



Certified Bariatric Nurse (CBN)
Certification Examination and Recertification

HANDBOOK

2025-2026



2026 CBN Examination Windows

2026 Test Window 1

Early Online Registration Opens: October 13, 2025
Early Registration Deadline: December 8, 2025
Regular Registration Deadline: January 5, 2026
Exam Administration: January 12, 2026 – March 9, 2026

2026 Test Window 2

Early Online Registration Opens: April 13, 2026
Early Registration Deadline: June 8, 2026
Regular Registration Deadline: July 6, 2026
Exam Administration: July 13, 2026 – September 7, 2026

CONTACT INFORMATION

American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS)

- **Address:** 14260 W. Newberry Rd #418, Newberry, FL 32669
- **Phone:** 352-331-4900 extension 121
- **Email:** cbn@asmbs.org

For Examination Questions or Scheduling Assistance

- **Hotline:** 888-519-9901
- **Email:** examschedule@psionline.com

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

For additional information, visit our website:

- [About the CBN Credential](#)
- [CBN Examination Information](#)
- [CBN Re-Certification](#)
- [Preparing for the CBN Exam](#)

General Policies

- **Non-Discrimination Policy:** The CBN Certification Program does not discriminate or deny opportunity to anyone on the basis of race, color, creed, age, sex, gender identity, national origin, religion, disability, marital status, parental status, ancestry, sexual orientation, military discharge status, socioeconomic status, or any other status protected by applicable law.
- **Certification Mark:** Certified Bariatric Nurse (CBN) is a certification mark of the ASMBS. Unauthorized use or display of the CBN certification mark or logo without prior written permission from the CBN Certification Council is strictly prohibited.
- **Candidate Handbook and Website Notice:** The CBN Candidate Handbook is posted online annually on October 1. While this date reflects the formal release of the handbook for the examination cycle, updates and clarifications may be made periodically throughout the year. Candidates are responsible for referring to the [CBN website](#) for the most current version of the handbook and all applicable policies, procedures, and program requirements.

October 1, 2025 Version

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Introduction

The Certified Bariatric Nurse (CBN) Examination is designed to assess the professional competence of registered nurses who care for patients with obesity across the continuum of care, including pre-clinical, clinical, and metabolic and bariatric surgery (MBS) settings. Achievement of a passing score on the examination is required to earn the CBN credential. Candidates must demonstrate competence in the knowledge and skills essential to safe and effective bariatric nursing practice. The CBN Certification Program supports public protection by validating competence and promoting high standards of professional practice. All candidates and certificants are expected to adhere to the CBN Standards of Conduct.

In 2006, an American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS) Committee of bariatric nurses conducted an initial practice analysis to identify the knowledge, tasks, and skills that distinguish nurses practicing in metabolic and bariatric surgery from those in other specialties. The practice analysis has been subsequently reviewed and updated in 2016² and 2022 to ensure that the examination reflects current, evidence-based practice. The 2022 practice analysis serves as the foundation for the current examination content outline and guides all examination development activities.

The CBN Certification Council, an autonomous governing body of ASMBS, is responsible for all essential certification decisions, including establishing eligibility requirements, developing and maintaining the examination, setting passing standards, and overseeing recertification and disciplinary processes. The Council ensures that all certification decisions are made in a fair, valid, and unbiased manner.

The CBN Certification Council does not develop, approve, recommend, or endorse any examination preparation materials, including courses, certificates, educational programs, or training offerings. Participation in any educational activity, including those offered by ASMBS, is not required to sit for or pass the CBN Examination and does not confer any advantage in achieving certification.

This Candidate Handbook has been developed to provide comprehensive information about the certification and recertification processes. It includes details on eligibility requirements, examination policies and procedures, content areas, and administrative policies governing the program. Candidates are responsible for reviewing and adhering to all policies outlined in this handbook. The ASMBS website serves as the most current source of program information and may include updates that supersede printed materials.

ASMBS adheres to principles of fairness, due process, and equal opportunity. The CBN Certification Program does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, age, sex, gender identity, national origin, religion, disability, marital status, parental status, ancestry, sexual orientation, military discharge status, socioeconomic status, or any other status protected by applicable law. All candidates are evaluated solely on the published eligibility and recertification criteria established by the CBN Certification Council.

The CBN Certification Council works in partnership with PSI Services LLC, a national testing agency, to support examination development, administration, and psychometric analysis in accordance with industry standards. Heuristic Solutions provide the certificate management system, herein referred to as LearningBuilder.

1 Berger, NK, Carr, JJ, Erickson, J, Gourash, WF, Muenzen, P, Smolenak, L, Tea, CG, & Thomas, K (Practice Analysis Writing Group). Path to bariatric nurse certification: the practice analysis. *Surgery for Obesity and Related Diseases*, 2010, 6: 399- 407. 2 Gourash W, Moore J, Tompkins S, Fraker T, Dugan S, Davis R, Breidenbach DH. *Bariatric Nursing Practice Analysis. Surgery for Obesity and Related Disease* 2017, 13(10), S35. 3. Practice Analysis Report – American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Certified Bariatric Nurse (CBN) – December 2022.

MISSION

The mission of the CBN Certification Program is to enhance and promote patient health and safety by validating competence and ensuring lifelong learning in metabolic and bariatric surgery through credentialing. This certification program is based on a distinct and well-defined field of nursing practice. Metabolic and bariatric surgery nursing is a specialty and is national in scope.¹⁻⁷

VISION

The vision of the CBN Certification Program is to provide the premier credential for professional nurses caring for patients affected by obesity (preclinical or clinical) and those undergoing metabolic and bariatric surgery.

OBJECTIVES

- Ongoing development and administration of a nationally recognized RN professional practice certification that validates advanced clinical expertise and leadership in metabolic and bariatric (MBS) surgery care, through rigorous criteria, a fair, valid, and reliable examination and recertification process, and equitable access across diverse healthcare settings.
- Foster a culture of excellence and lifelong learning by continuously evaluating and enhancing the CBN certification through ongoing evaluation, evidence-based updates, stakeholder input, and evolving standards of care.
- Promote public protection and confidence in the credential by maintaining high standards for competence, ethical practice, and professional accountability
- Effectively communicate the value and professional relevance of the CBN credential to the public and all stakeholders by promoting patient-centered care, improving clinical outcomes, and advancing specialized nursing expertise within the field of MBS care.

VALUES

In pursuit of our Vision and Mission statements and collaboration with the ASMBS, we commit to the following values:

- Patient safety
- Evidence-based practice
- Optimal patient outcomes
- Professional collaboration
- Quality of care
- Competency
- Stewardship

1. American Board of Nursing Specialties. Standards, rationale, criteria, required documentation. 2002 Standards, updated 6-2012
2. Report of Practice Analysis of Bariatric Nursing (2007)
3. Berger, NK, Carr, JJ, Erickson, J, Gourash, WF, Muenzen, P, Smolenak, L, Tea, CG, & Thomas, K (Practice Analysis Writing Group). Path to bariatric nurse certification: the practice analysis. *Surgery for Obesity and Related Diseases*, 2010, 6: 399-407.
4. National Practice Analysis of the Bariatric Nurse (December 2016)
5. Gourash W, Moore J, Tompkins S, Fraker T, Dugan S, Davis R, Breidenbach DH. Bariatric Nursing Practice Analysis. *Surgery for Obesity and Related Disease* 2017, 13(10): S35.
6. Gourash W, Story N, Apfel A, Moore J, Carr J, Forryan N, Ivins T. The Perceived Value of Bariatric Nurse Certification. *Surgery for Obesity and Related Diseases*, 2016., 12(7): S43-4.
7. Practice Analysis Report – American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Certified Bariatric Nurse (CBN) – December 2022.

STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

PREAMBLE

The American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS) is a nonprofit Medical Society that provides certification for Certified Bariatric Nurses (CBN). The CBN Certification Council has coordinated the development, administration, and maintenance of this certification. These groups, and the multiple additional developmental task forces, include a diverse group of experts in Metabolic and Bariatric Nursing, are national in scope, and are represented by Professional Nurses of different geographical regions, multiple metabolic and bariatric nursing experiential levels and roles, with a familiarity of the full range of metabolic and bariatric surgical procedures, academic and community environments, and the full range of working program sizes, for the purpose of establishing rigorous standards which have a basis in real world practice.

The ASMBS seeks to encourage, establish and maintain the highest standards, traditions and principles of Bariatric Nursing. Individuals who hold the CBN credential should recognize their responsibilities, not only to their patients, but also to society, to other health care professionals and to themselves. All candidates for CBN certification, and all CBN certificants, shall abide by [ASMBS Code of Ethics](#) and the CBN Standards of Conduct. Individuals who fail to meet these requirements may have their credential suspended or revoked or be declared ineligible for certification.

STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

Certified Bariatric Nurses, as health care professionals, must strive as individuals and as a group to maintain the highest of professional and ethical standards. The following statements are standards to guide those individuals holding the CBN credential in their professional activities.

Certified Bariatric Nurses shall:

- Act within the full extent of their professional licensure and established scope of practice to ensure adherence to all current, recognized professional standards.
- Always keep the health and safety of the patient in mind and act in the best interest of each patient.
- Provide care without discrimination on any basis, respecting the rights and dignity of all individuals.
- Respect and protect the legal and personal rights of the patients that they treat.
- Comply with governmental rules and regulations applicable to their scope and standard of practice.
- Divulge no confidential information regarding any patient or family except where disclosure is required for responsible performance of duty or as required by law.
- Refuse to participate in, or conceal, illegal, unethical, or incompetent acts that occur within the scope of professional nursing practice.
- Comply with professional nursing practice requirements and maintain an active, unencumbered nursing license.
- Follow the principles of ethical business behavior by avoiding any form of conduct that creates an impermissible conflict of interest.
- Actively maintain, accurately represent, and continually improve their professional competence.
- Demonstrate behavior that reflects integrity, supports objectivity, and maintain a positive public image of the profession and its professionals.
- Maintain current CBN certification as defined by the CBN Certification Council.

Eligibility & Application

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

In order for candidates to sit for the CBN examination they must satisfy the following eligibility criteria:

1. **Licensure:** Be currently licensed as a Professional Nurse (RN) in one of the 50 United States, or one of its territories, at the time of application and examination.
 - a. Licensure status will be verified and confirmed to be in good standing and unencumbered.
 - b. Individuals licensed as a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPNs) or Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN) are not eligible.

