT OF RESULTS

Test results are not released at the testing center but will be sent via email approximately one month following the close of the testing period. This is necessary to allow for the psychometric review and administrative time required to ensure accurate and reliable scores. Scores on the major areas of the examination and on the total examination will be provided. Successful candidates will also receive an e-certificate from the RACC via email.

Scoring Procedure

The passing score for the CRA Examination has been reviewed and approved by RACC and has been determined using a criterion-referenced methodology.

REQUESTING A HANDSCORE

Candidates who fail the examination may request a hand scoring of their data file. Hand scoring is a manual check of the data file by the testing service to determine if there have been any errors in scoring. Although the probability of such an error is extremely remote, this service is available. Requests for hand scoring must be received by PTC no later than 90 days after the date of the examination by completing and returning the Request of Handscore form on www.ptcny.com with payment of \$25. Candidates who fail the examination will not be permitted to see the examination questions. For reasons of test security, no candidate is allowed to review the examination or any of its items.

To ensure correct reporting of results, PTC automatically performs handscores of examinations of candidates who score within 3 points of passing as a quality control measure. Thus, it is extremely doubtful that any examination results will change from “fail” to “pass” through handscoreing.

CONFIDENTIALITY OF EXAMINATION SCORES

RACC/PTC will release the individual test scores ONLY to the individual candidate. Any questions concerning test results should be referred to RACC or PTC.

REEXAMINATION

The Certified Research Administrator® Examination may be taken as often as desired upon filing of a new application and payment of the applicable fee. There is no limit to the number of times the examination may be repeated.

ATTAINMENT OF CERTIFICATION & RECERTIFICATION

Eligible candidates who pass the examination will be certified for a period of five years, are eligible to use the designation CRA® after their names and will receive a certificate from the RACC. A registry of Certified Research Administrators® is maintained by the RACC and may be reported in its publications. Further information concerning the CRA® credentialing program and information regarding preparation for the examination may be found at the RACC home page, <http://www.racc-cert.org>. An annotated list of the CRA® Body of Knowledge may be found in the CRA® *Body of Knowledge* section of the website.

The CRA® designation is awarded for a period of five (5) years. At which time a CRA® must recertify for an additional five (5) years by one of two methods:

1. Earning 80 contact hours of education credits during the preceding 5 years, related to Research Administration along with creating 3 test questions, and submitting an online CRA recertification application.
2. Re-taking and passing the CRA® examination administered during the test window prior to expiration, only.

Reminders about recertification will be sent by way of email, beginning approximately three (6) months before the dates of recertification.

CODE OF ETHICS

Certificants are expected to practice and uphold the following principles in the discharge of their professional responsibilities. A candidate is required to sign the following statement as part of his/her application process:

I agree that I shall:

- perform my duties with honesty, diligence, and responsibility
- conduct myself free of personal and professional conflicts or the appearance of impropriety
- remain mindful as a steward of the funds I assist in requesting and managing have been provided fundamentally for the public good
- be prudent in the use and protection of sensitive information/data
- act in good faith promoting ethical integrity in all of our actions
- in public forums, maintain respectful communication about others in the profession

REVOCATION OF REGISTRATION

Certification may be revoked by the RACC for any of the following reasons:

1. Falsification of an application.
2. Misrepresentation of certification status.
3. Breach of existing ethical standards of professional practice.

An appeals mechanism for challenging revocation of certification is available.

CONTENT OF THE EXAMINATION

The Certified Research Administrator® Examination is a computer-based examination composed of a maximum of 250 multiple-choice, objective questions with a total testing time of four (4) hours. The content for the examination is described in the Body of Knowledge on the next page.

The questions for the examination are obtained from individuals with expertise in research administration and are reviewed for construction, accuracy, and appropriateness by the RACC.

RACC, with the advice and assistance of the Professional Testing Corporation, prepares the examination.

The Certified Research Administrator® Examination will be weighted in approximately the following manner:

I.	Collection and Dissemination of Information	44%
II.	Legal Requirements and Sponsor Interface	20%
III.	Financial Management	21%
IV.	General Management	15%

CRA BODY OF KNOWLEDGE

Current as of May 31, 2021

I. COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION

A. Research Development

1. Communication
 - a. Manage internal funding programs
 - b. Manage limited submissions process
 - c. Facilitate faculty contact with program officers
 - d. Read professional newsletters/updates
 - e. Read professional listserv postings
 - f. Read internal organization documents
 - g. Serve as liaison among various constituencies
 - h. Serve on an external or internal proposal review panel
 - i. Write/distribute a newsletter
2. Find Funding
 - a. Work with development officers
 - b. Identify and distribute funding opportunities
 - c. Manage electronic funding opportunity systems
 - d. Create an electronic funding alert profile
3. Obtain sample successful proposals
4. Identify potential collaborator opportunities

