

ABCC Molecular Diagnostics 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 Molecular Diagnostics certification exam, how many attempts did you require to attain certification?

ANSWER CHOICE	% OF RESPONDENTS
Passed on first attempt	60%
Passed on second attempt	20%
Passed after reapplication on third or more attempts	20%

TOTAL RESPONDENTS: 5

Q3: When did you first take your certification exam?

ANSWER CHOICE	% OF RESPONDENTS
During first year of fellowship	0%
During 2nd year of fellowship	0%
During 3rd year of fellowship	0%
Post-fellowship before starting job	0%
Post-fellowship after starting job	0%
After starting job, but did not do a fellowship	100%

TOTAL RESPONDENTS: 5

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

ANSWER CHOICE	% OF RESPONDENTS
<1 month	0%
1–3 months	0%
3–6 months	40%
6–12 months	40%
>12 months	20%

TOTAL RESPONDENTS: 5

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

ANSWER CHOICE	% OF RESPONDENTS
<2 hours	20%
2–5 hours	20%
5–10 hours	20%
10–20 hours	40%
>20 hours	0%

TOTAL RESPONDENTS: 5

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

ANSWER CHOICE	% OF RESPONDENTS
Yes	20%
No	80%

TOTAL RESPONDENTS: 5

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

PREPARATION METHOD	# OF RESPONDENTS
Independent study	5
Review course	3
Clinical practice	3
Conference attendance	1
Group study	0
Question banks	0

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES MENTIONED:

- AMP Molecular Genetic Pathology Review Course (in-person & online)
- ADLM adaptive learning courses
- ADLM Annual Meeting

TOTAL RESPONDENTS: 5

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)	2
Review courses	2
Time to study	2
Conferences, lectures	0
Sign-out	0

OTHER COMMENTS:

- Applied 20 years after training – training not applicable
- No formal training program; relied on work experience + molecular tumor board

TOTAL RESPONDENTS: 5

Q9: Please indicate which of the following resources you used to study for the Molecular Diagnostic exam and rate its usefulness.

Based on responses, the most useful resources are summarized below.

For individual survey results see table.

- ▶ Diagnostic Molecular Pathology in Practice: A Case-Based Approach
- ▶ Molecular Diagnostics: A Training and Study Guide, Gregory J. Tsongalis, William B. Coleman, June 2022 (AACC Press)
- ▶ Molecular Diagnostics: Fundamentals, Methods and Clinical Applications, Lela Buckingham, February 2019 (F.A. Davis Company)
- ▶ Other: Molecular Genetic Pathology, vol. 1&2, by L. Cheng

	Not used/ Not aware	Not helpful	Slightly helpful	Neutral	Very helpful	Extremely helpful	Total
Clinical Chemistry: Theory, Analysis, Correlation by Amadeo J. Pesce, Lawrence A. Kaplan, Steven C. Kazmierczak, December 2002 (Elsevier Health Sciences)	80%	0%	20%	0%	0%	0%	5
Diagnostic Molecular Pathology in Practice: A Case-Based Approach	20%	0%	0%	0%	80%	0%	5
Essential Concepts in Molecular Pathology	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5
Human Genetics and Genomics	60%	0%	0%	0%	40%	0%	5
Human Molecular Genetics by Strachan, T. and Read, A.P., eds., October 2003 (Taylor & Francis Inc.)	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5
Molecular Diagnostics: A Training and Study Guide, Gregory J. Tsongalis, William B. Coleman, June 2022 (AACC Press)	40%	0%	0%	0%	60%	0%	5
Molecular Diagnostics: For the Clinical Laboratorian, Edited by William B. Coleman, Gregory J. Tsongalis, 2005 (Humana)	60%	0%	0%	0%	40%	0%	5
Molecular Diagnostics: Fundamentals, Methods and Clinical Applications, Lela Buckingham, February 2019 (F.A. Davis Company)	40%	0%	0%	0%	40%	20%	5
Molecular Pathology in Clinical Practice, Edited by Debra G.B. Leonard, February 2016 (Springer)	60%	0%	0%	0%	40%	0%	5
Thompson & Thompson's Genetics in Medicine	40%	0%	20%	0%	40%	0%	5
Tietz Textbook of Clinical Chemistry and Molecular Diagnostics by Carl A. Burtis, Edward R. Ashwood, David E. Bruns, July 2005 (Elsevier Health Sciences)	40%	20%	0%	0%	40%	0%	5

TOTAL RESPONDENTS: 5

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

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

- ▶ ACMG Standards and Guidelines for Clinical Genetics Laboratories www.acmg.net
- ▶ ADLM Learning Lab
- ▶ ADLM SYCL Question of the Day
- ▶ National Comprehensive Cancer Network® (NCCN®) Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology
- ▶ YouTube

	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	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5
ACMG Standards and Guidelines for Clinical Genetics Laboratories www.acmg.net	20%	0%	0%	20%	60%	0%	5
ADLM CCTC Pearls of Laboratory Medicine	80%	0%	20%	0%	0%	0%	5
ADLM Learning Lab	80%	0%	0%	0%	0%	20%	5
ADLM SYCL Question of the Day	80%	0%	0%	0%	20%	0%	5
Calculation of Drug Concentration webpage www.boomer.org/c/php/pk2504a.php	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5
CAP Checklists	40%	20%	20%	0%	0%	20%	5
COSMIC (Catalogue of Somatic Mutations in Cancer) data-base cancer.sanger.ac.uk/cancergenome/projects/cosmic/	80%	20%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5
Gene Reviews www.genereviews.org	20%	20%	40%	20%	0%	0%	5
National Comprehensive Cancer Network® (NCCN®) Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology	40%	0%	40%	0%	20%	0%	5
www.Pathologyoutlines.com	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5
Roger L. Bertholf Webpage www.bertholf.net/rlb/Lectures/index.htm	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5
Testing.com www.testing.com	80%	0%	20%	0%	0%	0%	5
University of Washington MTS webpage www.medtraining.org	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5
Up to Date www.uptodate.com	60%	0%	40%	0%	0%	0%	5
YouTube – please describe in comments section	60%	0%	20%	0%	20%	0%	5

TOTAL RESPONDENTS: 5