2. **Licensure:** Be currently licensed as a Professional Nurse outside of the 50 United States, and its territories.
 - a. Candidates must hold a nursing license equivalent to a Registered Nurse. International licensure will be reviewed individually by the CBN Certification Council, and applicants must submit an English copy to cbn@asmbs.org for license verification upon registering for the CBN exam.
 - b. The examination is based on the most current practice analysis of nursing care of patients with obesity (pre-clinical or clinical) and metabolic and bariatric surgical patients in the United States of America.
 - c. Passing the CBN examination does not guarantee that the certification will be accepted outside of the 50 United States, and its territories.
 - d. The examination will only be offered in the English language.
 - e. The examination will be offered in test centers around the world. Test center information will be available at <http://schedule.psiexams.com/>.

3. **Professional Practice Experience:** Candidates must be a registered nurse (RN) or international equivalent in good standing for a minimum of two years. In addition, candidates must have at least 2,000 hours of experience in obesity (pre-clinical or clinical) and/or metabolic and bariatric surgery nursing practice completed within the previous four years.
 - a. Nursing practice may include clinical practice, education, administration, leadership, quality improvement, research or consultation.
 - b. The CBN Certification Council will review eligibility when there is a question.

4. **Adhere to the CBN Certification Standards of Conduct.** Candidates are required to confirm acceptance of a statement on the application form that they understand violations of the CBN Standards of Conduct may result in loss of eligibility for the CBN certification.

5. **Adhere to the ASMBS Code of Ethics.** Eligibility for the CBN examination requires adherence to the [ASMBS Code of Ethics](#). Candidates are required to confirm acceptance of a statement on the application form that they understand violations of the [ASMBS Code of Ethics](#) may result in loss of eligibility for the CBN certification.

INTERNATIONAL CANDIDATES

International candidates must be currently licensed as a Professional Nurse or hold a nursing license equivalent to a Registered Nurse in good standing and unencumbered. Licensure equivalency is reviewed individually by the CBN Certification Council. Candidates are required to submit an English copy of their nursing license to cbn@asmbs.org for verification upon registering for the CBN examination. Examination scores will not be released until license verification has been completed.

The CBN examination is administered exclusively in English and is developed based on the most current practice analysis of professional nursing care within the United States. Examination content reflects the clinical responsibilities and competencies required for the care of patients with obesity and metabolic disorders, including those undergoing metabolic and bariatric surgical treatment. Passing the CBN examination does not indicate that the credential will be accepted outside of the United States or its territories.

The examination is offered at test centers worldwide. Test center information will be available at <http://schedule.psiexams.com/>. International candidates are advised to contact PSI for scheduling following completion of their online application at examschedule@psionline.com and to contact cbn@asmbs.org for license verification.

RATIONALE FOR INITIAL CERTIFICATION ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The eligibility requirements for the CBN certification are designed to ensure that candidates possess the foundational qualifications, professional experience, and scope of practice necessary for safe and effective metabolic and bariatric nursing care. These criteria have been reviewed and confirmed by the CBN Certification Council, a panel of subject matter experts (SMEs) responsible for the development and maintenance of the CBN Certification Program. Requiring an active, unencumbered Registered Nurse (RN) license, or international equivalent, establishes a baseline of legal authority and professional accountability. The requirement for a minimum of two years and 2,000 hours of recent specialty practice reflects the complexity of metabolic and bariatric nursing and aligns with the competencies validated through the 2022 practice analysis, while also remaining consistent with industry standards across comparable nursing certifications. Recognizing a range of qualifying roles, including clinical practice, education, leadership, quality improvement, research, and consultation, ensures alignment with the full scope of metabolic and bariatric nursing practice and supports equitable access for qualified professionals. Collectively, these requirements support the validity, fairness, and defensibility of the certification program and promote public protection by ensuring certificants demonstrate competence and professional integrity, fostering trust in the credential.

APPLICATION REVIEW

Candidate applications are reviewed on a rolling basis during each examination registration window. Applications are evaluated against established CBN Eligibility Guidelines to verify licensure status, required professional nursing experience, alignment of the applicant's role with the obesity (pre-clinical or clinical) and/or the metabolic and bariatric surgery care continuum, name consistency across records, and licensure validity through the testing window.

LICENSE NAME VERIFICATION

In order to sit for the CBN examination, each candidate's professional nursing license will be verified. The name used during examination registration must exactly match the name on the candidate's nursing license. Candidates whose registration name differs from the name on their nursing license must submit legal documentation verifying the name change. Acceptable documentation includes a marriage certificate, divorce decree, or court order. Failure to provide required documentation may result in delays or denial of examination eligibility. See ***Taking the Examination*** section for complete details.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE AUDIT

Five percent (5%) of candidates sitting for the CBN examination will be selected for audit to verify required professional experience. Candidates selected for audit must download and complete the [CBN Clinical Practice Verification Form \(Audit Form\)](#), available on the [CBN Examination Information](#) webpage. Once completed, the form must be submitted through the [CBN Audit Documentation Submission Form](#).

All signatures on the audit form must be legitimate and verifiable. Typed names, electronic script fonts, or cursive-style text entered in place of an actual signature will not be accepted. Failure to provide valid documentation or signatures may result in delays, denial of eligibility, or other action in accordance with CBN policies.

ELIGIBILITY APPEALS PROCESS

A CBN candidate may submit a formal, written appeal of an eligibility determination. Appeals must be based on one or more documented grounds and must be submitted to cbn@asmbs.org within (30) business days of the date of the eligibility notification. Appeals are reviewed by a separate Appeals Panel to ensure an independent and impartial review. The Appeals Panel evaluates the appeal based on the eligibility criteria and documentation applicable at the time of the original decision. The decision of the Appeals Panel is final. See the **DISCIPLINARY ACTION & APPEALS** section for additional information.

SUSPENDED / REVOKED ELIGIBILITY

All Candidates will be governed by the policies current at the time of application for the examination. Eligibility for the CBN Examination may be suspended or revoked for any of the following:

1. Obtaining or attempting to obtain credentialing by fraud, deception, or artifice.
2. Knowingly assisting another person or other persons in obtaining or attempting to obtain credentialing by fraud, deception, or artifice.
3. Illegal use of a CBN certificate or falsification of credentials.
4. Unauthorized possession and/or distribution of any official testing or examination content or materials.
5. Violation of the [ASMBS Code of Ethics](#).

Registration & Scheduling

Candidates must register online at <https://test-takers.psiexams.com/asmbs>. If payment is being made by company, check, or money order, please use the link for the submission form and follow the instructions at the top of the form. For debit or credit card payments, please continue to Register for the Exam. The computer will guide you through the process. After submitting your application and payment, you'll be prompted to schedule an examination appointment or provide additional eligibility information.

When you schedule your examination, be prepared to confirm a location and a preferred date and time for testing. You will be notified of the time to report to the Assessment Center, and you will be sent an email confirmation notice.

If special accommodations are being requested, please use the following link to submit a request at least 45 days prior to the desired examination date: <https://psihelpdesk.atlassian.net/servicedesk/customer/portal/364>. Please refer to the **Special Examination Accommodations** and **Religious Accommodations** sections for additional information.

Incomplete applications will not be processed. Candidates will not be considered for admission to the examination until their examination application is complete. ASMBS candidates should contact the ASMBS Test Taker Services hotline at 888-519-9901 or email examschedule@psionline.com for scheduling-related questions and any other testing concerns.

EXAMINATION APPLICATION AND SCHEDULING DEADLINES

Examination Date	Registration Opens	Early Registration Deadline	Registration Deadline
January 12 through March 6, 2026	October 13, 2025	December 8, 2025	January 5, 2026
July 13 through September 7, 2026	April 13, 2026	June 8, 2026	July 6, 2026

**11:59 PM CST for each registration date*

EXAMINATION FEES

Registration	ASMBS Member*	IFSO Member* (through any chapter outside of the US)	ASMBS NonMember
Early Registration	\$250	\$300	\$350
Regular Registration	\$300	\$350	\$400

** ASMBS or IFSO member number required when registering to receive discount*

RESCHEDULING

Candidates may reschedule their appointment ONCE at no charge by calling ASMBS Test Taker Services at 888-519-9901 at least two business days prior to their scheduled appointment. International candidates may email examschedule@psionline.com for rescheduling options. The following schedule applies:

If the Examination is scheduled on:	PSI must be contacted by 3:00 PM Central Time to reschedule the examination the previous:
Monday	Wednesday
Tuesday	Thursday
Wednesday	Friday
Thursday	Monday
Friday / Saturday	Tuesday

MISSED APPOINTMENTS AND FORFEITURES

Candidates will forfeit their examination registration and all fees paid under the following circumstances:

- Failure to contact PSI at least two business days prior to the scheduled testing session to reschedule an examination.
- Rescheduling a second time in the same testing window.
- Appearing more than 15 minutes late for an examination.
- Failure to report for an examination appointment.

A new, complete application and examination fee are required to reapply for the examination.

WITHDRAWALS AND REFUNDS

Candidates who submit a written request asking to be withdrawn from an examination postmarked no later than 30 business days prior to the scheduled examination are eligible to receive reimbursement of application fees, less a \$50.00 processing fee.

Candidates who submit a written request asking to be withdrawn from an examination postmarked no later than 20 business days prior to the scheduled examination are eligible to receive reimbursement of one-half of their application fee, less a \$50.00 processing fee.

Candidates who do not withdraw at least 20 days in advance of the examination, or who fail to appear for the examination, will forfeit the full amount of the fee. However, the ASMBS may consider unusual circumstances if they can be documented, and supportive evidence is provided within 30 business days after the examination date (see Candidate Grievances section).

Unusual circumstances may include death in the family with proper documentation, accident or illness with a physician's letter. (ASMBS to determine what constitutes an emergency).

ASSESSMENT CENTER LOCATIONS

PSI Assessment Centers have been selected to provide accessibility to the most candidates in all states and major metropolitan areas. A current listing of PSI Assessment Centers, including addresses and driving directions, may be viewed at PSI's website located at <https://test-takers.psiexams.com/asmbs>. Specific address information will be provided when you schedule an examination appointment.

EXAMINATION ACCOMMODATIONS

Accommodations are provided on an individual basis and are determined based on the nature of the disability or medical condition and the documentation provided. PSI manages the review and administration of accommodation requests on behalf of the CBN Certification Council.

Reasonable efforts will be made to provide requested accommodations when a functional impairment has been demonstrated through appropriate documentation. Accommodations will be granted provided they do not fundamentally alter the measurement of the knowledge or skills the examination is intended to assess, do not compromise examination integrity or security, are consistent with the purpose of the examination program, and do not impose an undue burden on the certification program. Accommodations cannot be made to the content of the examination. A range of accommodations may be considered to support candidates with disabilities or qualifying medical conditions.

The determination of whether a medical condition not covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) qualifies for an accommodation for the CBN certification examination is made at the sole discretion of the CBN Certification Council.

