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**NORTH  
CAROLINA  
PATHOLOGY  
EXAMINATION**

**CANDIDATE HANDBOOK  
2022**





# Table of Contents

|    |   |
|----|---|
| 2  | <a href="#"><u>Introduction</u></a>                         |
| 6  | <a href="#"><u>Application Process</u></a>                  |
| 11 | <a href="#"><u>Scheduling Exam Date and Location</u></a>    |
| 13 | <a href="#"><u>Examination Day</u></a>                      |
| 22 | <a href="#"><u>Exam Appointment Issues</u></a>              |
| 24 | <a href="#"><u>Exam Results</u></a>                         |
| 24 | <a href="#"><u>Retaking an Exam</u></a>                     |
| 25 | <a href="#"><u>Achieving Licensure</u></a>                  |
| 26 | <a href="#"><u>Testing Accommodations</u></a>               |
| 28 | <a href="#"><u>Additional Exam Information</u></a>          |
| 30 | <a href="#"><u>Summary of Policies &amp; Procedures</u></a> |

*Updated for use December 23, 2021*

# Introduction

## About The Candidate Handbook

This Handbook serves as the primary source of information for those applying to take the North Carolina Pathology Examination. Since every situation and every circumstance cannot be cited in a document like this, other North Carolina Board of Funeral Service and International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards (The Conference) policies, procedures, and instructions may also apply.

This Handbook provides the information you will need regarding exam policies, eligibility requirements, application procedures and fees, exam scheduling, exam content and scoring, as well as your obligation to exam security. You are advised to periodically check our website ([theconferenceonline.org](http://theconferenceonline.org)) for any changes that may be made after this Handbook is published. Although The Conference gives candidates as much advance notice as possible when policies and procedures change, it is always your responsibility to make sure you are fully informed about the current requirements and policies.

The policies and procedures in this Handbook may be modified, amended, or canceled by The Conference at any time, with or without notice. This edition of the Handbook supersedes all prior policies or procedures as to the subjects addressed in it and all representations, oral or written. It is recommended that candidates utilize the web version of this Handbook on The Conference's website in order to access the hyperlinks and ensure they are reviewing the most up-to-date version.

The Conference recommends carefully reading and thoroughly understanding every topic in this Handbook, as candidates agree to the terms of this Handbook at time of application.

## About The Conference

The Conference is a not-for-profit voluntary association providing examination services, information, and regulatory support to funeral service licensing boards and educators, governmental bodies and other regulatory agencies.

### Vision Statement

To be the collective voice of the funeral service regulatory community and promote excellence in regulation through the sharing of best practices and the facilitation of open dialogues across all jurisdictions.

### Mission Statement

To be the premier source for examination services, information and regulatory support for the death care profession by continually monitoring the regulatory environment and providing services to meet the needs of our membership.

### Goals

1. Define and enhance the identity and the role of The Conference to increase stakeholder understanding.
2. Increase the effectiveness of The Conference through the development of the Board and staff.
3. Enhance and expand communication to member boards, associate members, and exam candidates for understanding the purpose of The Conference.
4. Expand and enhance The Conference member services to support the regulatory community.

### Contacting Us

If you have questions about a policy or procedure, please visit our website at [theconferenceonline.org](http://theconferenceonline.org), email us at [info@theconferenceonline.org](mailto:info@theconferenceonline.org), or call us at (479) 442-7076. The Conference office is open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CT. Any office closures will be posted on our website.



## Contacting You

The Conference's primary form of communication with you will be via email. It is your responsibility to keep The Conference apprised of your current contact information. If you do not have an email address, please contact The Conference office for updates.

## Privacy

For security reasons, before any information is released over the phone, the caller may be asked for identifying information. This security measure helps The Conference protect your information from being inappropriately released. Exam results are never released over the phone or through email.

# About The NC Pathology Examination

## Purpose

The North Carolina Pathology Exam is developed by the North Carolina Board of Funeral Service (NC Board). The purpose of the NC Pathology Exam is to provide an evaluation of an applicant's level of knowledge for licensure purposes. The exam is one of the elements used by the NC Board in making licensing decisions.

## Exam Structure & Content

The exam contains 50 multiple choice questions; 10 of these questions are non-scored questions that are being pretested for possible inclusion as scored questions on a future exam. Your performance on the pretest questions will not count for or against you. Only the 40 questions will count towards your score. The pretest and scored questions are presented together, in random order, on the exam so candidates should answer all 50 questions.

## Administration

The exam is a computer-based exam administered by Pearson VUE, the global leader in electronic testing services, at authorized high-security test centers located throughout all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Candidates may schedule their exam appointment at any of these centers, not just centers located in North Carolina.

The testing program will allow you to move freely through the exam, change answers, flag questions for later attention, skip questions, add notes, and review questions prior to ending your exam. Taking the exam requires little or no computer experience, and you will receive a brief tutorial to help you become comfortable with the program.

# Application Process

## 1. Application

Candidate reviews Handbook, ensures they meet all exam eligibility requirements, & submits exam application and payment.

## 2. Processing

The Conference receives application and verification of eligibility from the NC Board. The Conference processes application within 3 business days.

## 3. Authorization to Test

The Conference/Pearson VUE sends Authorization to Test (ATT) via email. Candidate must test within one year of application date.

