

CHP Corner



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF HEALTH PHYSICS

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From Paper to Computer: Changes to the ABHP Examination Process

Bill Rhodes, CHP, ABHP Vice Chair

Since the first American Board of Health Physics (ABHP) certification exam was given in June 1960, the exam application, administration, and grading procedures have been heavily dependent on manual, paper-based processes. These processes have required the shuffling, mailing, execution, and security of thousands of pieces of paper annually to ensure that the exam process was maintained.

During the past two years, the ABHP Board members, along with American Academy of Health Physics (AAHP) Executive Committee members, have been researching and reviewing ways to redesign our processes to take advantage of more efficient, state-of-the-art processes. It is now our pleasure to announce that the AAHP and ABHP have jointly decided to **implement an online virtual exam-management and record-keeping system**. This move will greatly increase the ease and efficiency of applying for, taking, and grading exams in the future. It will also increase the efficiency of maintaining exam records and statistics and will significantly improve exam data security.

Our motivation for going to a virtual system is supported by many factors. First, the expense of managing the paper-intensive system continues to increase annually, while a virtual system will eliminate many of the manual, paper-based costs. The transition will result in a very short payback period and lower future inflationary cost increases. Second, the ABHP determined that additional record, cyber, and exam security was needed to fully protect the integrity of the certification process. While no significant issues have been encountered to date, a virtual system will significantly improve data security through advanced encryption and other techniques to ensure our data assets are protected. Third, for candidates who require additional accommodations such as large fonts, virtual testing offers more options to address these needs.

Beginning this year, the Part 1 and Part 2 application process will be conducted online through the ABHP website. This includes completing the initial application and the submission of supporting documents, such as professional reports. Notifications of approval/disapproval to take the exam will be sent via email. Fees for applications and exams will be collected online using PayPal, and fees will be deposited directly into an ABHP PayPal account.

The 2018 Part 1 exam will be delivered at testing locations throughout the world through a commercial testing company. The company offers many similar services offered by other boards and certification entities. The 2018 Part 1 exam will be offered the week before the annual meeting of the Health Physics Society. For Part 2, there are no changes for 2018. The exam will be delivered via paper on 16 July 2018 at selected locations around the world and scored in the same fashion as previous exams.

Part 1 and 2 exam results will be communicated through email at the same time, in the fall of 2018, once the ABHP approves the results of the scoring. In the future, Part 2 will be offered virtually (if some challenges can be addressed by the ABHP). The strategy of the Board is to do exam delivery and all ABHP work online to the maximum extent possible. In the future, we will also be implementing an online recertification process that will make recertifying easier for certified health physicists (CHPs).

As these changes to the exam process occur, further announcements will be made. The ABHP plans to proceed slowly and conservatively with these changes to minimize disruptions to the current testing process.

We are excited about the future of the ABHP exam process and the positive benefits these changes will bring to current CHPs and health physicists wishing to become certified in the future. If you have questions or concerns, please contact [Bill Rhodes](#).

Professional Standards and Ethics Committee

Jack Buddenbaum, CHP, Chair

The purpose of the Professional Standards and Ethics Committee is to define the standards of professional responsibility for certified health physicists (CHPs) and to review all complaints about ethical practice referred to the committee by the Executive Committee. During this past year, there was one complaint submitted to the committee for consideration and, upon thorough review of all information relevant to the claim, the committee reached a consensus decision that the named CHP did not violate the Standards of Professional Responsibility and, as such, dismissed the claim. The American Academy of Health Physics (AAHP) Board concurred with the committee's decision. This is a good indicator that suggests that our colleagues are continuing to conduct themselves in a professional and ethical manner. The current Professional Standards and Ethics Committee members (in addition to the chair) are John Keklak, Dan Burnfield, Bryce Rich, Todd Davidson, and Thomas Morgan (alternate).

Another responsibility of the Professional Standards and Ethics Committee is to select the Joyce P. Davis Memorial Award winners. This is an AAHP award given in memory and honor of Joyce P. Davis in recognition of her dedication to the advancement of health physics and her humanitarian efforts to uphold the ethics of the profession. Recipients of this award demonstrate these extraordinary qualities exemplified by Joyce P. Davis by distinguishing themselves for excellence in professional achievement as well as being admired for ethical behavior and interpersonal skills. **There were no nominations submitted this past year** so please be thinking about your colleagues or other members who would be excellent nominees for next year's award.

CHP Corner Associate Editor—Social Media



The American Academy of Health Physics (AAHP) is now looking for a volunteer to serve in a new capacity as associate editor-social media. This person will assist the AAHP in developing and maintaining a presence in all relevant media platforms.

This will be an appointed position, reporting to the editor of the "CHP Corner." If you are currently certified and are interested in serving the AAHP in this capacity, contact [Editor Harold Anagnostopoulos](#).