PSI complies with the ADA and ensures that no individual with a disability is denied the opportunity to take the examination solely on the basis of that disability. Under the ADA, a disability is defined as a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, a history or record of such an impairment, or being perceived as having such an impairment. PSI will review requests and coordinate reasonable accommodations for candidates with documented disabilities on behalf of the CBN Certification Council.

Candidates requesting accommodations must submit their request directly to PSI. Requests for accommodations, including verification of the disability and a description of the specific assistance needed, must be submitted in writing to PSI at least 45 calendar days prior to the desired examination date using the following link: <https://psihelpdesk.atlassian.net/servicedesk/customer/portal/364>. PSI will review all requests and communicate determinations directly to candidates. Candidates approved for accommodations must contact PSI at 800-367-1565, ext. 6750 to schedule their examination.

Wheelchair access is available at all PSI Assessment Centers. Candidates must notify PSI at the time of scheduling if wheelchair access is required.

If a candidate is dissatisfied with the accommodation determination, the candidate may submit a written appeal to the CBN Certification Program at cbn@asmbs.org. The CBN Certification Council will review the appeal and supporting documentation and will communicate the final determination.

RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATIONS

If a candidate requires accommodation due to a religious observance during the testing window, the request must be submitted directly to the CBN Certification Program at cbn@asmbs.org.

Taking the Examination

Your examination will be given via computer at a PSI Assessment Center. You do not need any computer experience or typing skills to take the computer examination. On the day of your examination appointment, report to the Assessment Center no later than your scheduled testing time. **IF YOU ARRIVE MORE THAN 15 MINUTES AFTER THE SCHEDULED TESTING TIME, YOU WILL NOT BE ADMITTED.**

IDENTIFICATION

To gain admission to the assessment center, you must present two forms of identification. The primary form must be government issued, current and include your name, signature and photograph. No form of temporary identification will be accepted. You will also be required to sign a roster for verification of identity.

- Examples of valid primary forms of identification are: driver's license with photograph; state identification card with photograph; passport; military identification card with photograph.
- The secondary form of identification must display your name and signature for signature verification (e.g., credit card with signature, social security card with signature, employment/student ID card with signature).
- If your name on your registration is different than it appears on your identification, you must bring proof of your name change (e.g., marriage license, divorce decree or court order).

You must have proper identification to gain admission to the Assessment Center. Failure to provide appropriate identification at the time of the examination is considered a missed appointment. There will be no refund of your examination fees.

PERSONAL BELONGINGS

Please do not bring personal items, valuables, or weapons to the Assessment Center. You are only permitted to bring wallets and keys. Large coats and jackets must be left outside the testing room. You will be given a soft locker to store your wallet and/or keys while you are in the testing room, which the proctor will lock before you enter. You will not be able to access these items until after the examination is completed. Please note that watches and hats are not allowed in the testing room unless they are securely locked in the soft locker.

Once you have placed your personal belongings into the soft locker, you will be asked to pull out your pockets to ensure they are empty. If you bring personal items that will not fit in the soft locker, you will not be able to test. The site will not store or be responsible for your personal belongings.

If any personal items are observed or heard (e.g., cellular/smart phones, alarms) in the testing room after the examination is started, you will be dismissed, and the administration will be forfeited.

EXAMINATION RESTRICTIONS

To maintain the integrity, security, and standardized administration of the examination, all candidates are required to comply with the following examination restrictions:

- You will be provided with one piece of scratch paper at a time to use during the examination, unless noted on the sign-in roster for a particular candidate. You must return the scratch paper to the proctor at the completion of testing, or you will not receive your score report.

- Do not remove any documents or notes of any kind from the Assessment Center.
- You may not ask questions concerning the content of the examination during the examination.
- Eating, drinking, or smoking is not permitted in the Assessment Center.
- You may take a break whenever you wish, but you will not be allowed additional time to make up for time lost during breaks.

SECURITY

PSI maintains standardized administration and security procedures to ensure all candidates are provided an equal opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and skills. Assessment Centers are continuously monitored by audio and video surveillance for security purposes. Candidates are required to agree to all examination security and confidentiality requirements prior to testing. The following procedures apply during the examination:

- Examinations are the copyrighted property of ASMBS. Candidates are prohibited from bringing cameras, notes, tape recorders, pagers, cellular phones, smart devices, or other electronic equipment into the testing room. Possession of any unauthorized electronic device will result in immediate dismissal from the examination.
- Calculators are not permitted.
- Guests, visitors, or family members are not allowed in the testing room or reception areas.
- Candidates may be subject to a metal detection scan upon entering the examination room.
- Candidates are strictly prohibited from copying, reproducing, recording, or disclosing any examination content, in whole or in part. Any attempt to do so constitutes a violation of CBN intellectual property and examination security policies and will result in invalidation of examination results and may lead to further disciplinary action, including legal action.

MISCONDUCT

The following behaviors are considered misconduct and may result in dismissal from the examination, invalidation of scores, and forfeiture of examination fees:

- Creating a disturbance, acting in a disruptive or abusive manner, or failing to follow instructions from testing personnel;
- Possessing or using unauthorized electronic devices, including cellular phones or smart devices;
- Talking or communicating with other candidates during the examination;
- Giving or receiving assistance, or being suspected of doing so;
- Leaving the Assessment Center during the examination without authorization;
- Attempting to record, copy, or remove examination content, or making unauthorized notes;
- Attempting to take the examination on behalf of another individual;
- Possessing unauthorized personal items, notes, books, or other materials not permitted in the testing room.

Violations may result in disciplinary action in accordance with CBN Certification Program policies, including the Disciplinary Action & Appeals Policy.

INCLEMENT WEATHER, POWER FAILURE, EMERGENCY OR OTHER TESTING SITE ISSUES

In the event of inclement weather or unforeseen emergencies on the day of an examination, PSI will determine whether circumstances warrant the cancellation, and subsequent rescheduling of an examination. The examination will usually not be rescheduled if the Assessment Center personnel are able to open the Assessment Center.

You may visit PSI's website at <https://test-takers.psiexams.com/asmbbs> prior to the examination to determine if PSI has been advised that any Assessment Centers are closed. Every attempt is made to administer the examination as scheduled; however, should an examination be canceled at an Assessment Center, all scheduled candidates will receive notification following the examination regarding rescheduling or reapplication procedures.

If power to an Assessment Center is temporarily interrupted during an administration, your examination will be restarted. The responses provided up to the point of interruption will be intact, but for security reasons the questions will be scrambled.

If an unexpected delay arises at a scheduled testing center contact ASMBS Test Taker Services hotline at 888-519-9901 or email examschedule@psionline.com.

COMPUTER LOGIN

After your identification has been confirmed, you will be escorted to the examination room. Upon entering the examination room, you may be subjected to a metal detection scan and will then be directed to a testing carrel. You will be instructed on-screen to enter your identification number. You will take your photograph which will remain on-screen throughout your examination session. This photograph will also print on your score report.

PRACTICE EXAMINATION

Prior to attempting the examination, you will be given the opportunity to practice taking an examination on the computer. The time you use for this practice examination is NOT counted as part of your examination time or score. When you are comfortable with the computer testing process, you may quit the practice session and begin the timed examination.

EXAMINATION OVERVIEW AND INSTRUCTIONS

Following the practice examination, you will begin the timed examination. Instructions for taking the examination are provided on-screen before the examination begins.

The computer monitors the time you spend on the examination. The examination will automatically end when the time limit is reached. You may click on the "Time" box in the lower menu bar on the screen to monitor your time. A digital clock indicates the time remaining for you to complete the examination. The Time feature may be turned off during the examination.

Only one question is presented at a time. The question number appears on the screen. Answer options are labeled A, B, C, or D. To select an answer, click on the desired option or enter the corresponding letter. You may change your answer at any time during the examination.

To move between questions, use the navigation arrows on the screen. You may move forward or backward through the examination.

An examination question may be left unanswered for return later in the examination session. You may also mark questions for review. A summary screen allows you to identify unanswered or flagged questions and return to them before completing the examination.

CANDIDATE COMMENTS

During the examination, candidates may submit comments about specific questions using the on-screen comment feature. All comments are reviewed by the examination program; however, individual responses are not provided.

FOLLOWING THE EXAMINATION

Upon completion of the examination, candidates will receive an immediate preliminary pass/fail result provided by the testing vendor. A detailed score report will also be provided, which includes the candidate's total score and performance by content domain. Candidates may be asked to complete a brief evaluation following the examination. If a score report is not received, candidates should contact CBN@asmbs.org.

EXAMINATION SECURITY

All examination questions are the copyrighted property of ASMBS. It is forbidden under federal copyright law to copy, reproduce, record, distribute or display these examination questions by any means, in whole or in part. Doing so may subject you to severe civil and criminal penalties.

Concerns related to examination security, including unauthorized sharing of exam content, may be reported through the [CBN Feedback and Reporting Form](#).

Examination Preparation & Specifications

PREPARATION FOR THE EXAMINATION

The following guidelines are provided to help candidates understand the expectations and format of the examination:

- **Read all instructions carefully.**
- **Timed examination:** The examination is timed. A timer on the screen will track your remaining time. Candidates should monitor their pace throughout the examination.
- **Answer every question:** There is no penalty for guessing. All questions carry equal weight, and unanswered questions are scored as incorrect.

EXAMINATION SPECIFICATIONS

The following examination specifications describe the purpose, structure, and content framework of the Certified Bariatric Nurse (CBN) certification examination and are derived from the validated practice analysis of metabolic and bariatric surgery nursing practice.

The CBN Examination is developed and administered in accordance with the *Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing (American Educational Research Association, American Psychological Association, & National Council on Measurement in Education, 2014)*.

EXAMINATION PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVE

The objective of the CBN Examination is to assess the cognitive knowledge required for competent specialty-level practice of registered nurses providing care to patients with obesity (pre-clinical or clinical) and those undergoing metabolic and bariatric surgery.

The examination evaluates applied knowledge, clinical judgement and professional decision making across key domains of practice. Developed from a validated practice analysis, the examination supports a fair, valid, and reliable pass/fail decision to determine whether a candidate meets the standard for certification. Certification ensures that nurses possess the specialty-level competence necessary to promote patient safety, improve outcomes, and support quality care in metabolic and bariatric surgery nursing.

TARGET POPULATION

The CBN certification examination is intended for currently licensed registered nurses who provide care to individuals with obesity (pre-clinical through clinical) and/or undergoing metabolic and bariatric surgery

- Nursing practice may include clinical practice, education, administration, leadership, quality improvement, research or consultation
- Practice across the preoperative, perioperative, and long-term follow-up phases of care
- Work in hospital, clinic, academic, or community-based settings

The examination reflects the level of practice expected of registered nurses with a minimum of two years of experience in the metabolic and bariatric surgery care continuum.

EXAMINATION FORMAT

The CBN certification examination is a computer-based, multiple-choice examination delivered through a contracted testing vendor.