B. Proposal Development, Review, and Submission

1. Proposal Development
 - a. Obtain collaborator/sub-recipient proposal documentation
 - b. Read/review sponsor/application guidelines
 - c. Meet with project director/investigator for proposal development
 - d. Determine project director/investigator eligibility
 - e. Provide guidance and explanations of proposal requirements to project director/investigator/staff
 - f. Prepare a proposal budget
 - g. Write proposals
 - h. Assist project director/investigator with writing proposals
 - i. Generate administrative components of a proposal
 - j. Assist project director/investigator/staff with preparation of proposals
 - k. Respond to questions from proposal applicants
 - l. Complete agency forms and packages for electronic submissions
 - m. Complete agency forms and packages for paper copy submissions
2. Proposal Review
 - a. Justify sub-awardee cost
 - b. Review a proposal budget
 - c. Edit proposals
 - d. Request missing application materials
 - e. Ensure proposals meet grant application requirements
 - f. Conduct review of a proposal
 - g. Prepare internal proposal routing forms

- h. Provide institutional assurances, representations, and certifications for proposals
- i. Adjust application budget based on current salary cap
- j. Verify facilities and administrative rate and associated base/exclusions for grantee
- k. Follow up on missing information needed by sponsors
- 3. Proposal Submission
 - a. Approve a proposal for submission
 - b. Obtain necessary institutional approvals for submissions
 - c. Act as authorized institutional signatory for proposal submissions
 - d. Submit proposals electronically
 - e. Submit paper copies of proposals
 - f. Prepare overnight and other packages for delivery
- 4. Compile institutional proposal data and enter into database
- 5. Enter proposal data into financial
- 6. Provide overall management of application process, including timelines and internal/external deadlines necessary for successful submission
- 7. Manage internal proposal record throughout the submission process
- C. Compliance
 - 1. Provide guidance on definition of human subjects research and possible exemptions
 - 2. Facilitate pre- and/or post-award site visits
 - 3. Alert investigators to potential regulatory non-compliance
 - 4. Monitor award reports and other deliverables
 - 5. Collect time/effort reports and review for accuracy prior to certification
 - 6. Monitor award progress
 - 7. Administer clinical trial agreements
 - 8. File invention statements
 - 9. Verify that awardee is not debarred/suspended
 - 10. Monitor research-related travel
- D. Subrecipient Monitoring
 - 1. Create sub-award agreement
 - 2. Negotiate sub-awards
 - 3. Monitor sub-recipients
 - 4. Respond to sub-recipient questions
- E. Account Management
 - 1. Request/establish an advance account
 - 2. Enter award data into financial system
 - 3. Establish an award account
 - 4. Manage award close out process

II. LEGAL REQUIREMENTS AND SPONSOR INTERFACE

- A. Research Ethics and Compliance
 - 1. IRB
 - a. Verify Institutional Review Board training
 - b. Attend Institutional Review Board meetings
 - c. Prepare Institutional Review Board reports
 - d. Maintain Institutional Review Board records

2. IACUC
 - a. Attend Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee meetings
 - b. Prepare and maintain Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee reports
 - c. Verify Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee training
3. Radiation Safety and Bio Safety
 - a. Prepare and maintain biohazard report
 - b. Attend meetings on biohazards
 - c. Verify biohazard training
 - d. Attend meetings on radiation
 - e. Prepare and maintain radiation reports
 - f. Verify radiation training
4. Export Control
 - a. Determine export control applicability
 - b. Coordinate compliance with export control regulations
5. Financial Conflict of Interest
 - a. Collect conflict of interest disclosures
6. Responsible Conduct of Research
 - a. Conduct responsible conduct of research training/certification and maintain those records
7. Sexual Harassment
 - a. Conduct sexual harassment training and maintain those records
 - b. Investigate financial or regulatory non-compliance allegations
 - c. Development corrective action plans for regulatory non-compliance
 - d. Assist in preparing protocols for regulatory committee
 - e. Develop research compliance plan
- B. Sponsor & Award Terms and Conditions
 1. Award Negotiation and Acceptance
 - a. Read sponsor policy statements
 - b. Review award terms and documents
 - c. Negotiate award terms
 - d. Review terms and conditions of an award with project director/principal investigator/staff
 - e. Accept and sign awards from sponsor
 - f. Apply or remove restrictions to notice of award
 - g. Coordinate legal review of awards
 2. Award Management
 - a. Review sub-awards
 - b. Request approval for foreign awards
 - c. Suspend or terminate an award
 - d. Process no cost extension requests
 - e. Submit revised budgets
 - f. Obtain sponsor prior approval for re-budgeting, effort reduction, and/or requisitions (when necessary)
 3. Prepare request for Application/Agency Program Announcements
 4. Read sponsoring agency newsletters/updates
 5. Read federal regulations
 6. Inform senior administration of new policies/regulations

