



AMERICAN BOARD OF CRIMINALISTICS

Spring 2018

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

For all of our Certificants, we thank you for your continued support of our certification program. As a non-profit organization, our goal is to provide the most relevant and valid examinations to best serve the forensic science community, all while keeping costs low. Many years ago, several members of the community came together to develop a certification process. You can read more about the history of the ABC [here](#). We proudly continue their quest of certifying forensic science professionals and holding them to the highest technical and ethical standards possible.

This year will bring exciting changes to our program. First, we've enabled our website to allow for [electronic submission of recertification forms including proficiency test review forms](#). We've also convened one Subject Matter Expert (SME) panel to go through the job analysis process for forensic scientists who are involved in forensic biology. A second, general SME panel is expected to meet later this year. This will enable the ABC to develop up to date examinations for new applicants. [Please take the opportunity to be a part of these valuable interactions](#); you may end up having a direct impact on the creation of new exams. The continued improvements to these exams keep the ABC relevant in the community and maintain the value of certificates that are currently held. Lastly, our organization is proud to be sponsored by several highly respected companies in the forensic science community. Please check out their links on our [website](#).

Continued:

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

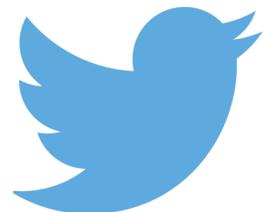
These SME panels put us on the path towards ISO accreditation. While we will continue as the first organization to be accredited by the Forensic Specialties Accreditation Board (FSAB), we will also be seeking compliance with international standards. However, this means that we cannot continue to conduct business as we have in the past. These improvements to our program also brings additional costs. While we have looked to find ways to save money (notably the ending of the AAFS Ice Cream Social, which will return in 2019 with the help of our new sponsors!), we are still forced to find additional revenue. To that end, the ABC Board of Directors has voted to increase the recertification fees \$10/year over the next 3 years. Additionally, Fellows will bear a surcharge of \$10. This surcharge relates to the costs associated with the increased numbers of proficiency tests that are reviewed each year. The new fee schedule can be found [here](#).

Many facets of the forensic science community have responded in their own ways to various reports on the current state of affairs. We are responding by redoubling our efforts to promote the highest levels of professionalism in our field. Here's to a rewarding and successful 2018!

Christopher Hamburg, D-ABC

FOLLOW US!

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter for important updates.



A SPECIAL THANKS!

The ABC would like to extend a special THANK YOU to the following Member Organizations for their financial support.

California Association of Criminalists: \$6,000

Northwest Association of Forensic Scientists: \$2,500

Midwestern Association of Forensic Scientists: \$750

Mid-Atlantic Association of Forensic Scientists: \$500

Northeastern Association of Forensic Scientists: \$500

Southern Association of Forensic Scientists: \$500

These funds were used to send four members of the ABC Examination Committee to “Job Task Analysis” (JTA) training at the Center on Education and Training Employment (CETE) at the Ohio State University.

The JTA training is part of the “Developing a Curriculum” (DACUM) process that is required for developing certification exams under ISO/IEC 17024. Going through this time consuming and expensive process will ensure that the new versions of the ABC certification exams are applicable to the needs of today’s Forensic Scientists!



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RECERTIFICATION

TOP THREE APPEALS

Here are the top three appeals that have been received for recertification.

1. Lack of documentation for membership in member organizations to include:
 - A complete absence of any documentation.
 - Documentation that does not show the date for year of recertification (e.g. no indication for what year dues were paid for).
 - A browser printout showing certificate holder's name in the member roster. The date on the browser printout is often not the same year as the recertification cycle.
 - Documentation is erroneously submitted for the current year instead of the recertification point year (e.g. 2017 membership cards were submitted for the 2016 recertification year).
2. Lack of documentation for training an examiner:
 - The best documentation is a memo from a supervisor that confirms the certificate holder was acting as primary trainer.
 - Any other documentation must clearly show that training that was provided with signatures from the trainee and the trainer and documentation of the training performed.
3. Lack of documentation for participation in internal audits:
 - There needs to be a memo or other documentation clearly stating that an internal audit was performed and that the certificate holder participated with dates.

Documentation must clearly show completed participation in an event, the dates of the event, and the scope of the participation must be provided or points will not be rewarded. The Recertification Committee is instructed not to contact individuals to confirm participation on behalf of the certificate holder.

ED RHODES SCHOLARSHIP

THE AWARD AND THE MAN

By Greg Matheson, D-ABC, ABC Board of Directors

As with most professional associations, an award is created in the name of an important person to recognize their contributions and to have their name carried forward in the minds of future generations of professionals. Unfortunately, the award is often created posthumously and it doesn't take long for those that knew the person personally to retire or move on themselves. Though the name on the award remains, the numbers of people who know why that name is attached to the award fade away.