Key examination characteristics include:

- **Total number of items:** 175 multiple-choice questions
- **Scored items:** 150
- **Pretest (unscored) items:** 25
- **Answer options:** Four options per item (one best answer)
- **Time limit:** 3 hours (180 minutes)

Pretest items are included to evaluate the performance of newly developed questions and may be used in future examinations. Candidates are not informed which items are pretest.

Examination Question Format

- The examination is computer-based
- All questions are multiple-choice with four options (A, B, C, D)
- Each question has one best answer
- All questions are equally weighted
- Credit is awarded only for the correct response

EXAMINATION BLUEPRINT

Examination content is organized into domains derived from the validated practice analysis. Domain weightings reflect the relative importance of each area in professional practice and guide examination assembly.

Domain	Percentage	# of Items
1. Clinical Management: Preoperative (Pre-hospital)	21.3%	32
2. Clinical Management: Perioperative (Hospital)	25.3%	38
3. Clinical Management: Follow-up (Post-discharge & longer term)	25.3%	38
4. Professional and Community Collaboration	14.7%	22
5. Program Quality	13.3%	20
Total	100%	150

PRACTICE ANALYSIS AND CONTENT DEVELOPMENT

A role delineation (practice analysis) study was conducted to determine the content of the CBN Examination in accordance with the *Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing*.

The practice analysis involved a nationally diverse group of nursing professionals in metabolic and bariatric surgery, representing a range of geographic locations, practice settings, and years of experience. Tasks and knowledge areas were evaluated based on both importance to practice and frequency of performance. These ratings were combined to determine overall significance.

Tasks that were performed infrequently but identified as critically important to patient safety or professional practice were retained in the examination content framework.

CONTENT FRAMEWORK

The examination content outline reflects the minimum knowledge and skills required for specialty nursing practice providing care to patients with obesity (pre-clinical or clinical) and those undergoing metabolic and bariatric surgery.

The content outline is organized into:

- Domains
- Task Statements
- Knowledge Statements (Topics)

Domains represent major areas of professional practice within metabolic and bariatric nursing.

Task Statements describe the activities or actions performed by nurses in the course of providing metabolic and bariatric care.

Knowledge Statements (Topics) define the information, concepts, and principles required to perform the identified tasks safely and effectively. These may include both foundational knowledge and applied clinical understanding.

Each domain includes associated task and knowledge statements that collectively define the scope of practice measured by the examination.

The content outline serves as the foundation for examination development and provides a framework for candidate preparation.

EXAMINATION ASSEMBLY AND EQUIVALENCE

Examination forms are assembled in accordance with the content outline and domain weightings established through the practice analysis.

Forms include a combination of new and previously used items to:

- Support statistical equating
- Manage item exposure
- Ensure comparable levels of difficulty across administrations

Examination assembly, review, and quality control are conducted in collaboration with subject matter experts and psychometric consultants.

EXAMINATION SCORING

Each scored item contributes equally to the candidate's total score. Pretest items do not contribute to candidate scores.

Candidate responses are scored electronically using established procedures to ensure accuracy and consistency.

PASSING STANDARD

The passing standard for the CBN examination is established using a criterion-referenced standard-setting process conducted by qualified subject matter experts.

The passing standard represents the minimum level of knowledge required for safe and effective practice as a Certified Bariatric Nurse.

EXAMINATION EQUIVALENCE AND PSYCHOMETRIC REVIEW

Following each examination administration, psychometric analyses are conducted to evaluate:

- Item performance
- Examination reliability
- Standard error of measurement
- Candidate score distributions
- Overall examination functioning

These analyses support the ongoing evaluation of examination quality and ensure that certification decisions are fair, reliable, and defensible.

FAIRNESS AND SUBGROUP PERFORMANCE REVIEW

The CBN Certification Program evaluates examination results for evidence of potential bias or construct-irrelevant variance.

When candidate volumes permit, analyses may include statistical evaluation of subgroup performance (e.g., differential item functioning). When sample sizes are insufficient, alternative indicators such as item statistics, content review, and expert judgment are used.

Items identified as potentially problematic are reviewed and may be revised, removed, or otherwise addressed in accordance with established procedures.

All findings and actions are documented as part of the examination quality assurance process.

EXAMINATION CONTENT OUTLINE

1: Clinical Management: Preoperative (Pre-facility) - 32 Questions

1A. Assess a patient/support person's knowledge of

1. disease of obesity and obesity-related conditions
2. treatment options and alternatives
3. risks and benefits of treatment options

1B. Education a patient/support persons about

1. disease of obesity and obesity-related conditions
2. treatment options and alternatives
3. risks and benefits of treatment options

1C. Identify risks and unique needs of the patient by reviewing medical, surgical, psychosocial, religious, cultural, family, and weight history

1D. Identify unique age-related needs for

1. Adolescence (13-18 years)
2. Geriatric (70 years or over)

1E. Identify unique gender-related needs (e.g., pregnancy, fertility, vitamin requirements, transgender considerations)

1F. Assist patient/support persons in making an informed decision regarding bariatric treatment options

1G. Discuss and establish goals and expected outcomes with the patient/support persons

1H. Educate patient/support persons about

1. steps in the bariatric surgical process (preoperative preparation, perioperative, follow-up care)
2. lifestyle changes after surgery (e.g., physical activity, nutrition and supplementation, psychosocial support)
4. expected clinical outcomes
5. short and long-term complications
6. reporting of signs and symptoms of complications
7. measures to prevent complications

1I. Evaluate the effectiveness of education for patients/support persons

1J. Utilize various modalities while in the perioperative phase (e.g., telehealth visits, telemedicine, patient portals, social media)

2: Clinical Management: Perioperative (Facility Stay) - 38 Questions

2A. Assess patient/support person's understanding of preoperative education and provide reinforcement

2B. Utilize size and weight-appropriate equipment

2C. Implement patient care protocols (e.g., airway, positioning, medications, pain management, enhanced recovery)

2D. Practice safe bariatric patient handling

2E. Implement preventative measures for complications

2F. Monitor for abnormal signs, symptoms, and diagnostic tests

2G. Respond to early and late warning signs for complications

2H. Implement discharge plan and review instructions for immediate post-operative period

1. reporting signs and symptoms of complications
2. nutrition and diet progression
3. physical activity/limitations
4. vitamin and mineral supplementation
5. fluid/hydration management
6. medication management
7. pain management
8. follow-up care

3: Clinical Management: Follow-up (Post-discharge and long term) -38 Questions

3A. Assess the patient for:

1. short-and long-term complications
2. short-and long term weight change

3. adherence to plan of care and lifestyle changes (e.g., medications, nutrition and vitamin supplementation, diet, physical activity, self-care, smoking cessation)
4. psychosocial adjustments (e.g., substance abuse, alcohol use, body image)
5. need for additional bariatric education

3B. Evaluate and report improvement, remission, or resolution of obesity-related conditions

3C. Assess for quality of life changes from preoperative levels

3D. Identify barriers to recommended lifestyle changes

3E. Offer tools or resources to help patients manage barriers to recommended lifestyle changes

3F. Address secondary effects of surgery (e.g., dumping, reactive hypoglycemia, redundant skin)

3G. Provide additional education or referrals as needed

3H. Reinforce long-term healthy behaviors

3I. Encourage participation in support group(s) and other available psychological support

3J. Utilize various modalities while in the follow-up phase (e.g., telehealth visits, telemedicine, patient portals, social media)

4: Professional and Community Collaboration - 22 Questions

4A. Assess the multidisciplinary team's knowledge related to the care of bariatric surgical patients

4B. Implement formal and informal multidisciplinary team education related to the unique needs of metabolic and bariatric surgery patients

4C. Evaluate the effectiveness of multidisciplinary team education

4D. Collaborate with the multidisciplinary team to provide patient-centered education

4E. Collaborate with the multidisciplinary team to ensure successful progression of patient through continuum of care

4F. Evaluate patient care protocols with the multidisciplinary team

4G. Coordinate pre- and postoperative referrals

4H. Foster sensitivity within the multidisciplinary team towards patients with obesity

4I. Promote understanding of surgical complications within the multidisciplinary team

4J. Promote safe patient handling within the multidisciplinary team

4K. Provide education to the community on the disease of obesity and associated treatments using various modalities (e.g., web sites, webinars, social media, newsletters, informational presentations)

4L. Promote obesity awareness within the healthcare community through educational outreach (e.g., role modeling, precepting, teaching, mentoring)

4M. Foster advocacy and access related to individuals and associated treatments

5: Program Quality - 20 Questions

5A. Advocate for patient safety involving furniture, patient transport/transfer systems, medical and surgical equipment

5B. Integrate the use of bariatric ergonomic protocols to decrease the risk of patient and staff injury

5C. Evaluate innovations in technology and advances in care through benchmark studies, literature reviews, evidence-based practice, or research

5D. Facilitate incorporation of innovations in technology and advances in care into practice

5E. Participate in the quality improvement process including: Planning, Data Collection, Analysis, Implementation, Documentation, and Evaluation

5F. Participate in updating patient care practices (e.g., policies, protocols, clinical pathways)

5G. Develop and/or update patient education programs, materials, and tools using multiple modalities

5H. Promote compliance with current best practice guidelines and recommendations

5I. Promote optimization of the patient experience including sensitivity

5J. Identify specific competencies necessary for delivery of patient care (e.g., safe patient handling, early recognition of complications, sensitivity training)

5K. Facilitate staff training to optimize the delivery of patient care (e.g., safe patient handling, early recognition of complications, sensitivity training)

5L. Contribute to the profession through presentations, publications, research, or involvement of professional organizations

KNOWLEDGE STATEMENTS (Topics)

Severe obesity

1. Epidemiology (trends, incidents, prevalence)
2. Sensitivity issues or weight bias issues (e.g., people-first language)
3. Etiology (e.g., biology, medications, environment, genetics, lifestyle)
4. Obesity related medical conditions
 - a. Endocrine (e.g., Type 2 diabetes, metabolic syndrome, polycystic ovarian syndrome)
 - b. Cardiovascular (e.g., hypertension, dyslipidemia, stroke, cardiovascular disease, congestive heart failure)
 - c. Musculoskeletal (e.g., degenerative joint disease, back pain)
 - d. Gastrointestinal (e.g., gastroesophageal reflux disease, fatty liver disease)
 - e. Pulmonary (e.g., obstructive sleep apnea, asthma, Pickwickian syndrome)
 - f. Urinary/gynecological (e.g., incontinence, infertility)
 - g. Neurological (e.g., pseudotumor cerebri / idiopathic intracranial hypertension)
 - h. Cancer (e.g., breast, uterus, cervix)
5. Normal anatomy and physiology of the gastrointestinal system
6. Physiology and mechanisms of weight loss and weight gain