7. Explain internal/external policy changes to project director/investigator/staff
- C. Intellectual Property & Technology Transfer
1. Write a non-disclosure agreement
 2. Write a material transfer agreement
 3. Identify and negotiate intellectual property issues in awards
 4. Collect intellectual property disclosures
 5. Notify sponsor/funding agency of intellectual property disclosed
 6. File a patent application
 7. Negotiate intellectual property licenses

III. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

- A. Audit & Compliance
1. Explain internal controls used to maintain compliance with internal and external rules and regulations
 2. Alert investigators to potential financial non-compliance
 3. Prepare for single audit
 4. Work with auditors
 5. Develop corrective action plans for financial non-compliance
 6. Provide copies of audit upon request
- B. Award Administration & Monitoring
1. Cost Sharing
 - a. Verify cost sharing
 - b. Monitor cost share funds
 - c. Request cost share account numbers
 - d. Review cost share plan to meet requirement
 2. Subrecipient Monitoring
 - a. Conduct a risk analysis of sub-awardees
 - b. Collect sub-recipient financial reports
 3. Compensation Reporting
 - a. Verify time and effort reports
 - b. Request/enter payroll allocation and corrections
 - c. Manage principal investigator and other key personnel effort on sponsored projects to ensure minimum effort requirements are met
 4. Financial Reporting
 - a. Review award budgets and enter into system of record
 - b. Request account numbers for new awards
 - c. Monitor financial performance of sponsored projects
 - d. Approve revised budgets
 - e. Respond to investigators' questions about allowability of costs
 - f. Respond to investigators' questions about availability of funds
 - g. Re-budget awards
 - h. Reconcile monthly financial statements
 - i. Manage internal discretionary and research spending accounts
 5. Manage components of a project director/investigator award transfer or relinquishment
 6. Respond to questions from award recipients

- C. Billing and reporting
 1. Draw down sponsor funds
 2. Prepare financial status reports
 3. Prepare and submit sponsor financial report
 4. Prepare invoices
 5. Approve invoices
 6. Monitor accounts receivable
- D. Facilities & Administration
 1. Prepare facilities and administrative cost rate proposal
 2. Prepare materials for external preparation of a facilities and administrative rate proposal
 3. Distribute facilities and administrative cost recovery
- E. Procurement
 1. Approve requisitions and journal vouchers
 2. Coordinate purchase of major equipment
 3. Monitor requisitions for accuracy and compliance

IV. GENERAL MANAGEMENT

- A. Human Resources
 1. Write job descriptions
 2. Serve on a search committee
 3. Interview project staff
 4. Hire project staff
 5. In collaboration with Human Resources, process personnel action forms
 6. Manage research administration staff
 7. Conduct performance evaluations
- B. Training & Professional Development
 1. Develop training materials
 2. Develop a research administration education curriculum
 3. Develop a research administration education certificate program
 4. Plan research related outreach functions
 5. Participate in professional development activities
 6. Lead training sessions
 7. Present at professional development conferences
 8. Network with colleagues on sponsored program issues
 9. Serve in a leadership role in a professional organization
- C. Institutional Service
 1. Form a committee
 2. Serve on organizational committees
 3. Provide award data for institutional needs
 4. In collaboration with appropriate departments, prepare a space allocation report
 5. Educate students about the research enterprise
 6. Serve as an institutional representative to an external organization
 7. Participate in misconduct investigation
- D. General Office Management & Procedures
 1. Answer general procedural questions
 2. Learn new computer systems and programs
 3. Manage equipment service contracts

4. Attend staff meetings
 5. Prepare minutes from meetings
 6. Maintain web pages and social media
 7. Perform general office duties
 8. Develop internal routing forms
 9. Develop internal reports
 10. Participate in the development of policies and procedure
- E. Contracted Services
1. Contract with outside grant writers
 2. Hire consultants to assist with proposals

SAMPLE EXAMINATION QUESTIONS

In the following questions, choose the one best answer.

1. Which of the following government publications serves as a comprehensive handbook of current federal government funding programs?
 1. Federal Yellow Book
 2. Annual Register of Grant Support
 3. Guide to Funding in Higher Education
 4. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance

2. Which of the following is NOT a recognized indicator that a college or university has an audit management system which evidences that the institution is well managed?
 1. Financial objectives, goals, and control procedures that are established and maintained
 2. Systems of controls that adequately safeguard and account for the assets of the college or university
 3. Systems of controls that adequately measure and ensure that resources are used economically and efficiently
 4. A process to confirm that appropriate purchased insurance and bonding provisions are incorporated into grant and contract documents

3. If a grant includes items of equipment which came to the grantee institution as part of the award, the grantee institution
 1. has legal responsibility for the equipment.
 2. is not entitled to use, retain, or dispose of the equipment.
 3. must transfer equipment if principal investigator leaves grantee institution.
 4. is required to have a maintenance contract.

