

ABCC Toxicological 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 Toxicology certification 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	80%
Separately	20%

TOTAL RESPONDENTS: 10

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	50%
After starting job, but did not do a fellowship	50%

TOTAL RESPONDENTS: 10

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	20%
3–6 months	40%
6–12 months	40%
>12 months	0%

TOTAL RESPONDENTS: 10

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

ANSWER CHOICE	% OF RESPONDENTS
<2 hours	0%
2–5 hours	40%
5–10 hours	20%
10–20 hours	30%
>20 hours	10%

TOTAL RESPONDENTS: 10

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

ANSWER CHOICE	% OF RESPONDENTS
Yes	10%
No	90%

TOTAL RESPONDENTS: 10

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

PREPARATION METHOD	# OF RESPONDENTS
Independent study	10
Clinical practice	7
Group study	3
Question banks	3
Conference attendance	2
Review course	1

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES MENTIONED:

- The Center for Forensic Science Research & Education (CFSRE), ADLM/IATDMCT meetings
- Society of Forensic Toxicologists (SOFT), American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS), Association for Diagnostics & Laboratory Medicine (ADLM)

TOTAL RESPONDENTS: 10

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
Time to study	5
Hands-on training (service responsibilities)	4
Conferences, lectures	3
Sign-out	2
Review courses	0

TOTAL RESPONDENTS: 10

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

Based on responses, the most useful top 5 resources are summarized below.

For individual survey results see table.

- ▶ Principles of Forensic Toxicology by B. Levine, July 1999 (AACC Press)
- ▶ The Clinical Toxicology Laboratory: Contemporary Practice of Poisoning Evaluation by L.M Shaw and T.C. Kwong, eds. 1998 (AACC Press)
- ▶ Disposition of Toxic Drugs and Chemicals in Man by Randall C. Baselt, June 2004, (Biomedical Publications)
- ▶ Contemporary Practice in Clinical Chemistry, Edited by William Clarke, Mark Marzinke, June 2020 (Academic Press)
- ▶ 500 Reference Review Questions in Toxicology by R.M. White, Sr., June 2002 (AACC Press)

	Not used/ Not aware	Not helpful	Slightly helpful	Neutral	Very helpful	Extremely helpful	Total
500 Referenced Review Questions in Toxicology by R.M. White, Sr., June 2002 (AACC Press)	40%	10%	20%	0%	30%	0%	10
Clinical Chemistry: Theory, Analysis, Correlation by Amadeo J. Pesce, Lawrence A. Kaplan, Steven C. Kazmierczak, December 2002 (Elsevier Health Sciences)	80%	0%	0%	10%	10%	0%	10
Clinical Diagnosis and Management by Laboratory Methods	78%	0%	0%	11%	11%	0%	9
Contemporary Practice in Clinical Chemistry, Edited by William Clarke, Mark Marzinke, June 2020 (Academic Press)	60%	0%	0%	10%	30%	0%	10
Disposition of Toxic Drugs and Chemicals in Man by Randall C. Baselt, June 2004, (Biomedical Publications)	40%	10%	10%	0%	30%	10%	10
Henry's Clinical Diagnosis and Management by Laboratory Methods Expert Consult (Henry's)	70%	10%	0%	10%	10%	0%	10
Journal of Analytical Toxicology	60%	0%	0%	40%	0%	0%	10
Medical Toxicology diagnosis and treatment of human. poisoning. 2nd ed. By M. Ellenhorn, 1997 (William & Wilkins)	90%	0%	0%	10%	0%	0%	10
Principles of Forensic Toxicology by B. Levine, July 1999 (AACC Press)	10%	0%	0%	10%	60%	20%	10
The Clinical Toxicology Laboratory: Contemporary Practice of Poisoning Evaluation by L.M Shaw and T.C. Kwong, eds. 1998 (AACC Press)	50%	0%	0%	10%	0%	40%	10
The Laboratory and the Poisoned Patient by J. Fenton, August 1998 (AACC Press)	70%	10%	10%	0%	10%	0%	10
The Pharmacological Basis of Therapeutics, Laurence L. Brunton, Bjorn C. Knollmann, November 2022 (McGraw Hill/Medical)	70%	0%	10%	0%	10%	10%	10
Therapeutic Drug Monitoring (Journal)	70%	0%	10%	20%	0%	0%	10
Tietz Textbook of Clinical Chemistry and Molecular Diagnostics by Carl A. Burtis, Edward R. Ashwood, David E. Bruns, July 2005 (Elsevier Health Sciences)	20%	0%	30%	30%	10%	10%	10

OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)

1. Clinical Toxicology Testing: A Guide for Laboratory Professionals, 2nd Edition By Magnani, Kwong, McMillin, and Wu, eds.
2. Calculations in Laboratory Science - Deacon
3. Barile's Clinical Toxicology: Principles and Mechanisms

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

**Based on responses, the most useful top 4 resources are summarized below.
For individual survey results see table.**

- ▶ ACB Deacon’s Challenge (www.acb.org.uk/our-resources.html)
- ▶ ADLM Learning Lab
- ▶ Roger L. Bertholf Webpage (www.bertholf.net/rlb/Lectures/index.htm)
- ▶ 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	70%	0%	0%	10%	20%	0%	10
ADLM SYCL Question of the Day	80%	0%	0%	20%	0%	0%	10
ADLM Learning Lab	70%	0%	0%	10%	20%	0%	10
ADLM CCTC Pearls of Laboratory Medicine	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	10
Calculation of Drug Concentration webpage www.boomer.org/c/php/pk2504a.php	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	10
Gene Reviews www.genereviews.org	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	10
PathologyOutlines.com www.Pathologyoutlines.com	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	10
Roger L. Bertholf Webpage www.bertholf.net/rlb/Lectures/index.htm	80%	0%	0%	0%	10%	10%	10
Testing.com www.testing.com	90%	0%	0%	0%	10%	0%	10
University of Washington MTS webpage www.medtraining.org	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	10
Up to Date www.uptodate.com	70%	0%	0%	10%	20%	0%	10
YouTube	90%	0%	0%	0%	10%	0%	10