Considerations for metabolic and bariatric surgery patients

1. Criteria for metabolic and bariatric surgery candidacy
2. Contraindications for surgery candidacy
3. Socio-economic issues
4. Age-related considerations (e.g., adolescent, geriatric)
5. Ethnicity, gender, religious, and cultural considerations
6. Patients with high-risk conditions (e.g., severe medical condition, multiple major abdominal surgeries, prior metabolic and bariatric surgeries)
7. Abnormal eating behaviors and disorders
8. Psychological or cognitive disorders (e.g., depression, anxiety, addiction, schizophrenia, obsessive-compulsive disorder, bipolar disorder, brain injury)
9. Substance use (e.g., nicotine, alcohol, marijuana, opioids)
10. Pharmacological history (e.g., non-steroidal, psychiatric medication, immunosuppressants)

Metabolic and bariatric surgery procedures

1. Evolution of metabolic and bariatric surgical procedures including historical procedures
2. Types of primary metabolic and bariatric procedures
 - a. Adjustable gastric band
 - b. Sleeve gastrectomy
 - c. Roux-en-Y gastric bypass
 - d. Biliopancreatic diversion-duodenal switch
 - e. Single anastomosis duodeno-ileostomy with sleeve (SADI/SADI-S)
 - f. Endoscopic therapy (e.g., balloon, stent, aspiration)
 - g. Other emerging procedures, technologies, or treatments
3. Types of non-primary metabolic and bariatric procedures

- a. Revision
- b. Conversion
- c. Reversal
- 4. Procedure-specific considerations
 - a. Anatomical and physiological changes
 - b. Risks and benefits
 - c. Preoperative process
 - d. postoperative process
 - e. Weight change expectations
 - f. Obesity-related disease improvement, remission, and/or resolution
 - g. Secondary effects (e.g., dumping syndrome, hypoglycemia, redundant skin)
- 5. Surgical/Procedural Approaches
 - a. Open
 - b. Laparoscopic
 - c. Endoscopic
 - d. Robotic-assist
- 6. Intraoperative process (e.g., draping, positioning, anesthesia, procedure-specific considerations)

Surgical complications

- 1. Types of complications (e.g., bleed, leak, venous thromboembolism, bowel obstruction, internal hernia, stenosis, band complications, gastro-gastric fistula, rhabdomyolysis)
- 2. Prevention of complications (e.g., venous thromboembolism, Pneumonia, pressure injuries/rhabdomyolysis)
- 3. Intraoperative complications (e.g., loss of airway, intraoperative leak, liver laceration, nerve damage)
- 4. Clinical presentation of postoperative complications (e.g., early, late, long-term)
- 5. Treatment of complications
- 6. Emergency interventions (e.g., rapid response activation, failure to rescue, notification of the surgeon)
- 7. Unique considerations (e.g., diagnostic testing, risk of nasogastric tube insertion)

Patient management across the continuum of care

- 1. Skin, nail, and hair integrity/care
- 2. Adequate dentition
- 3. Fluid and electrolyte management
- 4. Pain management
- 5. Laboratory and diagnostic testing and results
- 6. Medical weight management modalities
 - a. Preoperative
 - b. Postoperative
- 7. Bariatric safe patient handling
- 8. Specialized equipment needs
- 9. Implications of metabolic and bariatric surgery on
 - a. Fertility and pregnancy
 - b. Alcohol metabolism and effects
 - c. Medication management
 - d. Psychosocial adjustments
- 10. Discharge planning process

11. Long term follow-up

Nutritional considerations

1. Procedure-specific nutrition and supplementation guidelines
2. Types of nutritional deficiencies (e.g., thiamine, Vitamin B12, Vitamin D, fat soluble vitamins, iron, calcium, protein)
3. Prevention of nutritional deficiencies
4. Identification of nutritional deficiencies
5. Treatment of nutritional deficiencies
6. Adaptive and maladaptive eating behaviors and recommendations
7. Dietary progression following surgery

Lifestyle changes

1. Physical activity/exercise
2. Behavior-modification counseling
3. Risks of substance use (e.g., nicotine, alcohol, marijuana, opioids)
4. Modalities to improve patient adherence
5. Role of support groups for patients/support persons

Professional Practice

1. Fundamental research principles and quality improvement
2. Risk management
3. Professional organization and government agency guidelines and recommendations
4. Informational resources related to the disease of obesity, metabolic and bariatric surgery
5. Professional associations (e.g., ASMBS, TOS, OAC, SAGES, OMA, ACS)
6. Metabolic and bariatric surgical program accreditation

Examination Scoring & Score Reporting

PASSING SCORE

The CBN Examination uses a criterion-referenced standard-setting process to establish the passing score. This process defines the minimum level of knowledge required for safe and effective practice as a Certified Bariatric Nurse. Each examination form contains a unique combination of items. Although all forms follow the same content outline and specifications, slight differences in difficulty may occur. To ensure fairness, statistical equating methods are used so that the passing standard represents the same level of knowledge across all examination forms. Candidates are scored based on the number of correctly answered items. Pretest (unscored) items do not contribute to the final score. The passing standard reflects the level of knowledge required for competent practice. The passing standard is reviewed periodically to ensure continued relevance to current professional practice.

SCORE PROCESSING

Candidate responses are recorded and scored electronically by the testing vendor upon completion of the examination. Following each administration, the program's psychometric consultants conduct a post-administration analysis to evaluate examination performance. This includes review of item statistics and overall examination reliability to ensure that scores are accurate and appropriate for pass/fail decisions.

SCORE REPORTING

Candidates receive an immediate preliminary pass/fail result upon completion of the examination. A detailed score report is provided and includes:

- Overall pass/fail result
- Total raw score (number of items answered correctly)
- Performance by domain area

Domain-level performance is provided for diagnostic purposes only. The pass/fail decision is based solely on the total score.

Individual score information will not be released to third parties without the candidate's written authorization, unless disclosure is required by law.

CANCELLATION OF SCORES

The CBN Certification Council is responsible for reporting only valid examination results and reserves the right to withhold or cancel scores if there is reason to question their validity. Circumstances that may result in score invalidation include:

- Suspected misconduct or violations of examination policies
- Irregular testing conditions or administrative errors
- Violations of certification or professional conduct policies

Candidates will be notified of any investigation and provided with information regarding applicable procedures to ensure fair treatment. If score validity is affected by circumstances beyond the candidate's control, opportunities for retesting may be provided.

CONFIDENTIALITY

The CBN Certification Program maintains strict confidentiality of candidate information. All candidate data, including examination results, are securely stored and accessed only by authorized personnel. Individual scores and records will not be released to any third party without written authorization from the candidate, unless disclosure is required by law. To support public protection and transparency, limited certification status information is made available through the publicly accessible CBN certificant registry. This registry provides a method for verifying certification status without disclosing confidential candidate records.

DUPLICATE SCORE REPORT

You may purchase additional copies of your results at a cost of \$25 per copy. Requests must be submitted to PSI in writing at PSI, 18000 W 105th Street, Olathe, KS 66061. The request must include your name, identification number, mailing address, telephone number, date of examination and examination taken. Submit this information with the required fee payable to PSI in the form of a money order or cashier's check. Duplicate score reports will be mailed within approximately five business days after receipt of the request and fee. Requests must be submitted within one year of your examination to be processed.

Recertification / Maintaining Certification

Credential Duration

Candidates who pass the CBN Examination are awarded a time-limited credential valid for four years.

Purpose of Recertification

Recertification is a critical component of maintaining continuing competence. Competence encompasses both knowledge and behaviors and is defined as the ongoing ability to integrate and apply knowledge, skills, judgment, and values to practice safely, effectively, and ethically in a designated role.

The four-year recertification cycle reflects the evolving nature of metabolic and bariatric nursing practice. Advances in surgical techniques, procedures, pharmacologic therapies, technology, quality standards, and patient management require certificants to remain current. Findings from periodic practice analyses confirm that the scope of bariatric nursing continues to evolve. The recertification interval ensures certificants maintain competence aligned with contemporary professional practice.

Recertification Requirements

All education and professional development activities must be completed during the four-year certification period and prior to the expiration date. If requirements are not met, the credential will expire, the registry number will be retired, and the individual will be removed from the list of Certified Bariatric Nurses. Completing requirements early does not extend the certification period. Maintaining a valid credential is the sole responsibility of the certificant.

Successful Recertification and Grace Year

All education and professional development activities required for recertification must be completed during the 4 year certification period. If recertification requirements are completed before expiration, the credential and registry number are renewed for another four-year period. Certificants whose credentials have expired may still complete a recertification application within one year (“grace year”) without retaking the examination. In this case, the four-year certification cycle continues from the original expiration date. Candidates may not use the CBN designation during the grace period. After the grace year, recertification can only be achieved by retaking and passing the examination.

Use of the CBN Designation

The CBN designation may only be used while certification is active. Certificants whose credentials have expired, including those in the grace period, may not use the designation until recertification is complete.

TIMELINE FOR RECERTIFICATION

Recertification is a detailed process, and candidates should allow sufficient time to enter their professional development and continuing education activities online for committee review. Application reviews generally take six weeks but may take longer.

Certificants may begin submitting documentation at any time during the recertification cycle. To streamline the process, activities may be entered into the LearningBuilder platform as they are completed (<https://cbn.learningbuilder.com/Account/Login>). The table below outlines key dates in the final year of certification.

Recertification	CBNs who tested in the July window	CBNs who tested in the February window
Early Recertification Registration <i>(Begins 1 year prior to Certification Expiration)</i>	September 1 – April 30	March 1 – October 31
Regular Recertification Registration (Submitting within 3 months of your due date may result in an interruption of certification status)	May 1 – August 31	November 1 – February 28

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Before applying for the CBN Recertification, the following eligibility criteria must be satisfied:

1. **Licensure:** Be currently licensed as a Professional Nurse (RN) in one of the 50 United States, or one of its territories, at the time of application.
 - a. Licensure status will be verified and confirmed to be in good standing and unencumbered.
2. **Licensure:** Be currently licensed as a Professional Nurse outside of the 50 United States, and its territories.
 - a. Candidates must hold a nursing license equivalent to a Registered Nurse. International licensure will be reviewed individually by the CBN Certification Council, and applicants must submit an English copy to cbn@asmbs.org for license verification.
 - b. The recertification process and associated platforms are available in English only, and all required documentation must be submitted in English.
 - c. Recertification of the CBN credential does not indicate that the certification will be accepted outside of the 50 United States, and its territories.
3. **Professional Practice Experience:** Candidates must complete a minimum of 1,000 hours of obesity (pre-clinical or clinical) and/or metabolic and bariatric surgery nursing practice within the previous 4 years.
 - a. Nursing practice may include clinical practice, education, administration, leadership, quality improvement, research or consultation.
 - b. The CBN Certification Council will review eligibility when there is a question.
4. **Adhere to the CBN Certification Standards of Conduct.**
 - Candidates are required to confirm acceptance of a statement on the application form that they understand violations of the CBN Standards of Conduct may result in loss of eligibility for the CBN certification.
5. **Adhere to the ASMBS Code of Ethics.**
 - Eligibility for the CBN Examination requires adherence to the [ASMBS Code of Ethics](#). Candidates are required to confirm acceptance of a statement on the application form that they understand violations of the [ASMBS Code of Ethics](#) may result in loss of eligibility for the CBN certification.

