



# Certified Cardiographic Technician (CCT)



The Certified Cardiographic Technician (CCT) examination is for professionals working in the areas of ECG, Holter monitoring, and stress testing.

This computer-based exam is administered at Pearson Professional Centers year-round based on availability at the test centers. To locate a test center, [click here](#).

## Try Our Qualification Pathway Tool

By answering the questions below this tool will help determine which exam pathway you are best qualified to take.

Are you currently enrolled as a student or are you a graduate of a cardiovascular or allied health training program?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Next

## EXAM FEE

The fee for the CCT examination is \$175 USD. All exam fees include a \$100 non-refundable fee for the staff resources required to review and process applications.

## TESTING TIME

The Certified Cardiographic Technician (CCT) exam is a **two-hour, computer-based exam that contains 130 questions.**



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|----------------------------|
| Qualification Requirements |
| Apply for Exam             |
| Exam Preparation           |
| Approved Test Taker        |
| Exam Day                   |
| Maintaining Credentials    |

## Certified Cardiographic Technician (CCT) Exam Preparation

[Order Online Self-Assessment Exam](#)

The CCT examination is designed to assess knowledge and skills in current practice. CCI provides an overview of the examination content including knowledge and task list. Preparation for CCI examinations can be overwhelming, and several options can assist you in your preparation.

The examination content is based on the findings of a Job Task Analysis (JTA) which describes the overall tasks that a CCT is expected to perform on the job and general areas of knowledge

that are needed to perform the tasks. Examination content was developed by subject matter experts in the cardiovascular profession. A JTA is performed every 5 years for all nine of the examinations that CCI offers in order to keep exams relevant to current practices in the field. Examination content was developed by subject matter experts in the cardiovascular profession and ongoing statistical analyses were provided by testing professionals with a doctorate in Industrial and Organizational Psychology.

The lists below describe general areas of knowledge that are needed in order to perform the tasks identified. The task listing illustrates the relative weight or emphasis given to the main content areas on the examination.

## Knowledge List

- Heart
  - Size
  - Location
  - Layers
  - Chambers
  - Valves
- Blood flow
- Arteries
- Veins
- Capillaries
- Arterioles
- Venules
- Cardiac valve function
  
- Pressures
- Relationship of cardiac output to heart rate and stroke volume
- Control mechanisms
- Cardiac cycle
- Normal values
- Waveforms
- ECG measurement
- Bipolar, unipolar, and precordial leads
  
- Einthoven's triangle and law
- ECG calibration methods
- Single- and three-channel ECG
- Troubleshooting ECGs
- Standardization

- Paper speed
- Lead placement
- Electrical interference
- Somatic tremor

## Examination Matrix and Task List

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### Duties and Tasks

#### A. Conducting Pre-Procedural Activities

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Approx. % of Exam Score

10%

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### Duties and Tasks

1. Verify physician's orders (e.g., protocol, patient limitations)
  2. Verify patient identifiers (e.g., name, DOB, HIPAA)
  3. Obtain patient consent (e.g., implied consent, informed consent, healthcare proxy)
  4. Apply universal and/or isolation precautions
  5. Perform patient transfer and transport (e.g., body mechanics, ergonomics, proper equipment use)
  6. Identify proper anatomical landmarks
  7. Prepare the patient (e.g., skin preparation, patient positioning)
  8. Confirm equipment calibration, maintenance and cleaning
  9. Identify safety hazards/considerations (e.g., patient, environment)
  10. Provide patient education (e.g., purpose, procedure, expectations, instructions)
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### Duties and Tasks

#### B. Performing Resting ECG (12-Lead, 15-Lead, etc.)

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Approx. % of Exam Score

14%

## Duties and Tasks

1. Gather ECG supplies and equipment
2. Troubleshoot while performing ECG (e.g. check patient, improper electrode attachment, electromagnetic interference)
3. Perform standard 12-Lead ECG
4. Perform modified ECG (dextrocardia, posterior, right sided, pediatric)

## Duties and Tasks

### C. Analyzing 12-Lead ECG

Approx. % of Exam Score

22%

## Duties and Tasks

1. Recognize axis deviations
2. Recognize Bundle Branch Blocks (RBBB/LBBB)
3. Identify hypertrophy
4. Correlate ECG morphology with anatomy and physiology
5. Identify ischemic changes/infarction