I had the great privilege to have known Ed and to have worked with him on several projects in the California Association of Criminalists (CAC), including the creation of criminalistics certification. Ed was on the original committee and helped write the first examination. Though I never worked in a laboratory with him, we all knew he approached his casework with as much enthusiasm and honesty as he did his association work. He impacted the profession as a whole through his work on certification. He also impacted many criminalists personally through his teaching and mentorship.

To remember Ed, the CAC created Edward F. Rhodes Memorial Award. On the CAC web site, Ed is described as:

“Ed Rhodes was a long time criminalist nationally recognized for his trace evidence work, certification effort, and teaching ability. Wherever Ed went, teaching and training were not far behind. He thoroughly immersed himself in the education of forensic scientists, other criminal justice professionals, and students. His ultimate goal was competency in the criminalistics profession. This led to the CAC Certificate of Competency program and, subsequently a national certification program run through the American Board of Criminalistics. Ed believed in competency through knowledge, education, and training.”

ED RHODES SCHOLARSHIP

Continued:

The CAC award provides the recipient with travel, lodging, and registration expenses, up to \$1000, to attend one major forensic or scientific meeting of benefit to forensic practitioners. Also, given Ed's desire to see new criminalists get every opportunity to receive training and exposure to other professionals early in their career, the award recipient must have less than three years on the job and be professionally involved.

In memory of Edward Rhodes, a pioneer in forensic education and certification, the American Board of Criminalistics, Inc. offers a complimentary examination sitting for one (1) representative from each of the ABC member organizations per calendar year.

To be considered for the award, candidates must fill out the ABC Application Form and submit it to their Organization's Board of Directors for consideration.

It's important we remember the people responsible for making the profession what it is today. I also want to thank a new ABC Board member who, while we were talking about the ABC award, had the courage to ask who Ed was. It reminded me the importance of sharing the institutional memory we have so we all can remember.



Photo of Ed Rhodes courtesy of the California Associations of Criminalistics



Cayman
CHEMICAL

CALL FOR COURSES

Working in an accredited lab, I am sure you are familiar with the saying “If it isn’t documented, it didn’t happen”. The ABC is in the unfortunate position that records of courses that have been approved in the past for recertification points have been lost!

The ABC Board of Directors is working diligently to re-create this list. This includes all the appropriate documentation needed to vet these courses. If you are aware of any courses that you have previously submitted or claimed points for, please let us know!

ABC Registrar
abcregistrar@criminalistics.com
P.O. Box 1358
Palmetto, FL 34220



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MISSING IN ACTION

The ABC has lost contact with the following individuals:

Artis, Monica
Boyle, Robert
Bruewer, Karen
Caraballo, Barbara
Exline, David
Flohr, David
Heurich, Charles
Karr, Carol
McConnell, Jennifer
McGuire, Thelma
Milne, Casey
Moran, Bruce
Nelson, John
Olson, Hope
Peiffer, Gregory
Perez Jr., Efrain
Presley, Larry
Putt, Claire M.
Skinner, Elizabeth

If you know anyone on this list, please help them get in touch
with the ABC Registrar as soon as possible!

If they have retired, remind them of the ability to seek Emeritus status!

ABC Registrar
abcregistrar@criminalistics.com
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Fast Investigation

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Gunshot residue

Powders, explosives

Accident reconstruction

Drugs

Trace evidence

Plant materials

m/z

$C_{16:0}+H$
257.2495

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331.2875

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Direct analysis time-of-flight Mass Spectrometer



OUR FUTURE

The ABC asked for your feedback and you obliged! Two surveys were developed, one for examiners and one for laboratory directors. Responses were received from approximately 770 examiners and 90 lab directors.

The results can be reviewed on the following pages. These results will be used to help the Board of Directors work with the Examination Committee to modify current certification schemes and to develop new certification schemes.