RATIONALE FOR RECERTIFICATION ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The recertification requirements for the CBN credential are designed to ensure continued competence, ongoing engagement in the specialty, and alignment with current standards of metabolic and bariatric nursing practice. These criteria have been reviewed and confirmed by the CBN Certification Council, a panel of SMEs responsible for the development and maintenance of the CBN Certification Program. Requiring an active, unencumbered Registered Nurse (RN) license, or international equivalent, ensures continued legal authority and professional accountability. The requirement for a minimum of 1,000 hours of specialty practice within the four-year recertification cycle provides objective evidence of meaningful, ongoing engagement in obesity and metabolic and bariatric surgery nursing, while recognizing the diverse roles certificants may hold across clinical practice, education, leadership, quality improvement, research, and consultation. Maintaining an inclusive definition of acceptable practice supports career progression within the specialty while ensuring all qualifying activities remain relevant to metabolic and bariatric care. The panel determined a four-year recertification interval reflects the pace of change in clinical practice, technology, and standards of care, and balances the need for continued professional development with practical considerations for certificants. Collectively, these requirements support the validity, fairness, and defensibility of the certification program and promote public protection by ensuring certificants demonstrate ongoing competence and professional integrity, fostering trust in the credential.

METHODS OF RECERTIFICATION

The process of recertification may be accomplished in one of two ways:

1. **Re-testing Recertification Option:** CBN certificants may choose to retake the CBN examination within their current four-year certification period, before the credential expires.
2. **Continuing Education/Professional Development Recertification Option:** CBN certificants must demonstrate participation in continuing education within the domain of obesity (pre-clinical or clinical) care and/or metabolic and bariatric nursing practice and aligned with the CBN Examination Content Outline, Knowledge Statements, and Domains. Certificants may also fulfill requirements through other approved professional development activities. (See the sections on Continuing Education/Professional Development and Examination Content Outline, Knowledge Statements, and Domains below.)

RECERTIFICATION APPLICATION SUBMISSION & REVIEW

The CBN Certification Program utilizes the **LearningBuilder** online certification management platform to administer the recertification process. LearningBuilder offers flexibility in selecting professional development and continuing education activities, streamlines documentation and submission, and facilitates timely communication and application review. Newly certified individuals will receive instructions for accessing and using the platform shortly after the close of their examination window.

All recertification applications must be submitted online at cbn.learningbuilder.com and are reviewed for approval by the CBN Recertification Subcommittee. In some cases, applications may require additional review by the CBN Certification Council for clarification. These reviews are conducted quarterly. To avoid a lapse in certification, it is strongly recommended that applications be submitted as early as possible.

Applications submitted under Option Two will be reviewed and assigned one of three statuses: Approved, Not Approved, or Incomplete. Incomplete applications usually lack information or need clarification. Common reasons for non-approval include duplicate entries, miscalculated contact hours, or activities unrelated to bariatric nursing.”

Applicants whose submissions are not approved will receive an electronic notification outlining the issues and the steps required to correct and resubmit their application. To avoid delays, carefully review your online application for accuracy and completeness before submitting.

OPTION ONE: Re-Testing Recertification

Candidates for recertification of the CBN credential must pass the CBN Examination prior to the expiration date of their current certification. The content of the examination will be based on the most current role delineation (practice analysis) survey conducted by the CBN Practice Analysis Subcommittee of the CBN Certification Council.

Candidates who do not pass the CBN Certification Examination are required to wait at least one full examination window before attempting the exam again. As the exam is administered twice per year, this means candidates must skip the next available testing window following an unsuccessful attempt. Certificants whose credential expires may be eligible to apply for the examination as a new candidate if they meet all requirements for eligibility at the time of application. See Re-Examination section for additional information.

OPTION TWO: Continuing Education / Professional Development Recertification

The CBN Certification Council recognizes that not all sources or types of continuing education contribute equally to professional development. To ensure the quality and relevance of continuing education for certificants, the Council provides a detailed list of acceptable Continuing Education and Professional Development Activities. This list helps certificants engage in meaningful, high-quality activities that are directly related to their roles and aligned with the Examination Content Outline.

The CBN Certification Council encourages certificants to maintain and enhance their knowledge and skills in nursing practice directly applicable to obesity (pre-clinical or clinical) and/or metabolic and bariatric surgery, including related health conditions and best practices, as outlined in the CBN Examination Content Outline, Knowledge Statements, and Domains, as defined in the CBN Practice Analysis.

The CBN recertification process uses a **Professional Development Points** system to recognize a broad range of professional development activities. Individuals seeking to recertify their CBN credential through this method must earn **80 points** of continuing education and professional development activities within the 4 years preceding their certification’s expiration. At least **40 points** (half) must come from continuing education contact hours, while the remaining points can be fulfilled through other approved professional development activities, allowing for a flexible mix of activities.

RECERTIFICATION POINTS

(A) Earn **80 points** through **80 contact hours of continuing education**, all of which must be related to the care of the metabolic bariatric surgery patient.

(B) Earn at least **40 points** through contact hours of continuing education and up to **40 points** through a combination of the following professional development activities:

1. **Additional Continuing Education:** 1 contact hour = 1 point; 1 CEU/CME = 1 contact hour = 1 point
2. **Presentations:** 1 hour of presentation time = 20 points
3. **Academic Credits** (up to 40 points):
 - a. 1 quarter credit = 67 points
 - b. 1 semester credit = 10 points
4. **Primary Preceptor** for student nurse refresher course or internship program: 60 hours of preceptorship = 40 points
5. **Authorship/Publications** (must be related to certification specialty):
 - a. Peer-reviewed journal article = 40 points
 - b. Non-peer-reviewed journal article = 10 points
 - c. E-Learning/media publication = 40 points
 - d. Grant proposal = 40 points
 - e. Book chapter = 40 points
 - f. Abstract submitted and accepted for poster or presentation = 20 points
6. **Peer Review for Journal:** 10 points per review
7. **Professional Organization Service:** 2 years on an international, national, or state committee/task force/board = 40 points (or 20 points per year)

Reminder: All activities must be completed prior to submitting the recertification application.

OVERVIEW OF ACCEPTABLE CONTINUING EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

A. 80 Contact Hours of Continuing Education (80 Points)

- **Accepted Credits:** Credits offered by a certified or accredited provider of nursing continuing education will be accepted. The content of continuing education programs should be relevant to one or more of the five domains of the CBN Examination Content Outline, as well as aligned with the corresponding Knowledge Statements.
- **Content Requirements:** Continuing education must be directly applicable to obesity (pre-clinical or clinical) and/or metabolic and bariatric surgery nursing practice. Examples include:
 - Workshops, study modules, or grand rounds offered by your place of employment
 - Local, state, or national nursing or professional organization–sponsored conferencesWhen submitting, you will be asked to designate the Clinical Domain of the examination blueprint that the education addresses. For example, a perioperative bariatric course would be classified under “Clinical Management: Perioperative (Hospital).” If a course covers multiple domains, select the one you feel is most applicable.

- **Independent Study and E-Learning:** Approved independent study or e-learning programs may count toward the required continuing education hours. Examples include:
 - Independent study programs
 - Online courses
 - Articles from professional journals

- **CME Credits:** Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits may be applied if the program is formally approved for CME hours. The content must be directly applicable within the domain of obesity (pre-clinical or clinical) care and/or metabolic and bariatric surgery nursing practice and relevant to one or more of the CBN Examination domains and Knowledge Statements. Examples include:
 - Presentations on comorbid medical conditions of obesity
 - Metabolic and bariatric surgical procedures
 - Nutritional aspects of obesity/bariatric surgery
 - Epidemiological or psychosocial aspects of severe obesity

- **Equivalency:** 1 CEU/CME = 1 contact hour = 1 point

- **Documentation Requirements:** Official certificates for each claimed session must be uploaded into the LearningBuilder application. Acceptable formats include photos taken with a smartphone or scanned PDFs. Course brochures or agendas are not acceptable.

Tips for Success: When submitting activities, include details for sessions that do not clearly reflect a focus on obesity (pre-clinical or clinical) and/or metabolic and bariatric surgery. For example, if you attend a conference for Pain Management, Advanced Practitioners, or Staff Development, specify sessions that were directly related to this area of practice.

Note: Activities limited to employment requirements (e.g., BLS, PALS, ACLS) are not accepted, nor are general continuing education topics unless they specifically relate to this specialty.

OVERVIEW OF ACCEPTABLE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

B. 40 hours of Continuing Education (40 points) and any combination of the listed acceptable continuing education or professional development activities that add up to an additional 40 points.

Additional Contact Hours of Continuing Education (*same as described under Section A above.*)

Presentations (one hour of presentation time = 20 points)

- Must be the primary presenter of a first-time, original educational presentation related to bariatric care.
- Presentation time must total at least 1 clock hour. (Multiple different presentations may be combined to meet the 1-hour minimum.)
- Must be delivered in a structured educational setting, such as:
 - Professional conferences, webinars, grand rounds, in-services, seminars
 - Patient or public education sessions not part of your routine job duties
- Formats may include in-person, virtual, or e-learning delivery.

Not Accepted:

- Repeat presentations, including delivering the same or substantially similar content at a later date, to a different audience, or at recurring sessions (for example, repeated support group presentations using the same materials).
- Modified versions of previously delivered presentations that do not represent substantially new content.
- Routine patient education that is part of regular job responsibilities, such as standard pre-operative classes or ongoing program information sessions.

Documentation Required:

Submit one of the following:

- Brochure, flyer, or notice of your presentation, OR
- Presentation file (e.g., PowerPoint in PDF) that includes objectives and an outline

Academic Credits

- Complete four semester credits (1 credit = 10 points) or six quarter credits (3 credits = 20 points).
- Courses must be nursing-related or address the biopsychosocial knowledge base of human services, such as:
 - Nursing, nutrition, psychology, epidemiology, physiology, pharmacology
- Thesis or dissertation work related to bariatric nursing is acceptable.
- Credits must be awarded by an accredited college or university.

Not Accepted:

- Courses unrelated to nursing or the biopsychosocial knowledge base of human services
- Non-accredited programs

Documentation Required: Submit an unofficial transcript from the academic institution showing completed credits.

