FP-C® Exam Guide

IBSC Certified Flight Paramedic: format, blueprint, eligibility and a final 8-week plan

THE EXAM AT A GLANCE

From the IBSC FP-C Candidate Handbook (April 2026), fee page and FAQ, and Prometric's IBSC page.

FEATURE	FP-C
Items	135: 110 scored, 25 unscored pretest
Time	150 min: two 75-min sections (68 + 67 items)
Item type	Single best answer, 4 options (A to D)
Format	Fixed length, not adaptive; random order
Passing standard	Pass/fail, modified-Angoff cut; IBSC FAQ: 73 of 110 correct
Cost	$385; $285 for members of IBSC affiliates (e.g., NAEMT)
Where	Prometric center (CBT), live remote proctor, or IBSC on-site exam (MED)
Results	Usually within 1 hour, allow up to 24 h
Score report	Pass: no score. Fail: raw scores by domain
Valid	4 years

WHAT IS ON IT

Scored items by domain. IBSC FP-C Detailed Content Outline (2020), current in the April 2026 handbook.

DOMAIN	ITEMS	%
Safety and Transport	9	8
Flight Physiology	7	6
Airway, Anesthesia, Analgesics	17	15
Medical Emergencies	14	13
Neurological	12	11
Cardiac	14	13
Trauma/Burn	13	12
Maternal Fetal and Neonatal	8	7
Pediatric	9	8
Professional Considerations	7	6

EXAM TIP The outline lists Impella, ECMO, VAD and IABP under Cardiac. IBSC says questions are not limited to your program's mission profile, so study devices you never fly.

EXAM TIP IBSC expects current ACLS, PALS, Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP) and ITLS/PHTLS standards plus CAMTS standards. Eight of the ten handbook sample items cite Critical Care Transport, 3rd ed.

WHO CAN TAKE IT

- Current, unrestricted paramedic license or certificate, uploaded when you register
- No experience requirement; IBSC encourages 3 years in critical care or air transport plus a foundational critical care course
- Register at least 2 weeks ahead; approval opens a 1-year testing window
- Retest after 30 days, full fee; after 3 attempts, a 90-day wait and an educator letter
- Recertify every 4 years by exam or 100 CE hours (75 clinical, 16 of them from an approved FP-C review course)
- No grace period: a lapsed FP-C means passing the exam again. CE sent under 30 days before expiry costs $125 extra.

HOW TO STUDY

IBSC suggests 6 to 12 months of self-study and a review course. Use this plan for your final 8 weeks.

1. Week 1: set your exam date in Settings, read the IBSC outline, then take a timed 135-question Mock Exam.
2. Every day: clear Daily Review before new questions.
3. Weeks 1-2: Airway (the largest domain), Flight Physiology and Safety, with the Flight Physiology, Airway and RSI, Capnography and Ventilator Modes One-Pagers.
4. Weeks 3-4: Cardiac, Medical and Neurological, with Rhythm Gallery, ACLS Algorithms, IABP Management, Impella Heart Pump, ECMO Essentials, Hemodynamic Normals, Shock Types, Vasopressors, Prehospital Sepsis and ABG Interpretation.
5. Week 5: Trauma/Burn, Maternal Fetal and Neonatal, Pediatric and Professional, plus Electrolyte Imbalances.
6. Weeks 6-7: Weakest Subject twice a week, a second Mock Exam, then Missed and Trouble Questions.
7. Week 8: a final Mock Exam early, Final-week review, light One-Pager review, and rest the day before.

TEST-DAY TIPS

- Bring photo ID with your signature and your name exactly as on your IBSC account, plus a copy of your paramedic license.
- Test center: arrive 30 minutes early. Remote: run Prometric's system check before you schedule (Windows, Chrome) and log in 30 minutes early.
- Pace about 1 minute per item. Section 1 locks when you finish it; one optional 5-minute break comes between sections.
- Answer every item: no guessing penalty, and unscored items are mixed in.
- A calculator is provided; your own is not allowed. Test centers give a dry-erase board, not paper; remote allows one sheet, destroyed on camera.
- Use flag and strike-through. No phones or smartwatches.

SAFETY Late arrival can cost your seat and fees; no-shows forfeit fees. Changes are free more than 30 days out, then $100 (29 to 5 days) or $150 (4 to 1 days); no same-day changes.

OFFICIAL RESOURCES

- Handbook (April 2026): ibscertifications.org/about/handbooks
- Outline, study list, practice test: ibscertifications.org/exam/exam-preparation
- Eligibility: ibscertifications.org/exam/exam-requirements
- FAQs: ibscertifications.org/exam/exam-faqs
- Scheduling and test day: prometric.com/exams/ibsc
- Recertification: ibscertifications.org/recert/fpce

Core texts from IBSC's study list:

- Critical Care Transport, 3rd ed. (AAOS, ACEP, UMBC; 2022)
- Patient Transport: Principles and Practice, 6th ed. (ASTNA, 2024)
- Patient Transport: Medical Critical Care, 1st ed. (2025)
- The Walls Manual of Emergency Airway Management, 6th ed. (2022)
- PHTLS, 10th ed. (2023) and AMLS, 4th ed. (2024), both NAEMT
- CAMTS Medical Transport Accreditation Standards, 12th ed. (2022); the 13th (Oct 2026) takes effect Jan 1, 2027
- ASTNA Standards for Critical Care and Specialty Transport (IBSC lists 2019; 3rd ed., 2023, is current)

FP-C® is a registered trademark of the International Board of Specialty Certification (IBSC). Medic Basics is an independent study aid and is not affiliated with, endorsed by, or sponsored by IBSC.