# ACMPE FAQs

## Examination updates

### What specifically is changing and when?

The existing essay exam is being replaced with a new objectively scored examination, which will present the examinee with scenarios, much as our current essay exam proposes a scenario for which the examinee must craft a response. Instead of having the examinee write an essay to respond to the scenario, the examinee will answer 4-6 questions based on the scenario.

The new scenario-based exam will be delivered beginning with the September 2017 exam window. The June 2017 exam window will be the last opportunity to take the essay exam in its current form.

### Why change the essay exam?

To align with best practices and standards in the certification industry and to provide a more reliable, valid and psychometrically sound certification program. This change follows careful and extensive consideration of changes recommended by an outside consultant's review of our certification requirements.

### Is the multiple choice exam changing?

No. The multiple choice portion of the examination will remain the same. You must still take and pass the multiple choice exam as part of the board certification requirements.

### If I have already taken and passed the essay exam, will I need to also take and pass the scenario-based exam?

No. If you have already passed the essay exam, you do not need to pass the scenario-based exam as well. You will only need to complete those requirements that you have not yet met.

### How many questions will I need to answer for the scenario-based exam? How long is the exam?

The scenario-based exam will present examinees with 18-25 scenarios. The scenarios will be real-life situations that you may face as a practice executive. You will be asked to answer four to six questions in response to each scenario. Examinees will have 90 minutes to complete the exam.

### How will the scenario-based exam questions be written and what will constitute a passing grade?

ACMPE is partnering with its examination vendor, Castle Worldwide, to facilitate the exam-writing process. An Exam Development Committee, consisting in part of current and previous Examinations Committee members, will write questions. Castle Worldwide and other volunteer groups will review and validate those questions. A standard-setting study will then be completed to determine the passing point for the scenario-based exam.

### Are there any grandfathering provisions?

ACMPE will offer the current essay examination through the June 2017 examination window. Beginning in September 2017, examinees who have not passed the essay exam must take the scenario-based exam.

## Education requirement updates

**What is the new education requirement for board certification and when does it take effect?**

As of Jan. 1, 2019, a bachelor's degree or the equivalent of 120 college course credit hours will be required to enter the board certification program.

**Why implement an education requirement?**

An education requirement will take effect in order to elevate the certification and increase its relevance and value in the marketplace.

**Will I still be required to demonstrate two years of healthcare management experience?**

Yes, the existing eligibility requirements will remain the same. You must still submit a $250 application fee and demonstrate two years of healthcare management experience, including six months of supervisory experience. The education requirement is in addition to these existing requirements.

**Are there any grandfathering provisions?**

CMPEs and Fellows who do *not* hold at least a bachelor's degree (or 120 hours of college course credit hours) will be grandfathered into the change.

**I am a nominee who doesn't have a bachelor's degree. What do I need to do to become compliant?**

Any existing nominees who advance to CMPE status prior to Jan. 1, 2019, will *not* be subject to the education requirement. Effective Jan. 1, 2019, all nominees will be required to meet the education requirement.

## Fellowship requirements

**Are the Fellowship requirements affected by this change?**

No. The Fellowship requirements will remain unchanged.