



# CANDIDATE GUIDE

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## Certified Recovery Specialist Examination

### PURPOSE OF THE CANDIDATE GUIDE

The examination for Certified Recovery Specialists (CRS) is an examination that tests knowledge and competency about the field of recovery. The exam is based on current research in the field and was developed by Subject Matter Experts.

The purpose of the Candidate Guide is to provide you with guidance for the CRS examination process. By providing you with background information on examination domains, your preparation for the exam can be enhanced.

### EXAMINATION CONTENT

The 2019 Content Outline for the CRS identified seven domains. Within each performance domain there are several identified knowledge and competency areas that provide the basis for questions in the examination. The complete list of knowledge and competency areas are located in the Content Outline. The following is a list of the performance domains for the examination.

### CRS DOMAINS

- Recovery Planning and Collaboration
- Substance Use Knowledge
- Advocacy
- Ethical Responsibility and Professionalism
- Safety and Self-Care
- Communication, Interpersonal and Professional Skills
- Cultural Competency

### TAKING THE EXAMINATION

The CRS examination is a 50-question multiple choice exam given in paper and pencil format and on-demand online. One and a half (1.5) hours is the time permitted to complete the exam.

The CRS examination follows a 3 and 4 option multiple-choice format. Questions of this type begin with a stem (the premise statement/question) and are followed by three or four options with only one correct answer. In answering the questions, candidates should read the stem and options carefully. They should then select the

one best answer and fill in the letter on the answer sheet that corresponds to the best answer for the question. In some cases, you will need to read a vignette then answer three to five questions based on the information you read.

The test measures the seven major domains about the CRS. Exam questions are designed to assess knowledge as well as the candidate's ability to work with in the field of recovery. Successful candidates will draw on knowledge, analysis, and application to identify the one best option.

In taking the test, you may find it helpful to eliminate obviously incorrect responses after the first reading so as to increase the probability of selecting the best response. If you determine that there are two reasonable options, you should select the most plausible choice.

The questions in the examination are multiple choice with three or four choices marked A, B, C and D. There is only one correct choice for each question. Carefully read each question and all of the choices before making a selection. Choose the single **best** answer.

## EXAMINATION RULES: IN-PERSON EXAMINATIONS

Seating is limited and based on a first come first-served basis. If seating capacity is reached at site that date will be closed. The dates listed on the examination form are the only in-person examinations scheduled at this time.

Upon fulfillment of the appropriate eligibility requirements and completion of the application process for CRS, you will be seated for the examination. PCB will send you a confirmation email confirming your enrollment approximately two (2) weeks prior to the examination date. This confirmation email will also contain the reporting time, test time, location, contact person, and other relevant information.

A PHOTO IDENTIFICATION CARD (Work ID, Driver's License, etc.) must be presented for entrance to the examination.

No books, papers, or other reference materials may be taken into the examination room. No examination materials, documents, or memoranda of any type may be taken from the room by any candidate.

The examination will be given only on the date and time noted on the confirmation email you will receive. If an emergency arises and you are unable to take the examination as scheduled, you must contact the PCB Office.

No questions concerning the content of the examination may be asked during the examination period. The candidate should listen carefully to the directions given by the Proctor and read the directions carefully in the examination booklet.

## EXAMINATION RULES: ONLINE EXAMINATIONS

Candidates can choose to take the examination on an on-demand basis on any computer (desktop or laptop computers only – no cellphones or tablets may be used) if they meet all requirements listed below. No exceptions will be made.

1. Reliable high-speed internet (not hotspot)
2. Computer with quality webcam and microphone
3. A valid ID with picture will be required to show prior to the examination. Examples of valid IDs include: state issued ID card, drivers license, passport, work ID and/or college/university ID.
4. Google Chrome web browser
5. Proctorio Extension – instructions for download will be provided upon approval
6. Private and interruption free area to take the examination

**Do not register for an online examination until you are sure you can meet the above requirements. If you cannot meet the requirements you must choose an in-person examination.**

Do not access your online examination until you have:

1. Downloaded and installed Google Chrome
2. Installed the Proctorio Google Chrome extension
3. Tested your webcam and microphone

A valid ID with picture will be required to show prior to the examination. Examples of valid IDs include: state issued ID card, drivers license, passport, work ID and/or college/university ID.

Before your examination begins, you will be taken through a series of pre-checks. These will establish and verify your internet connection, operating system, camera, and microphone. The time allotted to take the examination will NOT begin until the pre-checks are completed.

You may be asked for permission to access the camera and microphone. You **must** click “Allow” to continue.

Reproducing or copying the examination you are taking is a serious copyright violation, a breach of security and an ethics violation. Any individuals caught copying or attempting to copy examination materials, by any means, will not be allowed to continue the exam and will be reported to the PCB Ethics Committee. The consequences for cheating or copying examination materials include denial of your application for the certification you are pursuing and financial responsibility for any examination materials compromised by your actions.

Once you begin your examination, you may not leave the room. You have 90 minutes to complete your examination. The time will be shown to the left of the examination questions.

Clear away any materials from your area. Cell phones and tablets are not permitted in the room while you are taking the examination. Reference materials are not permitted.

Reasons an examination result will be invalidated, and a report of actions made to the PCB Ethics Committee include but are not limited to:

1. Someone entering the room while you are taking the examination.
2. Leaving the room once you have started the examination.
3. Attempts to copy examination content.
4. Attempts to open web browsers or any other documents.
5. Indications of head and/or eye movement that suggest you are reading other materials.
6. Any use of electronic devices other than the laptop or desktop computer being used for the examination.

Each question in the examination will be followed by three or four choices. Only one of these choices is the correct or best answer. You should have time to work on every question. Try to answer all of the questions. If you are not sure of an answer, you may guess.

## **SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIONS**

Individuals with disabilities and/or religious obligations that require modifications in test administration may request specific procedure changes, in writing, to PCB, no fewer than 60 days prior to the scheduled test date. With the written request, the candidate must provide official documentation of the disability or religious issue. Candidates should contact PCB on what constitutes official documentation. PCB will offer appropriate modifications to its procedures when documentation supports the need for them.

## SCORING

PCB will score all examinations and mail score reports to candidates. Scores will be broken down by domain so that candidates can see areas of strength and weakness. The passing point is fixed to assure that all candidates must achieve the same score. To achieve a passing score, candidates answer 75% of the questions correctly

## TEST DISCLOSURE

If candidates wish to appeal their scores on the examination, they must submit a written request to PCB within 30 days of the postmark on the test score report. Candidates should be aware that test security and item banking procedures do not permit candidate's access to test questions, answer keys, or other secure materials.

## RE-TESTING

Candidates who fail the test may re-test if they choose. Candidates must re-test at least one time in the 12-months following the date of the test they failed. All reasonable requests will be considered if a candidate is unable to re-test within the 12-month time frame. Such requests for additional time beyond the 12-months must be submitted in writing to PCB prior to the 12-month deadline.

## REFERENCES

The examination was developed using the CRS Curriculum Learner Manual. All references are listed at the end of the manual.

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