## 4. Schedule Exam

Candidate may [schedule online](#) or call toll-free (1-800-709-0180), selecting time, and location.

## 5. Confirmation

Appointment confirmation is sent to the candidate via email. If needed, candidate must reschedule or cancel appointments at least 24 hours in advance (a \$25 fee is required if canceling/rescheduling within 30 days of your appointment).

## 6. Take Exam

Candidate will receive results at the test center and The Conference sends official results to the NC Board within 2-3 business days.

## Application & Eligibility Requirements

Before you submit an application to take the NC Pathology Exam, make sure you will meet the eligibility requirements with enough time to schedule and take your exam within your eligibility window. Otherwise, you will forfeit your exam fee, as all applications and payments expire one year from the application date.

### Eligibility Requirements

To take the exam, you must complete all of the following requirements:

- Thoroughly review the NC Pathology Candidate Handbook;
- Take Exam Security Quiz;
- Submit a complete NC Pathology Application;
- Pay the required exam fee;
- Acknowledge and agree to The Conference's policies at time of application;
- Meet eligibility requirements with the NC Board;
- Be certified as eligible to The Conference by the NC Board

## How to Apply for the NC Pathology Exam

Candidates can apply for the exam online (recommended) or by postal mail. To complete the online application, select the "Apply Now" tab on [theconferenceonline.org](http://theconferenceonline.org) and select North Carolina Pathology Exam during the application submission process. Online applications must be submitted with a credit card payment. Printable applications can be accessed on [theconferenceonline.org](http://theconferenceonline.org) and mailed with a money order or cashier's check.



## **Application Approval**

Submission of an application does not guarantee your eligibility to take the exam. Once your application is received and all eligibility requirements are completed, there is typically a three-business-day period to process your application and review your eligibility.

## **Authorization to Test**

After your eligibility is verified and your application is processed, The Conference will release an Authorization to Test (ATT) to its testing provider, Pearson VUE. You will receive an email confirmation of the ATT, which will include scheduling instructions and important reminders. If you do not receive an email, you may contact Pearson VUE or The Conference. Once you have an ATT in the Pearson VUE system, you will be able to schedule your exam, using your Social Security Number as your ICFSEB Candidate ID. Authorizations that are not utilized within one year from the original application date will automatically expire and the exam fee will be forfeited.

If you do not receive an ATT, it is likely that The Conference has not received your verification of eligibility from the NC Board. It is the candidate's responsibility to ensure their eligibility is submitted to The Conference.

## **Application/Authorization Expiration**

The Conference retains all applications and payments on file for one year from the original application date. After that time, the application, exam authorization, and exam fee will automatically expire. If an expiration occurs, another application, along with the appropriate exam fee, will be required for a new exam authorization. Refunds and/or extensions will not be given for unused exam applications/authorizations.

## Signature and Acknowledgment

Your signature on the application or submission of the application electronically means that you understand and agree to the conditions of the Candidate Handbook as part of your application. Specifically:

1. You acknowledge and agree to abide by all Conference policies and procedures.
2. You attest that you personally completed the application and the information contained in the application or in connection with your application is true and accurate. If it is determined by The Conference that any information provided to The Conference regarding your application is not true, falsified, or inaccurate, your application may be denied and/or your exam results may be invalidated. Member boards, including where you are seeking licensure, may also be notified.
3. You authorize The Conference to obtain additional information about your qualifications and application for testing.
4. You acknowledge and agree that sharing information about exam questions or content to others by any means (oral, written, electronic or otherwise) in whole or in part, can result in a denial to release exam results, invalidations of exam results, notification to member board(s), suspension from access to the all Conference exams and services, as well as legal action against you.

## **Exam Fees**

The current exam fee is \$110. All fees must be paid in U.S. (\$) funds by credit/debit card (online only) or cashier's check/money order (postal mail only). Fees are due at the time of application. As indicated on the application, exam results will be sent to the North Carolina Board of Funeral Service which is included in the application fee.

Exam fees are subject to change, so please check The Conference's website for the most up-to-date information.

Exam fees are subject to change, so please check The Conference's website for the most up-to-date information.

## **Exam Retake Fees**

Candidates who apply to retake the exam are required to pay the same exam fee of \$110, along with submission of a new exam application. If directed by NC Board to retake the exam after previously passing it, the same application process and exam fee applies. In addition, the candidate must be approved to retest in writing by the requiring licensing agency before an ATT will be issued.

## **Payments and Refunds**

The Conference does not issue refunds, so do not pay for an exam unless you intend to take the exam within the one-year timeframe.

## Scheduling Exam Date and Location

All scheduling is arranged through Pearson VUE:

**Online:**

[pearsonvue.com/theconference](https://pearsonvue.com/theconference)

(available 24/7)

**Call Center:**

1-800-709-0180

(available M - F, 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. CT)

Your ICFSEB Candidate ID will be your Social Security Number.

The Conference exams are administered on a daily basis, year-round at Pearson Professional Centers (PPC) test sites across the United States. Once you are approved to test, you will receive an email from The Conference and an Authorization to Test (ATT) email from Pearson VUE, which will include information on how to register for the exam date and test site of your choice.