Preceptor Hours (40 Points):

- Complete a minimum of 60 hours as a primary preceptor providing direct clinical supervision and/or teaching related to the care of metabolic and bariatric surgery patients.
- Eligible preceptees include:
 - RN nursing students enrolled in an academic program, OR
 - Registered nurses in a formal RN refresher or internship program

Not Accepted:

- Supervision of advanced practice students (e.g., NP or PA)
- Orientation preceptor hours for new RN hires
- Oversight of students when faculty are onsite
- Faculty supervision of students in their own educational program

Documentation Required: Provide a record of preceptor hours, including the names of students or nurses supervised, dates, and description of supervision/teaching activities

Authorship / Publication (10–40 Points)

Peer-Reviewed Journal Article (40 points):

- Author, co-author, editor, or co-editor of an article related to your certification specialty
- Submission and disposition must be documented

Non-Peer-Reviewed Journal Article (10 points):

- Author or co-author of an article related to your certification specialty

E-Learning / Media Publication (40 points):

- Primary author or co-author of content related to your certification specialty

Book Chapter (40 points):

- Primary author or co-author of a book or book chapter related to your certification specialty

Grant Writing (40 points):

- Primary grant writer for a federal, state, or national project related to your certification specialty
- Grant writing cannot be a primary employment responsibility

Abstract Submission (20 points):

- Abstract accepted as a poster or presentation at a local, state, or national conference related to obesity, bariatric surgery, nursing, or related comorbid conditions
- Only counts once if accepted as both poster and presentation

Not Accepted:

- Activities unrelated to the certification specialty
- Duplicate credit for the same work (e.g., poster and presentation counted twice)
- Grant writing if it is part of your primary job responsibilities

Documentation Required:

- **Peer-Reviewed or Non-Peer-Reviewed Articles:** Published article citation or acceptance notice
- **E-Learning / Media Publication:** Link to online material or explanation if unavailable
- **Book Chapter:** Chapter or book cover showing your role
- **Grant Writing:** Documentation showing grant results (accepted/rejected, score)
- **Abstract Submission:** Abstract and official acceptance notification confirming your participation

Peer Review of a Journal Article (10 Points)

- Reviewed an article for a peer-reviewed journal related to your certification specialty

Not Accepted: Review of journal articles unrelated to topics related to obesity and metabolic and bariatric surgery or the domains and knowledge statements of the CBN.

Documentation Required:

Provide submission verification, including:

- Journal name
- Date of review
- Article disposition (accepted, rejected, or revisions requested)

Professional Organization Service (40 Points)

- Volunteer service with an international, national, or state healthcare-related organization during the certification period

- Acceptable roles include: Boards, committees, editorial boards, review boards, or task forces
- **Points:**
 - 20 points per year of service
 - Maximum of 40 points (two or more years)

Not Accepted: Service unrelated to healthcare or outside recognized professional organizations

Documentation Required: Letter from a Board Chair, Committee Chair/Co-Chair, Task Force Leader, or equivalent confirming your service and duration

Guidelines for Acceptable Continuing Education and Professional Development

- Content must be relevant to one or more of the five domains of bariatric nursing practice or the topics outlined in the CBN Examination Content Outline.
- For each continuing education (CE) or professional development activity, identify the CBN examination domain it addresses. If an activity spans multiple domains, select the most applicable.
- If an activity title does not clearly indicate relevance to obesity (pre-clinical or clinical) and/or metabolic and bariatric surgery nursing practice, provide additional details describing the applicable content. For example, for general conferences (e.g., pain management or staff development), specify the sessions directly related to this area of practice.
- Activities required for employment (e.g., BLS, PALS, ACLS, or unrelated licensure education) are not acceptable unless the content is clearly tied to obesity or metabolic and bariatric surgery nursing.

AUDIT

You must upload a copy of your license with your recertification application. Verification of professional practice is required upon request and will be audited on 5% of applicants. If your certification record is selected for audit, you may be required to submit additional documentation. **Maintain supporting documentation for the entire four-year certification cycle.** Candidates found to have provided fraudulent information are subject to disciplinary action, which may include loss of eligibility for recertification and revocation of their CBN credential.

RECERTIFICATION FEES

After completing your documentation and continuing education requirements, you will be asked to verify your contact and demographic information and complete an Attestation. Once this is complete, the recertification fee must be paid by credit card only. All fees are listed in U.S. dollars. The table below outlines the fees for CBN recertification based on early, regular, and late registration periods.

Fees	Early Application (up to 120 days before expiration)	Regular Application	Late Application (up to 365 days after CBN expiration)
ASMBS/IFSO Members*	\$250	\$350	\$450
Non-Members	\$350	\$450	\$550

WITHDRAWAL FROM RECERTIFICATION & REFUND OF FEES

Requests for a refund of CBN recertification fees must be submitted in writing to cbn@asmbs.org. Approval of any refund is at the sole discretion of the ASMBS. If a refund is granted, a non-refundable administrative processing fee of \$50 will be deducted from the total amount refunded.

RECERTIFICATION APPEALS PROCESS

A certificant may submit a formal, written appeal of a recertification determination, including denial of recertification eligibility, rejection of submitted documentation, or other recertification-related decisions made by the CBN Certification Program. Appeals must be based on one or more documented grounds and must be submitted to cbn@asmbs.org within thirty (30) days of the date of the recertification decision notification. All appeals are reviewed by a separate Appeals Panel to ensure an independent and impartial review process. The Appeals Panel will evaluate the appeal based on the recertification requirements, policies, and documentation applicable at the time of the original determination. Certificants may be asked to provide additional supporting documentation or clarification during the appeals review process. See the **DISCIPLINARY ACTION & APPEALS** section for additional information.

RETIRED STATUS (CBN-Ret)

The Retired Status designation (CBN-Ret) recognizes certified bariatric nurses who are retiring or have retired from nursing practice, honoring their contributions to the field. This designation does **not** represent active certification, does not require continuing education or renewal, and is intended solely for recognition of past achievement.

Eligibility Requirements:

To qualify for Retired Status, applicants must:

- Hold a current CBN certification in good standing with the CBN Certification Program.
- Hold a current, active Registered Nurse (RN) license in the United States or its territories, or, for applicants licensed outside the United States, hold a nursing license equivalent to a Registered Nurse, with licensure in good standing and unencumbered, subject to verification, at the time of application.
- Be fully retired from nursing practice, including teaching roles requiring an active RN license, with no plans to return to practice or renew certification.
- Submit the Retired Status application online via the LearningBuilder platform at least 30 days prior to, or within one year of, the expiration of their most recent CBN certification.

Use of Designation:

- Retired nurses may use **CBN (Ret)** on a curriculum vitae, resume, or business card, listed directly after their name and other credentials (e.g., C. Bauer, MSN, RN, CBN-Ret).
- The designation **must not** be used on patient charts, clinical documentation, or in any context that could imply active practice.
- Retired nurses may not present themselves as actively certified CBN holders.

Forfeiture of Status:

- If a nurse returns to any form of nursing practice, including teaching, Retired Status is forfeited.
- The nurse is responsible for notifying the CBN Certification Council of any change in employment status that affects eligibility.
- If a CBN wishes to re-certify after obtaining Retired Status, they must meet all current certification eligibility requirements in effect at the time of application.

Submit the Retired Status application online via your CBN LearningBuilder account at least 30 days prior to one year after expiration of your current certification. <https://cbn.learningbuilder.com/Account/Login>

Additional Policies & Procedures

USAGE OF THE CREDENTIAL

This section outlines the official policy for use of the Certified Bariatric Nurse (CBN) credential and logo. Adhering to these guidelines protects the integrity and value of your certification.

The CBN credential signifies that a nurse has met all established eligibility requirements and has successfully passed the CBN certification examination assessing knowledge and skills in metabolic and bariatric nursing practice.

Ownership and Rights

The CBN name, logo, and credential designation are the intellectual property of the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS) and the CBN Certification Program. Use of these marks is limited to individuals who hold an active CBN certification in good standing and must comply with the CBN Credential and Logo Usage Policy.

Unauthorized use may result in disciplinary action, including suspension or revocation of certification.

Acceptable Uses

If you are a CBN in good standing with an active, unencumbered RN license (or approved retired status), you may use the CBN credential to indicate your certified status.

Acceptable uses include:

- Resume or curriculum vitae
- Business cards, letterhead, and email signature
- Professional presentations or publications referencing certification
- Official ASMBS-produced merchandise

Conditions and Prohibited Uses

To maintain the integrity of the CBN credential:

- Use must not imply endorsement by ASMBS of any organization, product, or service.
- The credential and logo may not be used for commercial promotion without prior ASMBS approval.
- Use must cease immediately upon expiration, suspension, or revocation of certification.
- The logo must be used in its original format and proportions and remain clear and legible.
- The credential abbreviation “CBN” may be used after name (e.g., Jane Doe, RN, CBN) but must not be pluralized or made possessive.
- Use must accurately reflect your current certification status.

Suspected misuse of the CBN credential or logo may be reported through the [CBN Feedback and Reporting Form](#).

RE-EXAMINATION

Candidates who do not pass the CBN Certification Examination are required to wait at least one full examination window before attempting the exam again. As the exam is administered twice per year, this means candidates must skip the next available testing window following an unsuccessful attempt.

A new application and corresponding fee must be submitted for each examination attempt. Candidates must continue to meet the eligibility criteria and deadlines in effect at the time of the subsequent application.

There is no limit to the number of times a candidate may retake the examination, provided all eligibility requirements are met.

The rationale for this required waiting period includes:

- Ensure candidates have adequate time to prepare for the examination
- Support the validity and reliability of examination results by reducing the potential for recall or overexposure to test content
- Protect the security and integrity of the examination by limiting repeated exposure to examination items within a short timeframe

Requests for exceptions due to extenuating circumstances must be submitted in writing to the CBN Certification Program at cbn@asmbs.org and will be reviewed by the CBN Certification Council.

RE-EXAMINATION DISCOUNTED FEES

Candidates who do not pass the examination may be eligible for a one-time discounted retesting fee of 25% less than the standard examination fee. The discounted rate is valid only for the first examination window for which the candidate is eligible following an unsuccessful attempt. If the candidate does not apply for or take the examination during that window, the discounted rate is forfeited. Eligible candidates must contact cbn@asmbs.org to request application of the discounted fee.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION & APPEALS

The CBN Certification Program is committed to upholding the integrity of the credential and protecting public trust in certified professionals. To ensure compliance with the CBN Standards of Conduct and the ASMBS Code of Ethics, the CBN Certification Council has established a fair and transparent process for addressing alleged violations.