## Duties and Tasks

### D. Performing Stress Tests

Approx. % of Exam Score

10%

## Duties and Tasks

1. Gather stress test supplies and equipment

2. Demonstrate knowledge of stress test equipment (e.g. treadmill, bicycle, ergometry)
3. Perform stress test protocol (e.g. Bruce, Modified Bruce, Naughton)
4. Demonstrate knowledge of pharmacological and/or nuclear stress test protocols

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## Duties and Tasks

### E. Performing Ambulatory Monitoring (Holter, Remote Event, Telemetry)

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Approx. % of Exam Score

4%

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## Duties and Tasks

1. Gather ambulatory monitoring supplies and equipment
2. Verify equipment functionality pre and post patient application
3. Provide patient education on ambulatory monitoring (e.g. placement, purpose, procedure, expectations, instructions)
4. Perform ambulatory monitoring equipment and procedure troubleshooting

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## Duties and Tasks

### F. Performing Rhythm Analysis

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Approx. % of Exam Score

40%

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## Duties and Tasks

1. Analyze sinus rhythm data
2. Analyze atrial rhythm data
3. Analyze junctional rhythm data
4. Analyze heart blocks rhythm data
5. Analyze ventricular rhythm data
6. Analyze pacemaker rhythm data

7. Report/communicate obtained rhythm data
8. Correlate ECG findings (e.g. waveforms, segments, intervals)
9. Identify life-threatening arrhythmias
10. Identify types of artifact
11. Identify various classes/effects of general cardiovascular medications (beta blockers, ACE inhibitors, anti-arrhythmias, etc.)

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## Duties and Tasks

## TOTAL

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Approx. % of Exam Score

100%

## Self-Assessment Exams

There are several options that can assist your preparation, including **CCI's Self-Assessment Examinations** which can be found [here](#).

We have prepared online self-assessment exams to help gauge your knowledge of the content areas on the exam and help determine which areas may have strengths and weaknesses. The self-assessment exam contains sample items covering the approximate proportion of subject matter to match the CCI exam matrix.

Self-assessment exams do not provide a report of missed items or specific information or feedback on incorrect responses. Once the self-assessment is complete, you will receive a performance profile that displays the percentage of correct responses in the content areas that make up the examination.

It is important to note that the results of the self-assessment exam do not guarantee or indicate individual success on the exam, nor should the self-assessment serve as the only means for preparing for the examination.

## Examination Details

### Exam Time

The CCT examination is a two-hour (2-hour) computer-based test.

### Question Types

Question types consist of 130 questions (110 scored and 20 unscored), that contain a mix of traditional and innovative item types.

1. **Traditional multiple-choice** – Only one of four possible answers is correct (e.g. A, B, C or D).
2. **Innovative multiple responses** – Two or three answers are correct from a list of four to six possible answers. The test taker will be instructed to select a certain number of correct answers (e.g. “*Select two correct responses.*”)
3. **Innovative hot spot** – The test taker will be instructed to click on one specific area of an image to answer the question. Only one answer (click) is necessary, but it must be in the correct location.
4. **Innovative drag and place** – The test taker will be instructed to drag a collection of labels (tokens) into specific boxes or areas on an image. The correct tokens will need to be placed in the correct boxes in order to get the question right. It’s possible that all tokens may not be used.

## Scoring

The 20 unscored questions are not identified and are randomly distributed throughout the exam to gather performance data. A candidate’s exam score is based on the responses to the 110-scored questions. One hour and fifty (50) minutes are allotted for answering the exam questions and ten (10) minutes for a pre-exam tutorial and post-exam survey.

## Resources

The textbooks listed below are intended as recommended resources when preparing for the examination. You may have previous or later editions of these or other references available that also present acceptable coverage of the subject matter. Any general text on cardiovascular techniques and evaluation, and cardiac patient care and management may be used. It is not necessary to use all of the texts identified. They are provided as suggestions only. CCI does not endorse or recommend any third-party review course or material.

1. Shier, David, Jackie Butler, and Ricki Lewis. *Hole’s essentials of human anatomy and physiology*. Boston: McGraw-Hill.
2. Booth, Kathryn A., and Thomas E. O’Brien. *Electrocardiography for healthcare professionals*. New York: McGraw-Hill.
3. Dubin, Dale. *Rapid interpretation of EKG’s: an interactive course*. 6th ed. Tampa, Fla.: Cover Pub. Co., 2000.
4. Wagner, Galen S., and Henry J. L. Marriott. *Marriott’s Practical Electrocardiography*. Philadelphia: Wolters Kluwer Health/Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.



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