

Social Security Administration Solicitation: New Vocational Expert Qualifications

On October 8, 2019, the Social Security Administration issued a solicitation for vocational expert testimony in disability hearings. The submission due date is November 5, 2019. The period of performance is April 1, 2020 through March 31, 2025. VEs must meet qualifications for testimony scheduled on or after April 1, 2020. The required qualifications are:

1. At least five years of direct experience providing vocational rehabilitation services to individuals with disabilities,
2. CRC or ABVE/F or ABVE/D, and
3. Meet CE requirements of their certification.

Transitional requirement for grandfathered VEs

VEs without CRC or ABVE certification qualify to provide testimony through March 31, 2025 if they meet the following qualifications:

- 5 years of experience providing VE services to SSA within the last 10 years.
- 30 months of that experience must have occurred between 2015 and 2019.

Certification by the American Board of Vocational Experts

Vocational professionals may apply to sit for the ABVE examination.

The National Certification Examination will be administered at the ABVE annual conference March 26, 2020. To sit for exam at the 2020 conference, complete applications must be received no later than January 8, 2020. ABVE does not currently offer examination administration at testing sites. Test results are available within no later than one week after sitting for examination at the conference (computerized testing will be available with the use of your own device, and will provide results before the conclusion of the conference).

If you are unable to attend the annual conference and are interested in having the examination proctored in your area by a neighboring ABVE Certified member, contact ABVE for information. Applicants will be notified of their results within 7-10 business days from the time the exam is received back in office.

To maintain its high standards, completed applications undergo a rigorous peer-review process by Diplomat-Level ABVE certificants. Please allow 60-90 days from the time all materials are received for your application to be reviewed.

ABVE is exploring options for expedited application process.

To qualify, the applicant must:

- A. Hold a Master's or Doctorate degree from an accredited institution in human service field specializing in vocational rehabilitation, psychology, vocational counseling, etc.;
- B. Have specific training and experience in such areas as assessment, functional capacity measures, psychological testing and measurement, job analysis, job placement, job surveys, and have experience providing testimony in these areas;
- C. Display knowledge and expertise within a submitted forensic work product; and
- D. Attain a passing score on the ABVE examination.
- E. Sign and adhere to the ABVE Code of Ethics.
- F. Pay appropriate fees and membership dues. (\$225 Application Fee, \$195 Membership Fee, & \$80 Credentialing Fee)

If you have questions about the Social Security Administration's application process, please contact them directly.