Review the spelling of your name on the ATT email (first and last name only). If it does not match the two forms of identification you will take to the testing site, be sure to contact The Conference immediately. The Conference does not utilize middle names at the testing sites. If you have a middle name or initial on your ID and not on your ATT email, or vice versa, it will not prevent you from testing.

The ATT includes the beginning and end dates of the time period in which you are eligible to schedule and take your exam. Note that your exam fee will be forfeited for failure to appear for a scheduled appointment or upon expiration of the ATT. We recommend that you schedule your exam as far in advance as possible to have the best opportunity to reserve the date and location that you prefer. Same day appointments and walk-ins are not permitted.

To schedule your exam appointment, you may use the online scheduler at [pearsonvue.com/theconference](https://pearsonvue.com/theconference), or call the Customer Service Call Center at 1-800-709-0180. Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. US Central Time. Make sure to complete the entire scheduling process to confirm your exam appointment.

## Appointment Confirmation Notice

After scheduling your exam, you will receive an appointment confirmation notice with specific information from Pearson VUE via email confirming the date, time, and location of the exam. The information will also include directions to the test site and reporting time; however, it is the candidate's responsibility to locate the test site. It may be helpful, although it is not required, to bring your registration confirmation notice with you to the test center. If you do not receive a confirmation email, contact Pearson VUE immediately to confirm the details of your scheduled exam.

## Changing Your Exam Appointment

Within your authorization window, you may cancel or reschedule your appointment up to 30 days in advance of the scheduled exam free of charge. You may cancel or reschedule less than 30 days prior to your appointment for a \$25 fee. In all cases, appointment changes are NOT permitted within 24 hours of a scheduled exam. Failure to appear for your scheduled exam will result in forfeiture of your exam authorization and exam fee.

Changes or cancellations cannot be made by leaving a phone message; you must speak with a Pearson VUE scheduling representative or reschedule online. If you cancel/reschedule your appointment online, be sure to complete the entire process and confirm that it has successfully been updated. You will receive an email with your cancellation confirmation when you complete the cancellation/rescheduling process (by phone or online). If you do not receive a rescheduling/cancellation confirmation email, contact Pearson VUE immediately to confirm that your exam has been canceled/rescheduled to avoid forfeiture of your exam authorization and fee. It is the candidate's responsibility to keep record of all exam scheduling confirmations.

## Test Center Locations

The exam is administered at approximately 290 Pearson Professional Centers (PPC) throughout all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Please check the website [pearsonvue.com/theconference](https://www.pearsonvue.com/theconference) for current test center information.

# Examination Day

## Confidentiality and Exam Security

The Conference requires you to maintain the confidentiality and security of the test questions on its exams. By applying for and/or taking the NC Pathology Exam, you are agreeing to maintain the confidentiality and security of the test questions, answer choices and content of the exam. All those who take the exam are required to acknowledge that they understand and agree to the following:

- The exams and the questions contained therein are protected by United States copyright law.
- Copying, reproducing, memorizing or otherwise transmitting by any means (oral, written, electronic or otherwise) any exam content in whole or in part, is forbidden.
- The theft or attempted theft of an exam, in part or in whole, is punishable as a felony.

Your participation in any irregularity occurring before, during or after the exam, such as giving or obtaining unauthorized information or aid, as evidenced by observation or subsequent statistical analysis, or any other exam irregularity, including but not limited to the failure to report any information about any irregularity or any suspected irregularity, may be sufficient cause for The Conference, at its sole discretion, to terminate your participation, invalidate the results of your exam, seek monetary compensation, notify member boards, or take other appropriate action.

## Arrival and Check-In

Pearson VUE has provided a video about what to expect at the testing center which can be viewed at [theconferenceonline.org/examinations/exam-security](https://theconferenceonline.org/examinations/exam-security). We strongly advise all candidates to view the video prior to the exam.

- Arrive at the test center at least 30 minutes before your appointment to allow sufficient time to complete the check-in process.
- Give yourself sufficient time to find the test site, allowing for any unexpected delays, as candidates are solely responsible for locating and arriving to their appointment on time. Transportation issues and problems locating the test center will not be considered for excused absence requests. You will be considered absent if you arrive late.
- All candidates must present two valid identifications, as outlined under “Required Identification”.
- All candidates are required to sign the [Candidate Rules Agreement](#) during the check-in process before being admitted into the testing room.
- A digital photograph and biometric security procedures, such as palm vein recognition, will be employed as part of the check-in procedures. Failure to complete the check-in procedure (including refusal of being photographed or submitting palm vein scan) will result in being refused access to the exam and forfeiture of your exam authorization and fee.
- Candidates are directed to their computer station by the Testing Administrator and logged into the exam, beginning the appointment. The timed Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) will appear immediately.
- Candidates will be provided an erasable note board and marker, however you are prohibited from writing on the board until the NDA is accepted and the exam has begun. Candidates may also request noise canceling headphones for use during their exam.
- Calculators are not permitted for use during Conference exams.

## Non-Disclosure Agreement

Once the Pearson VUE Testing Administrator logs you into your exam, you will have three minutes to agree to the Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA). All candidates are required to agree to the terms of the NDA in order to have access to the exam. Failure to agree to the NDA in the time allotted will result in forfeiture of the exam authorization and a loss of funds. This includes declining the NDA terms and/or letting the three-minutes expire.