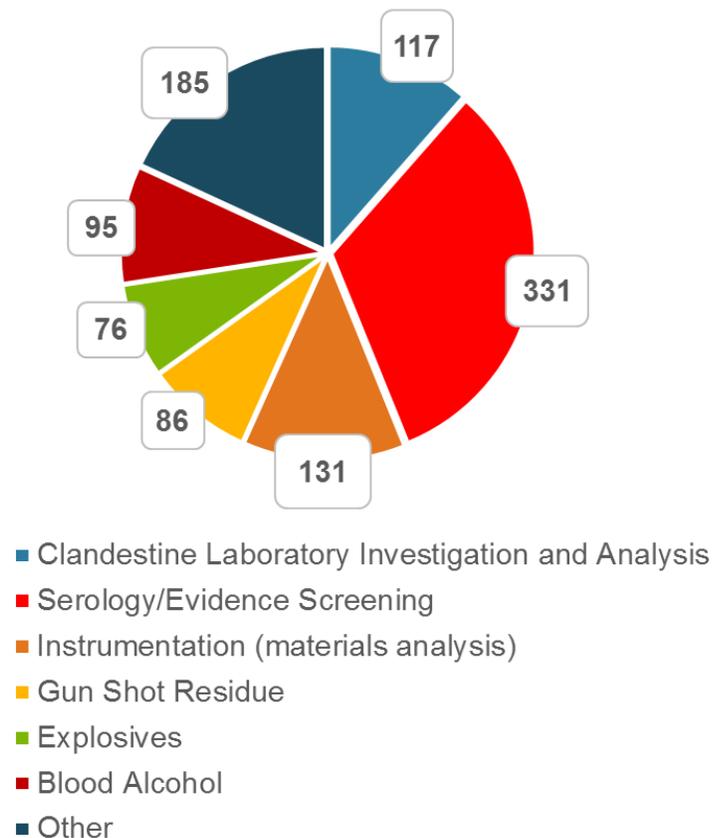
EXAMINER SURVEY

Question 1:

If the ABC created new specialty exams, in what area(s) would you be interested in achieving certification?

1. Serology
2. GSR
3. Explosives
4. Instrumentation
5. Blood Alcohol
6. Clan Lab Investigation and Analysis
7. Other

Expressed Interest in Specialty Exams



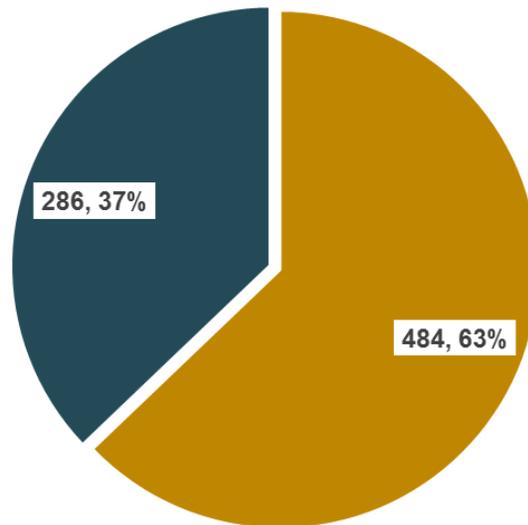
EXAMINER SURVEY

Question 2:

Currently, the Comprehensive Criminalistics exam covers in-depth knowledge of all areas of forensic science. Do you see a need for a less in-depth General Knowledge exam that would test basic knowledge and confer Diplomate status?

1. Yes
2. No

Need for Less Depth (GKE)



■ Yes ■ No

EXAMINER SURVEY

Question 3:

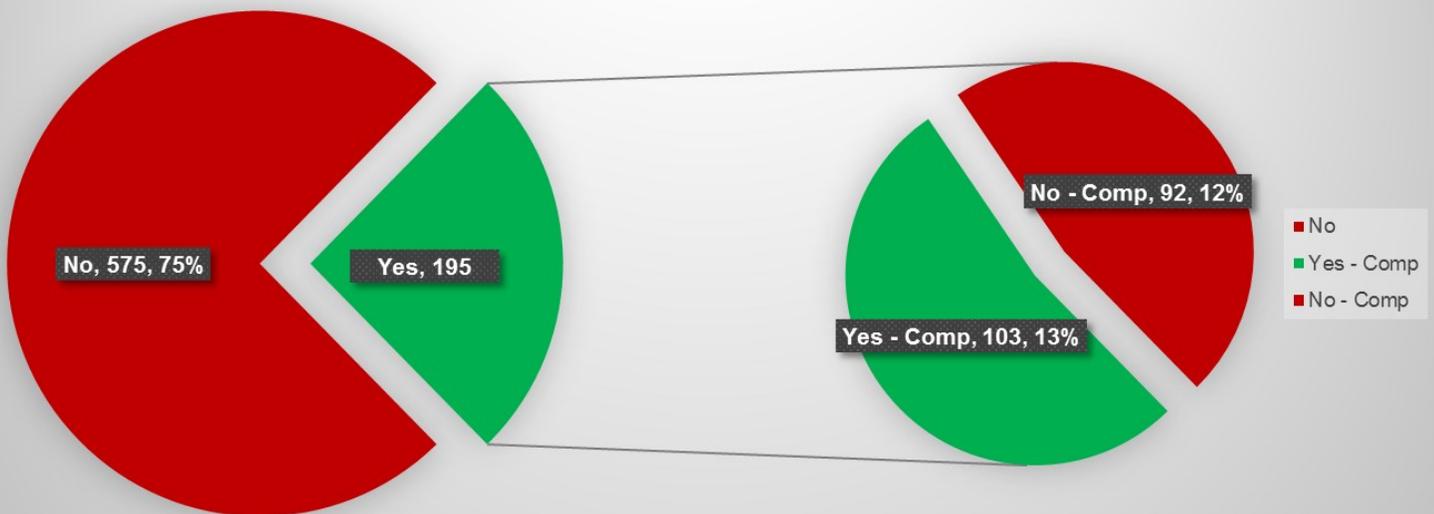
Do you perform trace evidence examinations?

