

ABCC Clinical Chemistry Exam

The 2025 SYCL Board Certification Exam Prep Survey was designed to determine the most effective approaches and resources to use in preparation for the ABCC Clinical Chemistry, Toxicological Chemistry, and/or Molecular Diagnostic Board Certification Exam. The survey was sent to individuals who passed the exam within the past 5 years.

SOME OF THE TOPICS THAT WERE ADDRESSED INCLUDE:

- ▶ Whether participants took the exam before, during, or after fellowship training (if applicable)
- ▶ If both parts of the exam were taken at the same time
- ▶ The study strategies, such as group study or courses that survey participants found most useful
- ▶ Specific resources, including textbooks and question banks, that participants found most useful

The findings of the survey are summarized below.

The resources mentioned are not official endorsements from ABCC, SYCL, or ADLM.

Q1: What certification exam(s) have you taken?

ANSWER CHOICE	% OF RESPONDENTS
ABCC Clinical Chemistry	88%
ABCC Toxicological Chemistry	14%
ABCC Molecular Diagnostics	6%
Other	0%

TOTAL RESPONDENTS: 78

Q2: For the ABCC Clinical Chemistry exam, did you initially take both parts of the exam at the same time or each part individually?

ANSWER CHOICE	% OF RESPONDENTS
Both parts at the same time	73%
Separately	27%

TOTAL RESPONDENTS: 62

Q3: When did you first take your certification exam?

ANSWER CHOICE	% OF RESPONDENTS
During first year of fellowship	6%
During 2nd year of fellowship	66%
During 3rd year of fellowship	0%
Post-fellowship before starting job	8%
Post-fellowship after starting job	11%
After starting job, but did not do a fellowship	8%

TOTAL RESPONDENTS: 62

Q4: How far in advance did you begin committing serious effort to preparing for the exam(s)?

ANSWER CHOICE	% OF RESPONDENTS
<1 month	2%
1–3 months	26%
3–6 months	35%
6–12 months	23%
>12 months	15%

TOTAL RESPONDENTS: 62

Q5: On average, how many hours per week did you commit to preparing for the exam(s)?

ANSWER CHOICE	% OF RESPONDENTS
<2 hours	5%
2–5 hours	11%
5–10 hours	31%
10–20 hours	29%
>20 hours	24%

TOTAL RESPONDENTS: 62

Q6: Were you given dedicated study time during the day by your employer or training program director?

ANSWER CHOICE	% OF RESPONDENTS
Yes	39%
No	61%

TOTAL RESPONDENTS: 62

Q7: How did you prepare for the exam? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

PREPARATION METHOD	% OF RESPONDENTS
Independent study	100%
Question banks	63%
Clinical practice	52%
Group study	31%
Review course	18%
Conference attendance	8%

TOTAL RESPONDENTS: 62

Based on the participant comments, the resources below were the top 5 most frequently used.

- 1 | Alan Wu Book(s)
- 2 | ADLM Question of the Day
- 3 | Alan Deacon (Calculations in Lab Science)
- 4 | Tietz Textbook(s) and Questions
- 5 | William Clarke (Contemporary Practice in Clinical Chemistry)

TOTAL RESPONDENTS: 62

Other resources that were used included: Kaplan & Pesce textbook, ADLM Learning Lab, ADLM Clinical Chemistry Trainee Council, ASCP BOC, and ASCP Clinical Compendium

Q8: Which aspects of your training program did you find most useful in preparation for the board exam? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

ANSWER CHOICE	% OF RESPONDENTS
Hands-on training (service responsibilities)	69%
Time to study	66%
Conferences, lectures	47%
Teaching and research projects	37%
Sign-out	32%
Review courses	24%

TOTAL RESPONDENTS: 62

Q9: Please indicate which of the following resources you used to study for the Clinical Chemistry exam and rate its usefulness. If you used an older edition and found it particularly useful over the current edition, please note it in the Other section.

**Based on responses, the most useful top 5 resources are summarized below.
For individual survey results see table.**

- ▶ **Contemporary Practice in Clinical Chemistry**, Edited by William Clarke, Mark Marzinke, June 2020 (Academic Press)
- ▶ **Calculations in Laboratory Science** (Alan Deacon)
- ▶ **Tietz Textbook of Clinical Chemistry and Molecular Diagnostics** by Carl A. Burtis, Edward R. Ashwood, David E. Bruns, July 2005 (Elsevier Health Sciences)
- ▶ **Tietz Fundamentals of Clinical Chemistry** (Tietz)
- ▶ **Self-Assessment Q&A in Clinical Laboratory Science**, Edited by Alan H.B. Wu, August 2020 (Elsevier)