For reference, the NDA is as follows:



### NON-DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT AND GENERAL TERMS OF USE

**\*\*If the three minute timeframe to accept these terms and conditions expires, your session will end and you will forfeit your exam fees.\*\***

This exam and all content is proprietary, confidential and protected by copyright, trade secret and other intellectual property rights owned by The International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards (The Conference). It is made available to you, the examinee, solely for the purpose of obtaining licensure in the funeral service profession. **You are expressly prohibited from disclosing, publishing, reproducing, or transmitting this exam, in whole or in part, in any form or by any means whatsoever, verbal, written, electronic, mechanical, or otherwise, for any purpose, without the prior express written permission of The Conference.**

By selecting the **“YES, I AGREE”** button, you signify that you have read, understand and agree to the terms of this agreement and all Conference policies and procedures.

By selecting the **“NO, I DO NOT AGREE”** button, your session will end and you will forfeit your exam fee. Please see the test administrator.

### YOU AGREE THAT YOU HAVE READ, UNDERSTOOD AND ACCEPT THESE TERMS.

Agree Y. YES, I AGREE.

Disagree N. NO, I DO NOT AGREE.



## Required Identification

You must bring TWO forms of identification (ID) to the test site: one ID from the primary list and one ID from the secondary list; or two IDs from the primary list. Accepted IDs are provided in the chart below:

| Primary ID  | Secondary ID   |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Driver's license</li> <li>• Passport</li> <li>• Military ID</li> <li>• Permanent Resident Visa/Green Card</li> <li>• Government issued ID</li> </ul>             | <p><i>Must contain your name, signature and cannot be expired.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any Primary ID</li> <li>• Credit or debit card</li> <li>• Social Security card</li> <li>• Professional License ID card</li> <li>• Work ID</li> <li>• Student ID</li> </ul> |
| <p><i>Please note: You will not be allowed to test and will forfeit your exam fee without proper identification. For name changes, please see the name change section of this candidate handbook.</i></p> |  |

IDs cannot be expired and the same version of your name must appear on your application, the Authorization to Test, and on the identifications you present at the testing center. The accuracy of your first and last names on your ID is critical and must match your name as submitted on your application.

Your middle name or initial is not used at the Pearson VUE testing center and is not a required field on the application. If you have a middle name or initial on your ID and not on your application, or vice versa, it will not prevent you from testing. If the address on your ID is not current, it will not prevent you from testing.

You will not be admitted to the exam without proper identification. If the test center staff question the identification presented, you may be asked for additional proof of identity. You will be refused access to the exam if you have not proven your identity using the identifications as stated and your exam authorization and fee will be forfeited.

Admission to the test center and access to the exam does not imply that your identification is authentic and does not preclude subsequent invalidation of your results due to misrepresentation, impersonation, forgery or fraud.

## Testing Administrators

Testing Administrators will assist you with the check-in process at the test center and will observe exams in progress. If you need technical assistance, have an issue, or need to take a restroom break during your exam, raise your hand and wait for assistance from the Testing Administrator, keeping in mind that your exam time does not stop.

Testing Administrators can review test center protocol and procedures, but are prohibited from answering questions about exam content or from providing support for any computer screen prompts. Testing Administrators monitor breaks and require you to provide biometric verification if you need to leave and reenter the exam room during the exam.

Pearson VUE facilities, including the lobby and testing room, are audio and video recorded for security purposes.

## Prohibited Items

Cell phone access is prohibited at any time while at the test center. Lockers are provided to store a small number of personal belongings. It is the candidate's responsibility to surrender all items voluntarily, prior to testing. The Conference and/or Pearson VUE is not responsible for any items that are lost or stolen at the test center. Any person accessing or possessing prohibited items, **or accessing lockers during the exam**, whether inside or outside of the testing room, will have their exam terminated and an Incident Report will be filed with The Conference. The Conference and/or Pearson VUE reserves the right to confiscate any prohibited item.

Items that can NOT be taken into the testing room include (but are not limited to):

|   |  |                                |  |
|---|--|--------------------------------|--|
| Backpack or bag                           | Computers of any kind                          | Large jewelry of any kind      | Radio transmitter or receiver              |
| Beverage of any kind                      | Cup or container of any kind                   | Magazine                       | Recording device or player                 |
| Bluetooth devices of any kind             | Digital scanning or imaging device of any kind | Notebook                       | Ruler or slide rule                        |
| Books or textbooks                        | Earplugs                                       | Notes of any form              | Study material of any kind                 |
| Briefcase or other luggage                | E-cigarettes or gum                            | Outline                        | Sunglasses                                 |
| Calculator                                | Electronic device of any kind                  | Pager or beeper                | Umbrella                                   |
| Calendar, day planner, or other organizer | Electronic, printed or live translators        | Paper of any kind              | USB storage device                         |
| Camera of any kind                        | Eyeglasses case                                | Paper or electronic dictionary | Wallet or clutch                           |
| Car or house keys                         | Food or snacks of any kind                     | Pens, Pencils, erasers         | Watch of any kind                          |
| Cellphone or smart phone                  | Good luck charms                               | Pencil sharpener               | Weapon of any kind, including pocket knife |
| Cigarettes or tobacco products            | Hat, cap, visor or head covering               | Plastic bag                    |  |
| Coat, jacket, gloves                      | Headphones or earphones                        | Purse or handbag               |  |

## Translators

Translators or interpreters are not permitted at any test center, including print, electronic or in person. Test center proctors and staff are prohibited from acting as translators at any point in the check-in and testing experience.

