

## **NRCM Q & A**

### **Why are the NRCM exams being phased out?**

Over the past few years, ASM has been engaged in an effort to modernize our organization, update our governance and streamline our operations in response to changing times and the significant economic challenges we face as a scientific society. Decreasing revenues have led to substantial deficits not just for ASM, but for many professional organizations like ours, partly due to declines in scientific publishing and event participation over the past decade. We must ensure our focus is on areas that set up our organization for long term stability and provide the best returns on our investment, in both monetary and non-monetary ways, so we can continue to provide outstanding programs and services to our members.

We had to make the difficult decision to eliminate some programs and reduce budgets in some areas that serve a very small number of members. This is in line with our decision to strategically invest in efforts that provide the greatest return on our investment, in both monetary and non-monetary ways, and serve the greatest number of members. The decision was made to phase out the NRCM certification exams since it serves a very small number of members. The NRCM will continue to serve its current Registrants through recertification and verification of certification status.

One thing remains the same and that is our steadfast commitment to our mission of promoting and advancing the microbial sciences through scholarship and innovation.

### **Applicants, Application and Exams**

Applicants have three exam cycles from their approval date to pass the exam. This means that if you did not pass the exam the first time you took it, you can take the exam up to two more times within the next two administrations.

1. When is the last application deadline?  
No new applications are being accepted. Only those applicants who have already been approved will be able to sit for the remaining two administrations of the NRCM exams.
2. How do I know how many exam attempts do I have remaining?  
Please email [certification@asmusa.org](mailto:certification@asmusa.org) for this information.
3. When will the final exams be offered?  
The exams will be offered in November 2017 and April 2018.
4. I want to apply for the biological safety certification. Is there an alternative way to become certified?  
ABSA International will be taking over the examination process for the biological safety certification. Additional information can be found at [https://absa.org/credentials/#\\_tab-55c183ff79ebe9f766d](https://absa.org/credentials/#_tab-55c183ff79ebe9f766d).

## **Registrants and Leadership**

1. What will happen to the NRCM since the exam is being phased out?  
The NRCM will continue to serve those who are certified by maintaining a list of certified NRCM Registrants, facilitating recertification and verification of Registrant status for employers.
2. What will happen to the NRCM Board and Exam Development Committees after the phase out?  
The NRCM Board and Exam Development Committees will be phased out after the last exam is scored and results are released. It is anticipated this will occur by July 1, 2018.
3. Does the phase out change anything about my current certification?  
The phase out will not have an effect on those currently certified. It only affects the application and exam processes, as the NRCM will no longer continue these processes.
4. How will I continue to maintain my certification?  
You will continue to stay active through recertification. Recertification will still be every three years via the form found on [www.asm.org/nrcm](http://www.asm.org/nrcm).