All complaints or concerns are first reviewed by ASMBS Staff to determine whether the allegation falls within the scope of the CBN Certification Program and whether sufficient information has been provided. The ASMBS Staff Partner may request additional information, dismiss matters that fall outside the scope of the program, or advance the matter for further review. When appropriate, the CBN Certification Council is engaged for investigation and determination.

If a candidate or certificant is alleged to have committed a violation, they are afforded due process. This includes being notified of the allegation and given an opportunity to respond and provide relevant information. Disciplinary actions, which may include suspension or revocation of certification, are determined based on a careful review of all available evidence.

Candidates or certificants who receive an adverse certification decision may first request reconsideration of the decision. Requests must be submitted in writing within 30 days of the notification and should include any additional supporting information. Reconsideration requests are reviewed by the appropriate program authority.

If the individual is not satisfied with the outcome of the reconsideration, a formal appeal may be submitted. Appeals must be submitted in writing within 30 days of the reconsideration outcome and must be based on documented grounds, such as procedural error, new evidence, or misapplication of policy. Appeals are reviewed by an independent Appeals Panel of the CBN Certification Council, composed of individuals who were not involved in the original decision. All appeal decisions are final.

Concerns related to certificant conduct, misuse of the CBN credential, conflicts of interest, or examination security may be submitted through the [CBN Feedback and Reporting Form](#) available on the CBN website. The CBN Certification Program does not permit retaliation against individuals who submit concerns in good faith or participate in a review process, regardless of whether the concern is ultimately substantiated.

For additional information regarding disciplinary actions, reconsideration, or appeals, please contact cbn@asmbs.org.

CANDIDATE GRIEVANCES

The CBN Certification Program is committed to a fair and transparent process for evaluating candidate concerns related to examination administration. Grievances are limited to concerns regarding examination administration, testing conditions, or unresolved issues with the testing vendor, including possible scoring errors. Grievances do not include challenges to examination content validity or requests related to eligibility determinations or disciplinary decisions, which are addressed through separate reconsideration and appeals processes. If you have a grievance related to your exam experience, please follow this two-step process:

Initial Grievance

Submit your concern in writing to the testing vendor, PSI, in accordance with their procedures at examschedule@psionline.com.

Formal Grievance

If the issue is not resolved by PSI, you may submit a formal written grievance to the CBN Certification Program within 30 calendar days of your examination date. ASMBS staff will coordinate with the testing vendor as needed and present the issue to the CBN Certification Council for review. A final determination will be provided in writing.

For additional information on submitting a grievance, please contact cbn@asmbs.org.

VERIFICATION OF CREDENTIALS

To support public protection and transparency, the CBN Certification Program provides a publicly accessible method for verifying the certification status of individuals who hold the Certified Bariatric Nurse (CBN) credential.

Public Registry

A public registry of certificants is available on the [Verification Of CBN Credentials](#) webpage and serves as the primary method for confirming certification status. The registry is updated twice annually to reflect certification

status changes, including newly certified individuals following examination cycles and certificants reaching the end of their certification cycle. Certificants may request removal from the public registry by contacting the CBN Certification Program at cbn@asmbs.org.

Verification Upon Request

While the CBN Certification Program makes every effort to ensure accurate information, occasional delays in updates or human or technical errors may occur. If additional verification is needed, a request may be submitted using the online verification request form available on the [Verification Of CBN Credentials](#) webpage. All verification requests must be submitted through the online form. Requests submitted via email are not accepted. Once submitted, requests will be processed and fulfilled via email.

CBN CERTIFICATES & PINS

All newly certified CBNs will be added to the LearningBuilder platform within two weeks of the examination application window closing. Once added, certificants will receive a welcome email with instructions to log in to [LearningBuilder](#), where they may download and print their certificate for personal or professional use.

All certified CBNs may download and print their certificate directly from their [LearningBuilder](#) account at any time.

Additional or Replacement Certificates, Name & Address Changes

You may request additional printed copies of your certificate. For corrections to certificates after initial printing (e.g., name changes) or replacements for lost or damaged certificates, please submit your request through our website. All requests must be accompanied by a \$25.00 fee.

- To request a corrected or replacement certificate, please use the linked form on our website: <https://asmbs.org/professional-development/cbn/>.
- A notarized copy of official documentation supporting the request (e.g., marriage license, divorce decree or court order) must also be included. Requests submitted without appropriate documentation will not be processed.
- **Digital copies** of your certificate are available at no charge.

Please allow up to three weeks for processing. If your certificate has not arrived within four weeks, contact cbn@asmbs.org. Candidates with a change in their mailing address can also update their information online prior to the administration.

Replacement Pins: Proudly display your CBN credential with the official CBN pin. Wearing the pin highlights your professional achievement, raises awareness of CBN certification, and inspires others in your workplace. A replacement pin costs \$5 and can be requested by visiting <https://asmbs.org/professional-development/cbn/>.

CONTACT INFORMATION CHANGES

The [LearningBuilder](#) portal serves as the official record of your CBN certification. Certificants are required to maintain accurate and complete contact and demographic information-including mailing address, and phone number. It is the certificant's responsibility to ensure their contact details remain current. To promote continuity of communication, the CBN Certification Program strongly recommends using a personal (non-work) e-mail, address, and phone number as employment changes may affect access to organizational accounts.

Frequently Asked Questions

I've heard the examination is geared toward certain areas of MBS nursing. Will it be too difficult if I only work in one setting (e.g., OR, bariatric floor, office)?

The practice analysis included input from more than 300 nurses across diverse regions and practice settings. Examination specifications reflect this nationwide data and cover:

- **Clinical Management** (preoperative, perioperative, and long-term follow-up)
- **Professional and Community Collaboration**
- **Program Quality**

The content outline and domain weighting reflect the emphasis placed on each area. If you primarily work in one setting, you may need to focus your preparation on less familiar areas. For example:

- Office nurses may need to review perioperative and in-hospital care.
- Hospital-based nurses may need to review preoperative screening and long-term follow-up.

All candidates should also review major MBS procedures and related nursing care, including those not encountered in their current role.

How do I prepare for the Certified Bariatric Nurse exam?

Begin by reviewing the Examination Content Outline, Knowledge Statements, and Domains to identify areas for additional study. Preparation methods may include:

- **Self-Study:** Use the Candidate Handbook and reference list
- **Group Study:** Collaborate with members of your bariatric team
- **ASMBS Review Course:** Available online year-round and at select ASMBS meetings.

Review courses are optional and not required for certification. The CBN Certification Council does not endorse specific preparatory materials, and participation does not guarantee a passing score. Course faculty hold the CBN credential but are not involved in exam development and do not have access to exam content.

Candidates are encouraged to use a variety of resources. Visit the [Preparing for the CBN Exam webpage](#) for additional guidance; it is not necessary to use all listed materials.

All candidates should review the full range of metabolic and bariatric procedures, particularly those outside their current practice.

Is there any collaboration between the exam developers and the CBN Review Course instructors?

No. To protect the integrity of the CBN examination there is a strict separation between exam development and educational activities:

- **Examination Item Writers and SMEs:** Individuals who write or review CBN exam questions, or who have access to examination content, are prohibited from participating in, consulting on, or delivering any CBN Review Course or preparatory materials.
- **CBN Review Course Instructors:** Faculty who teach or develop content for CBN Review Courses do not have access to actual exam items or participate in exam construction.
- **Impartiality:** This separation ensures that all candidates have a fair opportunity to succeed, without any advantage given to participants of review courses, and maintains the credibility and objectivity of the certification process.

Is the CBN certification program accredited?

ASMBS and the CBN Certification Council are actively pursuing accreditation through the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA), a Magnet Recognition Program approved accreditation authority. The process is comprehensive and ongoing, with a dedicated team working towards meeting all necessary criteria for accreditation. While ASMBS is making significant progress and prioritizing this effort, a specific timeline for completion is not yet available. However, ASMBS is committed to keeping candidates informed and will share updates as soon as they become available. Please visit the [CBN Program webpage](#) for additional information.

Can the CBN be used as a professional nursing certification in submissions to the Magnet Recognition Program®?

Not at this time. The CBN credential cannot be used as a professional nursing certification in Magnet submissions until it becomes accredited.

How can I get involved with the CBN Certification Program?

The CBN Certification Program is supported by a network of subject matter experts (SMEs) who contribute to the ongoing development, quality, and integrity of the certification process. These individuals play a critical role in ensuring that the program remains current, relevant, and reflective of the evolving practice of metabolic and bariatric nursing. Opportunities to become involved in the program may include participation in activities such as examination development, practice analysis, recertification, accreditation support, and professional outreach. Through this work, SMEs help ensure that the CBN credential continues to represent a valid and reliable measure of professional competence and supports public protection. Individuals interested in contributing to the CBN Certification Program are encouraged to apply through the ASMBS committee application process. Participation is based on professional qualifications, specialty expertise, and the needs of the program to ensure diverse and balanced representation. Learn more and apply here:

<https://asmbs.org/cbn-certification-council-and-committee/>

Reference List

This list is provided as a resource to identify materials that may be useful in preparing for the CBN Examination. It is not intended to be inclusive of all potentially relevant resources, does not guarantee that a candidate will pass the CBN Examination, and does not constitute an endorsement of any specific review course or material by the CBN Certification Council, the ASMBS, or any officers or representatives of ASMBS. Candidates are encouraged to review all reasonably available resources. To assist in locating the listed publications, publisher web addresses are provided when available.

CLINICAL GUIDELINES

Clinical guidelines regarding metabolic and bariatric surgery published by medical and nursing organizations are good resources to study from. Examples of this type of guideline include:

American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS) (2024). American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Consensus Statement on Obesity as a Disease
<https://asmbs.org/resources/consensus-statement-on-obesity-as-a-disease/>

American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS) Clinical Issues Committee (2012). Perioperative management of obstructive sleep apnea. *Surgery for Obesity and Related Diseases*, 8(3), e27-e32.

Aminian, A., Chang, J., Brethauer, S. A., Kim, J. J., & American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Clinical Issues Committee (2018). ASMBS updated position statement on bariatric surgery in class I obesity (BMI 30-35 kg/m²). *Surgery for obesity and related diseases : official journal of the American Society for Bariatric Surgery*, 14(8), 1071–1087. doi: 10.1016/j.soard.2018.05.025

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JOURNALS

This is a partial listing of examples of journals related to the topic of metabolic and bariatric surgery and is not meant to be inclusive. Inclusion on this list is not a recommendation of any specific journal.

Annals of Surgery

Bariatric Surgical Practice and Patient Care, previously *Bariatric Nursing and Surgical Patient Care*, Mary Ann Liebert Inc.

Diabetes Care (Journal of the ADA)

Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)

New England Journal of Medicine

Obesity

Obesity Management

Obesity Reviews

Obesity Surgery, Springer

Surgery for Obesity and Related Diseases (SOARD), Elsevier