Candidates are prohibited from bringing a translator to translate for them during any part of the exam appointment, including check-in.

## Clothing

Candidates are advised to wear clothing that will be comfortable for various temperature conditions at the test center. Note that eye glasses, layered clothing and accessories will be inspected prior to granting access to the testing room and exam.

For the latest information on face mask requirements, please see “Weather and Emergencies” on page \_\_.

## Exam Time

You will have three minutes to agree to a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA), seven minutes for a tutorial, and 60 minutes to complete the exam.

Be aware that you have limited time to read and respond to the introductory screens. While there is adequate time to read and respond, there is not enough time to leave the testing room or do anything other than proceed to the exam. Failure to agree to the NDA will result in forfeiture of the exam authorization resulting in a loss of funds.

| EXAMINATION                          | NUMBER OF ITEMS | TIME ALLOWED |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA)       | N/A             | 3 minutes    |
| Exam Tutorial                        | N/A             | 7 minutes    |
| North Carolina Pathology Examination | 50              | 60 minutes   |

## Exam Breaks

You are prohibited from leaving the testing room, except to use the restroom facilities that are closest to the testing room. If you need to take a restroom break during your exam, raise your hand and wait for assistance from the Testing Administrator. The clock does not stop if you take a break during the exam, so plan your exam time carefully. Security protocols will be in effect as you exit and reenter the testing room; there is no time adjustment for security checks.

Unless authorized by The Conference in advance, based upon identifiable needs (such as access to essential medications), you are prohibited from accessing any personal items during your exam, including during breaks. If you have received such authorization, you must notify the Testing Administrator prior to the start of the exam administration of your approval to access approved personal items.


Candidates are not permitted to leave the building or test center during the exam.

If any of these policies are violated, the administration of your exam will be terminated and an Incident Report will be filed with The Conference. The Conference has the authority to invalidate your test score, prohibit you from reexamination, notify The Conference membership, including the state(s) in which licensure is sought, as well as any other remedy determined by The Conference necessary to protect the integrity of the exam and licensure processes.

## Exam Administration Concerns

Should you experience any concerns, challenges or difficulties during the administration of the exam (temperature, noise, technology issues, etc.), it is your responsibility to notify a Testing Administrator immediately and before you leave the test center.

If the test center experiences a power outage or a situation in which the testing room needs to be evacuated, such as in a fire drill, candidates should resume testing if the event lasts fewer than 30 minutes. If the event is longer than 30 minutes, Pearson VUE will give the candidate an opportunity to either reschedule the exam or resume testing after the event has passed. Candidates who resume testing waive their right to reschedule the exam.



Candidates should also notify The Conference in writing within two business days after the exam administration about concerns that were reported at the test center so that appropriate action can be taken. The Conference, in consultation with the Testing Administrator, will investigate and verify the incident.

Please submit a detailed account of the issue through The Conference's website: [theconferenceonline.org/comments](https://theconferenceonline.org/comments).

# Exam Appointment Issues

## Late Arrival

You must arrive to your exam appointment by the report time on your registration confirmation notice or you will not be admitted to the test center. You will be considered absent if you arrive late.

## Absences on the Day of the Exam

The Conference is liable for all associated test delivery costs for a candidate, whether the candidate tests or not. If you do not appear for the exam for which you have registered, your Authorization to Test (ATT) will no longer be valid and you will forfeit your application and exam fee. If you choose to reapply to take the exam, you will be subject to application and fee requirements at that time.

### Excused Absences

In rare circumstances, The Conference may excuse an absence. This can be due to a severe illness of the candidate, a death in the immediate family, or other disabling emergency situations.

Requests for an excused absence must be submitted in writing, accompanied by supporting documentation, and sent to The Conference within 30 days from the missed exam. Where applicable, excused absence requests must contain the original signature of the qualified health care practitioner and be on official letterhead, with a clear and unavoidable reason for missing the exam. Stamped signatures will not be accepted. If you think your absence may qualify as an excused absence, contact The Conference at 479-442-7076 immediately following the missed exam appointment.

If your absence is excused by The Conference, you may reschedule your exam once a new Authorization to Test has been issued, which will still expire one year from your original application and payment date. If your absence is not excused by The Conference, you will be subject to application and fee requirements at that time.

## Weather and Emergencies

In the event of inclement weather or unforeseen emergencies, Pearson VUE will determine whether circumstances warrant the closure of a particular test center.

The exam will not be rescheduled if the supervisor is able to open the test location. You may contact the Pearson VUE Customer Service Call Center at 1-800-709-0181 to determine if your test center is closed.

If an exam is canceled by Pearson VUE, candidates scheduled for that center will be contacted by Pearson VUE to reschedule another exam date. You will not incur any additional exam fees if your test is canceled by Pearson VUE or The Conference for any reason.

The Conference is not responsible for any personal expenses (e.g., travel, food, and lodging) incurred for an exam administration that is canceled for any reason, including inclement weather or unforeseen emergencies.