	Not used/ Not aware	Not helpful	Slightly helpful	Neutral	Very helpful	Extremely helpful	Total
Appleton and Lange's Outline Review Clinical Chemistry by Robert H. Christenson (Author), Linda C. Gregory (Author), Lisa Johnson (Author), MT Lisa J. Johnson MHS (Author), B.S. John E Hutton III (Author), Gershon Shugar (Author), Robert Christensen Ph.D. (Author), March 2001 (McGraw-Hill Medical)	95%	3%	0%	2%	0%	0%	60
Bakerman's ABC's of Interpretive Laboratory Data by Seymour Bakerman, Paul Bakerman, Paul (Eds.) Strausbauch, Paul Bakerman (Revised by), Paul Strausbauch (Revised by), May 2002 (Interpretive Laboratory Data, Inc.)	80%	2%	10%	5%	0%	3%	61
Basic Mathematics for the Health-Related Professions by Lorraine J. Doucette, January 2000 (Elsevier Health Sciences)	88%	5%	2%	2%	3%	0%	60
Board of Certification Study Guide for Clinical Laboratory Certification Examinations	67%	2%	15%	7%	7%	3%	60
Calculations in Laboratory Science (Alan Deacon)	8%	3%	6%	6%	32%	44%	62
Clinical Chemistry Journal	51%	7%	15%	17%	10%	0%	59
Clinical Chemistry: Practical Laboratory Diagnosis of Disease	88%	3%	0%	5%	3%	0%	60
Clinical Chemistry: Principles, Techniques and Correlations	62%	3%	5%	11%	13%	5%	61
Clinical Chemistry Review Notes and Review Questions	80%	2%	0%	8%	8%	2%	59
Clinical Chemistry: Theory, Analysis, Correlation	63%	0%	12%	10%	15%	0%	59
Clinical Diagnosis and Management by Laboratory Methods	80%	0%	8%	5%	7%	0%	59
Contemporary Practice in Clinical Chemistry, Edited by William Clarke, Mark Marzinke, June 2020 (Academic Press)	10%	3%	2%	8%	34%	43%	61
Clinical Laboratory Management	83%	0%	3%	7%	5%	2%	58
Clinical Laboratory Science Review, Patsy Jarreau, September 2020 (Louisiana State University Health Foundation)	91%	0%	2%	2%	2%	4%	57
Henry's Clinical Diagnosis and Management by Laboratory Methods Expert Consult (Henry's)	50%	2%	12%	22%	13%	2%	60
Laboratory Mathematics; Medical and Biological Applications, Joe B. Campbell, June M. Campbell, June 1997 (Mosby).	95%	2%	0%	0%	3%	0%	60
Mathematics for the Clinical Laboratory, Lorraine J. Doucette, September 2020 (Saunders)	85%	2%	3%	2%	8%	0%	60
Self-Assessment Q&A in Clinical Laboratory Science, Edited by Alan H.B. Wu, August 2020 (Elsevier)	25%	10%	15%	11%	18%	21%	61
Tietz's Applied Laboratory Medicine	61%	2%	2%	12%	19%	4%	57
Tietz Fundamentals of Clinical Chemistry (Tietz)	27%	2%	10%	12%	36%	14%	59
Tietz Textbook of Clinical Chemistry and Molecular Diagnostics by Carl A. Burtis, Edward R. Ashwood, David E. Bruns, July 2005 (Elsevier Health Sciences)	15%	3%	8%	17%	42%	14%	59

Q10: Please indicate which of the following online resources you used to study for the Clinical Chemistry exam and their usefulness.

**Based on responses, the most useful top 5 resources are summarized below.
For individual survey results see table.**

- ▶ ADLM Question of the Day
- ▶ ACB Deacon’s Challenge www.acb.org.uk/our-resources.html
- ▶ Learning Lab
- ▶ YouTube – please describe in comments section
- ▶ Up to Date www.uptodate.com

	Not used/ Not aware	Not helpful	Slightly helpful	Neutral	Very helpful	Extremely helpful	Total
ACB Deacon’s Challenge www.acb.org.uk/our-resources.html	53%	2%	5%	5%	15%	20%	59
ADLM CCTC Pearls of Laboratory Medicine	45%	3%	16%	12%	17%	7%	58
ADLM SYCL Question of the Day	22%	7%	12%	3%	34%	22%	59
Calculation of Drug Concentration webpage www.boomer.org/c/php/pk2504a.php	97%	2%	0%	0%	0%	2%	58
Gene Reviews www.genereviews.org	93%	3%	0%	0%	0%	3%	59
ADLM Learning Lab	34%	10%	11%	11%	23%	10%	61
PathologyOutlines.com www.Pathologyoutlines.com	86%	3%	3%	2%	2%	3%	59
Roger L. Bertholf Webpage www.bertholf.net/rlb/Lectures/index.htm	81%	3%	3%	3%	5%	3%	59
Testing.com www.testing.com	78%	2%	10%	3%	3%	3%	58
University of Washington MTS webpage www.medtraining.org	89%	2%	4%	2%	0%	4%	57
Up to Date www.uptodate.com	59%	2%	7%	7%	19%	7%	59
YouTube	55%	2%	5%	10%	14%	14%	58