1. Yes
2. No

Would you be interested in a combined comprehensive trace exam?

1. Yes
2. No

Examiner Response: Trace Exam



EXAMINER SURVEY

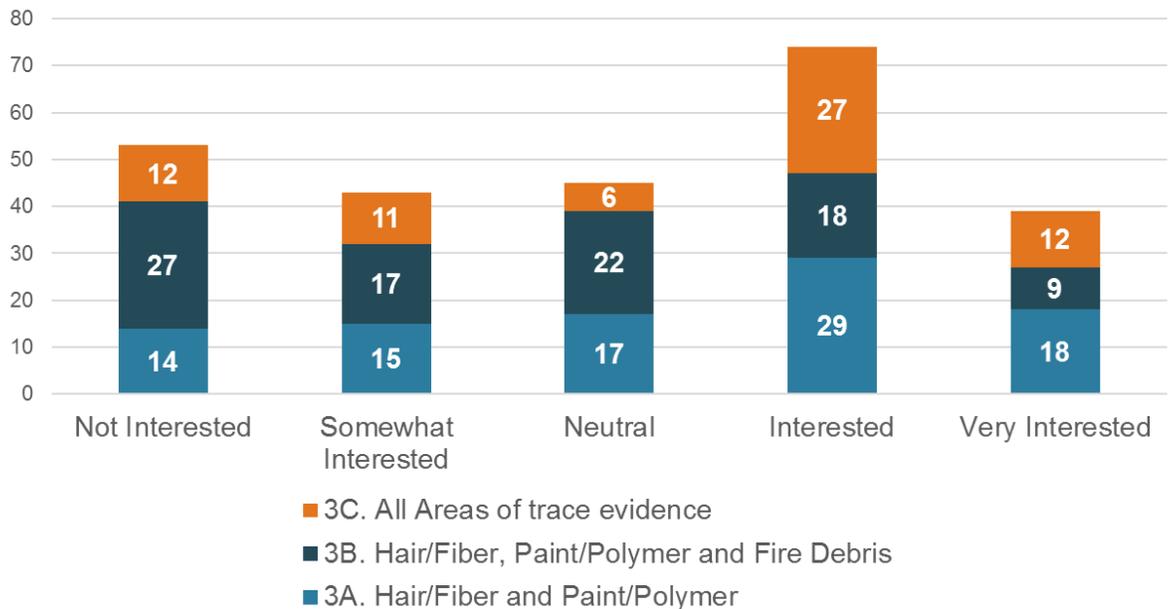
Question 4:

Rate your interest in the combined tests?

- Hair & Fiber and Paint & Polymer
- Hair & Fiber and Paint & Polymer and Fire Debris
- All areas of trace evidence (explosives, GSR, fire debris, paint, polymer, hair, fiber, glass, oil, general unknowns, etc.)

1. Not at all interested
2. Somewhat interested
3. Neutral
4. Interested
5. Very interested

Interest in Trace Evidence Exam if "Yes"



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Thought leaders from across the globe will convene in Phoenix, Arizona to discuss upcoming developments in the field of forensic DNA. Attend to network with other forensic scientists, learn about new technologies and meet vendors demonstrating the tools to make your job easier.