Please note, the following policy is currently in effect at all Pearson VUE testing locations:

- Candidates are expected to wear a face mask for the duration of their exam experience, with the exception of briefly removing face masks during the check-in process for identity verification and inspection.
- If a candidate refuses to wear a face mask, the candidate will be denied testing services and treated as absent.
- If a candidate refuses to wear a face mask properly (the WHO and CDC define as fully covering the nose and mouth), the candidate will be denied testing services and treated as absent.
- If a candidate is unable to wear a mask due to a documented disability, the candidate should apply for ADA accommodations (see page 26).



# Exam Results

## Completing Your Exam

At the completion of the exam, your score and pass/fail status will appear on the computer screen.

You will also receive an unofficial printout of exam results for your personal records which will include additional information regarding next steps and a reminder about your obligation to exam security. Altering these printouts in any way is violation of Conference policy. The official exam results will be sent directly from The Conference to the North Carolina Board of Funeral Service.

## Scoring

The passing standard is a score of 75%. Therefore, any score of 75% or higher is a passing score, and any score below 75% is a failing score.

Once you pass both the exam, you will receive a wall certificate mailed to the address provided on your application within two to three weeks. Wall certificates are for decorative use only, not for licensure purposes.

## Retaking an Exam

A new application and payment must be submitted each time you retake an exam. There currently is no limit on the number of times eligible candidates can retake the exam. Candidates must wait 30 days before retaking the exam. If you pass the exam you may not take it again unless The Conference receives written notification that the retake is required for licensure purposes from the North Carolina Board of Funeral Service.

## Achieving Licensure

The NC Pathology Exam used by the North Carolina Board of Funeral Service as part of their licensing requirements. The Conference provides the results, which is only one component of the licensure process, directly to the NC Board. We recommend following up with the NC Board for any additional requirements.

## Reporting Results to Licensing Boards

All passing and failing results, including any previous attempts, will be released to the NC Board. If exam results need to be re-released to a licensing board more than one year after the original release date, candidates must submit an order form and payment for the service. Candidates can place an order to release their exam results to additional licensing boards at any time. Candidates are solely responsible for submitting exam results requests in a timely manner. Please check with the NC Board for licensure-related deadlines.

When The Conference reports your results to the NC Board, it may be reported along with the identification and educational information that you provided to The Conference on your application. This ensures your exam result is matched correctly to the licensing application you submit to the NC Board.

In the event of a discrepancy or inaccuracy that questions your eligibility to sit for the exam, The Conference may request documentation to verify or otherwise substantiate the information provided on your application. If any of the information on your application is determined to be inaccurate, misrepresented or falsified, The Conference reserves the right to invalidate your results, suspend future access to the NC Pathology Exam or other Conference programs and services, or impose other conditions on access to the exam. The Conference also reserves the right to impose fees to offset any administrative or legal costs associated with the investigation and/or adjudication of the case.

# Testing Accommodations

## ADA Testing Accommodations

Working with the North Carolina Board of Funeral Service, The Conference complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and accepts requests from qualified candidates with a diagnosed disability for accommodations to take the Pathology Exam. Requests should be reasonable, properly documented, and not fundamentally alter the exam or jeopardize exam security.

Exam candidates who wish to request testing accommodations should refer to the [ADA Testing Accommodations Handbook](#). The Accommodations Handbook explains the process of requesting accommodations, along with the required forms and documentation. If you need assistance with the application process itself, please contact The Conference.


All exams with approved accommodations must be scheduled by following the instructions on the approval email by calling the Pearson VUE Accommodations Coordinator at 1-800-466-0450, option 3. It is important that you confirm your accommodations at time of scheduling.

## Temporary Conditions

If you have a temporary condition or other condition that is not covered by the ADA (e.g., a bone fracture or pregnancy) and the condition requires only minor modifications to the general testing environment (e.g., a wheelchair or elevator access), then you do not need to complete the ADA testing accommodations request process.

Instead, candidates requesting a non-standard testing condition must submit their request in writing to [exams@theconferenceonline.org](mailto:exams@theconferenceonline.org) for review. These are non-standard testing conditions not required by law and are granted at the sole discretion of The Conference. This request should include the candidate's full name, name of the exam they are taking, and the nature of the request.

In some cases, it may be required to submit a letter of support from your physician or qualified health professional who is administering your care. This letter should detail the nature of the condition, the dates of treatment, and the modifications to the testing environment that are being requested.



If approved, The Conference will communicate your request to the test administrator, Pearson VUE. In some instances, you will need to provide the supportive equipment such as a stool to elevate a limb or a comfort pillow. Such arrangements will be documented and communicated to you through email.

Some requests are covered in Pearson VUE's Comfort Aid List, which do not require pre-approval (e.g., eye drops, pillow/cushion, inhaler, etc.). If needed, please contact The Conference to inquire if a comfort aid is included on the list. Modifications to the testing environment cannot be considered or approved at the test center or on the day of testing.

# Additional Exam Information

## Fraud and Exam Irregularities

In the event of a fraudulent application, submission of fraudulent documents, inaccuracies, misrepresentations or discrepancies, the introduction of fraud at any point in the application or exam process, sharing exam content after your exam administration, advance access to exam content prior to your exam administration (exam irregularities), or violation of any Conference and test site rules, policies or procedures, The Conference reserves the right to impose fees to offset any administrative or legal costs associated with the investigation and/or adjudication of the case.