4. Which of the following is the document which deals specifically with patent rights and responsibilities currently applicable to universities under federally sponsored projects?
 1. 37 CFR 401
 2. FAR 52.209-5
 3. OMB Circular A-110
 4. OMB Circular A-124

5. Which of the following is most closely responsible, on a day-to-day basis, for enforcement of the Federal Animal Welfare Act?
 1. Office of Human Research Protection
 2. Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
 3. Department of Health and Human Services
 4. American Association for Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care

ANSWER KEY	
Q	A
1	4
2	4
3	1
4	1
5	2

REFERENCES

The following references may be of some help in preparing for the examination. The list does not attempt to include all acceptable references, nor is it suggested that the Certification Examination for Research Administrators is based entirely on these references or that RACC endorses these publications. In some cases, individual experience is the best reference.

TEXTBOOKS

Beasley, K.L., et al. *Administration of Sponsored Programs -- Handbook for Developing and Managing Research Activities and Other Projects*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1982.

Belcher, J.C., and Jacobsen, J.M. *From Idea to Funded Project, Grant Proposals That Work*. Phoenix: Oryx Press, 1992.

The Foundation Center's Guide to Proposal Writing, 4th Edition, The Foundation Center, ISBN 1-931923-92-2. See also <http://fdncenter.org>

Getting Funded: The Complete Guide to Writing Grant Proposals by Mary S. Hall, Susan Howlett (Paperback - July 2003)

PERIODICALS

Research Management Review, Washington, DC: National Council of University Research Administrators (NCURA).

The Journal of Research Administration, Washington, DC: SRA International Executive Office.

MAJOR PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS' on-line sources with a broad range of information:

SRA International

<http://www.srainternational.org/sra03/index.cfm>

National Council of University Research Administrators

<http://www.ncura.edu/>

Council on Governmental Relations

<http://www.cogr.edu/>

Government-University-Industry Research Roundtable

<http://www7.nationalacademies.org/guirr/index.html>

Association of University Technology Managers

<http://www.autm.net/index.cfm>

SOME MAJOR FEDERAL FUNDING AGENCIES

See their Guides, Manuals, etc. available by drilling down from their home pages

DHHS: <http://www.hhs.gov>

NIH: <http://www.nih.gov>

NSF: <http://www.nsf.gov>

NASA: <http://www.nasa.gov/home/index.html?skipIntro=1>

ED: <http://www.ed.gov/index.jhtml>

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS (CFR)

2 CFR 220: Cost Principles for Educational Institutions.

2 CFR 215: Grants and Agreements with Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and Other Nonprofit Organizations: Uniform Administrative Requirements.

DATABASES/ONLINE SERVICES

www.grants.gov

www.fedbizopps.gov

ONLINE PRACTICE TEST

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A practice test consisting of 75 questions with a testing time of 2 hours taken over the Internet

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SCORE REPORT

After completing the online practice test, you will receive an instant score report showing test performance in each of the content areas. The score report does not provide correct answers or indicate which questions were answered correctly and incorrectly.

NOTE: The online practice test is an optional tool candidates may use as they prepare for the certification examination. While the practice test may help candidates identify areas of strengths and weakness, it should not be used as the only means to determine candidate preparedness or readiness to test. Since the practice test is NOT intended to be a study guide nor the sole source of preparation for the actual certification examination, candidates are NOT provided with the answer key, rationales for each question, nor notification of which specific items were answered correctly or incorrectly.

Though the specific questions that are on the practice test will not appear on the actual certification examination, it allows candidates to become familiar with the style of questions that may be asked. The instant score report received after practice test submission shows overall test performance as well as performance in each of the content areas. Candidates may find this information useful in determining future study needs. Once the practice test is scored, candidates cannot return to the test to review the questions. Performance on the practice test does not guarantee similar performance on the actual certification examination.

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The practice test is not a requirement for certification eligibility nor does it contribute in any way to success on the certification examination. There are many ways candidates should prepare for the certification examination. Candidates should use a variety of resources and consider their own education and experiences. Review the content outline and reference materials listed in the handbook for additional exam-related information.

CONTENT INCLUDED

- I. Project Development and Administration
- II. Legal Requirements and Sponsor Interface
- III. Financial Management
- IV. General Management

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