Consider sharing your expertise by presenting a scientific talk or interesting case: **Deadline June 17.**

Learn more at: ishinews.com

FORENSICS IN BLOOM

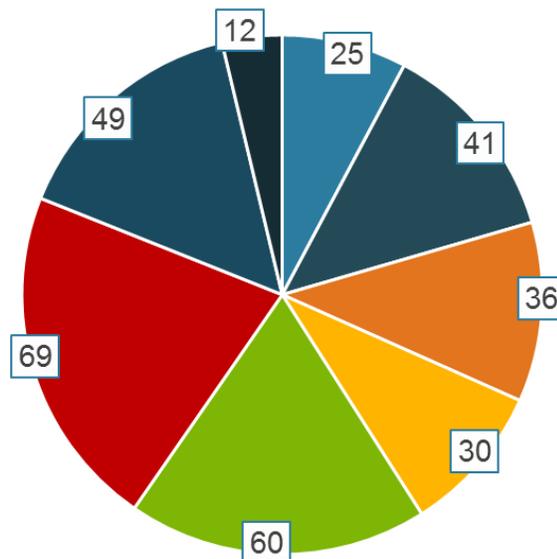
LAB DIRECTOR SURVEY

Question 1:

If the ABC created new specialty exams, in what area(s) would your practitioners be eligible to achieve certification?

1. Serology
2. GSR
3. Explosives
4. Instrumentation
5. Blood Alcohol
6. Clan Lab Investigation and Analysis
7. Other

Lab Directors: Practitioner Eligibility



- Explosives
- Instrumentation
- Gun Shot Residue
- Clandestine Lab I&A
- Serology/Evid Screening
- GKE
- Blood Alcohol
- Other

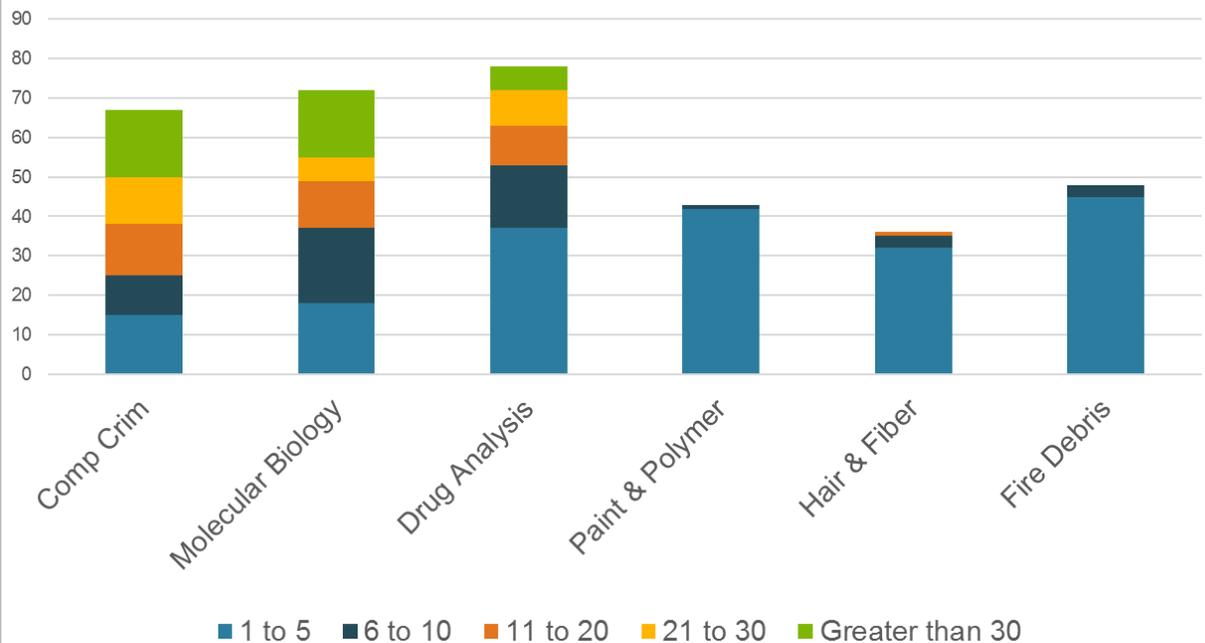
LAB DIRECTOR SURVEY

Question 2:

If certification became mandatory, how many practitioners in your lab would be eligible to take the following exams?

1. Comprehensive Criminalistics
2. Molecular Biology
3. Drug Analysis
4. Paint and Polymer
5. Hair and Fiber
6. Fire Debris

Projected Participation if Federal Mandatory



Share Me!



AMERICAN BOARD
OF CRIMINALISTICS

TOP 10 REASONS TO GET CERTIFIED?

10. Improvement of Earning Potential
9. Meets Emerging Certification and Licensing Requirements
8. Enhances Opportunities for Career Advancement
7. Advances Public and Courtroom Credibility
6. Standardizes Accepted Level of Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities
5. Professional Recognition
4. Promotes Professional Involvement
3. Firm Continuing Education
2. Advances the Profession as a Whole
1. Personal Accomplishment