## Invalidations


Violation of any Conference exam policy or Pearson VUE testing center rule may be grounds for a candidate's results being invalidated by The Conference. In the event of an exam policy violation or other application or exam irregularity, The Conference will request that you submit a written response to the policy violation and any documentation supporting your position. The Conference will then review all information received and available to determine the necessary action(s), which includes, but is not limited to, the invalidation of your exam result and/or suspension of future access to the exam or other Conference programs and services. The Conference reserves the right to notify all state licensing boards and agencies of all result invalidations.

## Exam Language

The North Carolina Pathology Exam is offered in the English language only.

## Name Changes

If your name changes during your experience with The Conference, please submit the "Request For Name Change" form found at [theconferenceonline.org/name](http://theconferenceonline.org/name) along with the appropriate supporting documentation, e.g. marriage certificate, divorce decree or court documents showing a legal name change. Please allow time for review and



processing, noting this process will not extend any timeframes or application expirations.

## Payments

Applications and orders must be paid for at time of submission. If paying online, The Conference accepts Visa, MasterCard, and Discover credit or debit cards, which are processed through PayPal.

If paying by mail, The Conference accepts money orders and cashier's checks made payable to The Conference and submitted to the address on the order form. Any personal or business checks received will be returned.

- The Conference does not accept applications, orders, or payments over the phone.
- The Conference does not issue refunds.

## Summary of Policies & Procedures

With a high-stakes exam such as the NBE, come many policies and procedures. To help fully understand the rules of applying and taking the exam, we've condensed the majority of those policies below for quick reference.

### Top Five Exam Policies to Remember

The following policies are the most commonly asked about by exam candidates:

1. Applications and payments expire after one year.
2. All payments are non-refundable.
3. Identifications presented at the test center must match the name on application (first and last name only, as middle names are not submitted to Pearson VUE) and cannot be expired.
4. Candidates are responsible for confirming their appointment date, time, and location. Late arrivals or missed exams will be treated as “no shows” and payments will be forfeited.
5. Exam content cannot be discussed or shared with any one, in any format (written, verbal, electronic, etc.), in whole or in part.

### At a Glance – Conference Exam Policies

#### Application and Payment

- Your first and last name on your exam application must match the two forms of identification presented at the test center (primary ID and secondary ID, as outlined in the handbook). Middle names are not submitted to Pearson VUE for scheduling.
- It is vital that your Social Security Number is entered correctly on your application. If it is entered incorrectly, you may experience a delay in processing or scheduling.
- All exam fees are non-refundable.

- Applications and payments automatically expire one year from the payment date. If you do not take the exam in that timeframe, your fees will be forfeited.
- Exam applications can be switched from one exam to a different exam by paying the difference in exam cost, plus a fee of \$25. The reprocessed exam application and payment expires one year from the original application/payment date.
- Candidates may only have one Arts or Sciences application open at one time, regardless of NBE or SBE designation.
- If you require accommodations, please state that at time of application and [follow the steps to request accommodations](#), which includes reviewing the ADA Testing Accommodations Handbook and submitting the required documents. All approved accommodations must be scheduled over the phone with the Pearson VUE Accommodations Coordinator.
- If you apply to take a Conference exam using a different name than you previously sat for an exam under, you must submit [name change documentation](#), which must show a legal change from your previous name to the current name.
- In any instance where a chargeback is filed for an online payment, your file will be placed on hold with The Conference until full payment is verified, after which only cashier's checks or money orders may be accepted as payment options. Candidates may be responsible for any fees incurred by The Conference during the dispute process.

### Scheduling:

- It is the candidate's responsibility to schedule their appointment through Pearson VUE, confirming the time, date, and location.
- Within your authorization window, you may cancel or reschedule your appointment up to 30 days in advance of the scheduled exam free of charge. You may cancel or reschedule less than 30 days prior to your appointment for a \$25 fee. In all cases, appointment changes are NOT permitted within 24 hours of a scheduled exam. Appointment changes can be made by contacting Pearson VUE directly at [pearsonvue.com/theconference](https://pearsonvue.com/theconference) or by phone at 1-800-709-0180. Failure to appear for your scheduled exam will result in forfeiture of your exam authorization and exam fee.



- You will receive a confirmation email for every exam that you schedule/reschedule. It is your responsibility to keep the email you receive from Pearson VUE confirming the canceled/changed appointment. If a change is made via phone, keep a record of the date, time, and the name of the representative you spoke with. If you do not receive an email, it is your responsibility to contact Pearson VUE to confirm your appointment details.
- In rare instances, absences may be excused due to illness (either you or an immediate family member), death in the immediate family, or in certain emergency situations. A request for an excused absence must be submitted in writing, accompanied by supporting documentation, and submitted to The Conference for review within 30 days of the missed appointment. Absences cannot be excused for traffic/transportation issues, late arrivals, or weather (unless the test center is closed). Immediate family members are defined as the candidate's spouse, domestic partner, parents, siblings, children, stepparents, stepchildren, grandparents, grandchildren, father-in-law, mother-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, son-in-law, or daughter-in-law.
- The Conference cannot be held responsible for any travel expenses or lost wages if an exam is missed or canceled for any reason.
- In addition to the application and payment, we will need your eligibility to schedule an exam:
  - NBE – Verification of graduation from an ABFSE program is required to sit for the NBE. This can be submitted by the program director or by sending an official, sealed transcript to The Conference directly from your school.
  - SBE – Depending on the state, your eligibility will come directly from your school or the licensing board.
  - LRR – Eligibility varies by state and is submitted directly by the licensing board.
  - Eligibilities are retained for five years.
  - An international licensee can follow the [International Endorsement procedure](#) to apply for the National Board Exam. If approved, this path would allow the international candidate to sit for the NBE with the endorsement of a recognized member regulatory jurisdiction.

