EKG TECH BASICS · ONE-PAGER

CCI CRAT Exam Guide

The Certified Rhythm Analysis Technician exam: format, item types, scoring, eligibility, the content matrix and a 6-week study plan

6 sources + more detail
ekgtechbasics.com/sheets/guide-cci-crat.html
checked Nov 2026

1 The exam at a glance

FEATURE	DETAIL
Questions	130: 110 scored and 20 unscored, mixed in and not marked
Time	2-hour appointment: 1 h 50 min for questions, 10 min for a tutorial and survey
Item types	Multiple choice, multiple response, hot spot, drag and place
Passing	Scaled score 650 on a 0 to 900 scale (not a percent correct)
Fee	$175, which includes a $100 non-refundable filing fee
Where	Pearson VUE test centers, year-round
Window	90 days from your Authorization to Test (ATT); one 90-day extension on request
Results	Unofficial score report at the center: score, pass or fail, percent correct by category
Retakes	New application and fee; 45-day wait before the next attempt
First-time pass rate	57% (CCI, 2025)

2 Question types

TYPE	WHAT YOU DO
Multiple choice	Pick the one correct answer of four.
Multiple response	Two or three of four to six choices are correct. The item tells you how many to pick.
Hot spot	Click one spot on an image, such as a strip. One click, but it must land in the right area.
Drag and place	Drag labels onto boxes or areas of an image. Every label must be in the right box; some may go unused.

3 What is on it

CCI CRAT matrix for exams from July 1, 2023. 'About' is scored items (percent of 110, rounded); CCI publishes percentages only.

CATEGORY	WEIGHT	ABOUT	WHAT IT ASKS
A. Initiating Cardiac Monitoring Services	9%	10	Patient ID, the diagnosis and reason for monitoring, teaching the patient and care team
B. Administering Cardiac Tests	9%	10	Placing the device, tracing quality and troubleshooting, matching symptoms to rhythms, standard settings
C. Analyzing Normal Rhythms	16%	18	Normal waves and intervals, heart anatomy and physiology (conduction included), sinus rhythms by rate, regularity and shape
D. Analyzing Abnormal Rhythms	60%	66	AF, flutter, other atrial, junctional and ventricular rhythms, VT, VF, asystole, paced rhythms, AV blocks, intraventricular delays, artifact
E. Processing Cardiac Test Findings	6%	7	Prioritizing results, compiling findings, follow-up

EXAM TIP Abnormal rhythms are 60% of the score. All 12 of its tasks start with Identify or Recognize: the exam asks you to name what is on the strip, artifact included.

EXAM TIP One of CCI's own sample questions asks you to measure a pause on a strip in seconds, to two decimal places. Practice measuring, not only naming.

4 Who can apply

You need a high school diploma or GED, typed proof, and one of three pathways:

- CRAT1: a student in, or graduate of, a cardiovascular or allied health training program (certificate, student verification letter or transcript).
- CRAT2: current or past work in cardiovascular technology or an AMA-recognized allied health field (employment verification letter).
- CRAT3: a completed undergraduate or graduate degree in a science or physical health field (certificate, letter or transcript).

CCI's pages give 15 to 45 business days to review an application, so apply early. Students who pass before graduating get the credential once CCI has proof of completion.

5 How to study: 6 weeks

1. Week 1: read the CRAT matrix on CCI's credential page, then take a timed Mock Exam as a baseline. Normal rhythms: Analyzing a Rhythm Strip Step by Step and Paper, Settings and Measurement. Start Daily Review and keep it going.
2. Week 2: abnormal rhythms I. Atrial fibrillation, flutter, other atrial and junctional rhythms; see the Rhythm Gallery.
3. Week 3: abnormal rhythms II. Ventricular rhythms, VT, VF and asystole in the Rhythm Gallery; AV Blocks, Bundle Branch Blocks and Pre-excitation.
4. Week 4: abnormal rhythms III. Pacemakers and Implanted Devices on the ECG; Artifact and Lead Problems. Second Mock Exam at the end of the week.
5. Week 5: the monitoring work. Electrode and Lead Placement; Holter, Event and Patch Monitors; Telemetry Monitoring and Reporting (prioritizing and reporting findings).
6. Week 6: Weakest Subject sets, Missed Questions and Trouble Questions. Last Mock Exam 3 to 5 days before the test; light review the day before.

EXAM TIP The app's CRAT Mock Exam runs at the real pace: 130 questions in 1 hour 50 minutes, about 50 seconds each.

6 Test-day tips

- Bring two original, unexpired IDs: a government-issued one with your name, photo and signature, and a second with your name and signature or photo. Both must match your registered first and last name exactly.
- More than 15 minutes late: you are not admitted.
- Phones, watches, wallets and bags go in a locker, with devices turned off.
- You get a pop-up calculator, an erasable board and a marker. Write your rate methods and normal intervals on the board at the start.
- Take the tutorial; it does not use your question time.
- Mark hard items for review, skip and come back. Every question counts the same and there is no guessing penalty, so answer them all.
- On multiple response items, pick exactly the number the item asks for.

7 Official resources

- CRAT credential page (matrix, eligibility, fees, test day): cci-online.org/credentials/certified-rhythm-analysis-technician
- CCI Applicant Handbook: linked from the credential page (Download CCI Applicant Handbook)
- CRAT Examination Overview (PDF, June 2022, with five sample questions): cci-online.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/2022-CRAT-Overview-Jun2022.pdf
- Online self-assessment exam ($55): cci-online.org/self-assessment-exam
- Exam process and FAQs: cci-online.org/apply-for-exam/exam-process and cci-online.org/faqs
- Scheduling: pearsonvue.com/cci, after you receive your ATT

CCI does not endorse or recommend any third-party review course or material.

EKG Tech Basics is an independent study aid. It is not affiliated with, endorsed by, or sponsored by Cardiovascular Credentialing International (CCI). Exam names and trademarks belong to their respective owners.

For education and exam preparation only. Not medical advice; follow current guidelines and your institution's protocols. EKG Tech Basics is an independent study aid not affiliated with any certifying body.