## Test Center:

- The Conference uses Computer-Based Testing (CBT) for all exams. Exams are administered in English at Pearson Professional Centers (PPCs) within North America.
- It is the candidate's responsibility to locate the test center and arrive 30 minutes early for the check-in process. Late arrivals are treated as "no shows" and the application/exam fee will be forfeited.
- You must present two forms of identification at the test center (primary ID and secondary ID, as outlined in the candidate handbook). Both IDs must contain your name, signature, and cannot be expired. The primary ID must also include a photo.
- Your first and last names on your IDs must match what was submitted on your application in order to be granted access to test (middle names are not used).
- During the check-in process, each candidate is required to read and sign the [Candidate Rules Agreement](#).
- You will be required to have your photo taken and your [palm vein scanned](#) during the check-in process. If you take a break during your exam, your palm vein will be scanned again when exiting and entering the testing room.
- Calculators are not permitted for use during Conference exams.
- If you have any questions during your exam, raise your hand and wait for a proctor to assist you.

## Exam Security

- Once seated at the testing center, candidates must agree to the [Non-Disclosure Agreement](#) within the three minute timeframe. Failure to agree to the Non-Disclosure Agreement within this timeframe will result in forfeiture of exam; resulting in a loss of funds. This includes declining the NDA or letting the time expire.
- You are not permitted to begin writing on the provided dry-erase board until you agree to the NDA and your exam begins.

- You are prohibited from leaving the testing room, except to use the closest restroom. The exam timer does not stop for any breaks that you take.
- Accessing personal items, including those in your locker or vehicle, is prohibited. If you are discovered to have left the testing room without authorization for any other reason or to have accessed unapproved items, the administration of your exam will be terminated, an Incident Report will be filed, and your exam fees will be forfeited.
- If any policy is violated, The Conference has the authority to invalidate your test scores, prohibit you from reexamination, notify The Conference membership, including the state in which licensure is sought, as well as any other remedy determined by The Conference necessary to protect the integrity of the exam and licensure processes.
- As stated in the NDA, candidates are prohibited from disclosing, publishing, reproducing, or transmitting any part of an exam, in any form or by any means, verbal or written, electronic or mechanical, for any purpose, without the prior express written permission of The Conference. Discussing exam content with others, including study groups, email, internet forums, etc., violates Conference policy.
- Any violations of the policies outlined in the candidate handbook, Candidate Rules Agreement, Exam Security Quiz, or NDA, as well as other irregularities, may be reported to Pearson VUE, The Conference, and Conference membership, including the state in which licensure is sought. Candidates who violate security will have their exam scores invalidated, will be reported to their licensing board, and will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. The Conference Board of Directors reserves the right to require candidates found to have violated policies and/or procedures regarding access and administration of the exam program to seek and receive permission from the relevant member board before further access to such exam program. Candidates found guilty of a violation could face a range of administrative, civil, and criminal charges.

## Retake Policies

- NBE/SBE– Candidates must wait 30 days before retaking a failed section of the NBE/SBE-Arts and NBE/SBE-Sciences. If you pass an exam, you may not take that exam again unless The Conference receives written notification from a

licensing board that the retake is required for licensure purposes. An application and payment must be submitted each time you retake an exam.

- LRR – Eligible candidates must refer and adhere to their jurisdiction’s policies on retaking the LRR exam, as they vary by exam. If you pass a particular state’s LRR, you may not take that exam again unless The Conference receives written notification from the regulatory board that it is required for licensure. An application and payment must be submitted each time you retake an exam.

## Exam Results

- At the completion of your exam, you will receive an unofficial score report. The Conference will transmit your official score report to your licensing board.
- The NBE and SBE use scaled scoring. Candidates will receive a “Pass” or “Fail” notification at the test center immediately following the completion of their exam. Numerical scores are released to regulatory boards for licensing purposes only. For unsuccessful exam attempts, candidates will also receive a Performance Feedback Chart which shows a visual representation of candidate exam performance within each subsection.
- The LRR exams are scored using a percentage. Candidates will receive a “Pass” or “Fail” along with the percentage score.
- Exam results, including any previous attempts, will be released to the licensing authority indicated on your application. If exam results need to be re-released to a licensing authority more than one year after the original release date, candidates must submit an order form and payment for the service. Candidates can also place an order to release their scores to additional licensing authorities at any time.
- The NBE, SBE, and most LRR Exams cannot be reviewed and no score adjustments can be made.

## Study Material

- Returns and/or refunds are not available.

- Practice Exams must be utilized during the stated delivery period, otherwise the fees will be forfeited. Any technical issues should be reported within the delivery period.
- Study material is copyrighted content and cannot be shared or reproduced.



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